

## **Naper Settlement PUD**

### **Statement of Intent**

Naper Settlement, (NS), a 12-acre outdoor, nationally accredited history museum in Naperville, IL, intends to construct three new facilities, The Innovation Gateway, the Agricultural Interpretive Center, and Thresher Pavilion, to support their mission and vision with additional space to further hands-on, educational programs and exhibits providing flexible, digital, technology-based offerings that will preserve and share our area's history through present day.

### **Naper Settlement Mission**

Naper Settlement creates community by connecting visitors to Naperville's history through engaging, unique experiences.

### **Naper Settlement Vision**

As a reflection of Naperville's history, the vision of Naper Settlement is to be a vibrant site which fosters visitor, community and business conversations and enriching, engaging educational opportunities

### **Innovation Gateway Building Purpose**

Naper Settlement will construct a new Visitor Orientation and Digital Exhibition Center named Innovation Gateway (IG) to replace its current outdated entry through the Pre-Emption House. The new facility will include: i) open, multi-function welcome, ticketing, and event space; ii) exhibition space featuring a digital experience the length of the South wall iii) education and lunchroom area in lower-level; iv) restrooms and general storage space; and v) information/ticketing station.

Serving an average of 294,500 visitors per year, the IG will provide a modern space that will be completely accessible to all visitors with disabilities, families with strollers as well as providing a secure entry checkpoint for all activities offered on the NS campus. The building has 4,695 sf on the main level and 4,495 sf on the lower level. Both levels connect to the existing Pre-Emption House with corridors, elevator and stair. The IG will integrate and complete the 6ft high aluminum fencing around the entire campus and provide the only public security entry point. On a day-to-day basis, guests enter the IG through the main entry doors. For large special events, guests will enter where they presently enter, though the gates under the IG roof area through staffed security check point/scanning stations.

The IG aligns with the NS mission statement, vision and values by welcoming all visitors, engaging visitors with digital history exhibits, supporting educational programs with flexible space and toilet facilities for guests.

### **Agricultural (Ag) Interpretive Center Purpose**

The Agricultural Interpretive Center, (AIC) a 6,000 sq. ft. exhibit and programming driven center that will showcase surrounding counties' and the state's rich agricultural history. It will highlight inventors, engineers, and business entrepreneurs--past and present. Exhibits and programming will explore three major areas: 1) the deep agrarian roots of our farm families, 2) the development and application of

innovation and technology in agriculture, food production, land use and land conservation, and 3) the business of farming and agriculture--from the impact on our local and national economies, to the extensive regulation, to risks associated with running a farm and adjusting to a changing landscape. The AIC will be a look back on our history while focusing on extracting the lessons learned to guide a thriving future for a state like ours where the number one industry is agriculture.

With over 35,000 school children from 112 school districts throughout the state coming to Naper Settlement each year on field trips, the Ag Lab, a classroom space located within AIC with an anticipated capacity to house 25-30 students at one time and 275-325 per day, will serve as one of the four educational stops in the Agricultural Interpretive Center. The Ag Lab, devoted to STEM-based learning, will let students connect virtually with top scientists in Illinois or nationwide working on the biotechnology of food, environmentalists working on producing fertile but sustainable soil, and economists, farmers and statisticians who calculate the economic and business impacts of how we produce food. These experiential, engaging workshops will open the minds of students, faculty and parents to non-traditional careers in agriculture. According to a report by Purdue University, between 2015- 2020, over 35% of ag-based careers will go unfulfilled by U.S. graduates because of a lack of properly trained and schooled candidates. Getting young students interested in ag sciences early will help create the much-needed pipeline into ag-driven careers, which is important for in-state universities and colleges like Illinois State University and the ACES School at the University of Illinois, North Central College and area community colleges.

The Thresher Pavilion, part of the AIC, is intended to be an implement shelter (1,500 sq. ft), not an occupied building, to store, protect and exhibit a historic thresher machine from the Naper Settlement Collection. The Pavilion will only be open to visitors when the weather is appropriate.

The AIC supports the Naper Settlement mission to connect to our visitors through technology-driven exhibits and hand-on, STEM laboratory activities that blend the area's agricultural roots with the future of agriculture.

### **Operating Hours**

Both new buildings, the Innovation Gateway and the Agricultural Interpretive Center will follow the typical campus hours for all the other buildings. The typical operating hours are:

#### Summer Season Hours

*April 1 through October 31*

Tuesday - Saturday: 10 AM - 4 PM

Sunday: 1 PM - 4 PM

Monday: Closed

#### Winter Season Hours

*November 1 through March 31*

Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 4 PM

Sunday, Monday, & Saturday: Closed

Note: In addition to the typical hours above, the Innovation Gateway building will also be open as the ticketing and security check point for any standard special events on the campus grounds such as Naper Nights, All Hallows Eve, Ale Fest, exhibit openings etc., at a time when COVID restrictions are removed and in the same manner that the current Pre-Emption House entry is currently operated.

## **Stormwater Management**

All site development changes made at Naper Settlement will comply with the DuPage County Countywide Stormwater and Floodplain Ordinance and all applicable City of Naperville stormwater requirements. Site runoff detention has been provided via combined detention facility as part of a previously approved IGA between the City of Naperville and Naperville Community Unit School District 203. Site post construction best management practices will take advantage of previously provided permeable paver and rain garden infrastructure within Naper Settlement. See provided final engineering and stormwater management report for additional details.

## **Parking**

Naper Settlement is committed to pursuing shared parking opportunities with adjacent/nearby property owners, remote parking options, and other avenues to address visitor parking demands as needed. Proposed improvements will not increase current visitor or staff demand for parking and current parking locations and available spaces will remain unchanged. Parking at Naper Settlement is available as follows:

- Naper Settlement main parking lot at the southwest corner of Porter Avenue and Webster Street
- Century Memorial Chapel parking lot on Aurora Avenue just east of the Chapel
- Municipal Center parking lot at Webster Street and Aurora Avenue, just north of Naper Settlement (evenings after 5pm and weekends only).
- Water Street District parking lot at 120 Water Street is free to park after 5am on levels 3 to 6.
- Bus and Car drop-off occurs at the existing drop-off lane along the west side of Webster Street just south of Aurora Avenue (right in front of the new proposed Innovation Gateway).
- Bus parking allowed on the north side of Porter Avenue.

## **Utilities**

Final Engineering design documents have been provided for City Review. Design Engineer and museum staff will work with City of Naperville department staff to coordinate utility improvements for the project. Major infrastructure including electric, water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and other miscellaneous utilities are already provided at Naper Settlement and have sufficient capacity. Minor utility connection and relocations will be necessary to provide the infrastructure for the proposed Innovation Gateway and Agricultural Center improvements.

## **Green Space & Landscape Design**

Naper Settlement is highly valued by residents and visitors for its park-like tranquil grounds and that will not change with the proposed improvements. The philosophy that currently guides the installation of plant materials and the care and maintenance for the grounds will remain consistent for the future improvements. This includes the many trees, shrubbery, gardens, and park features.

Museum staff works with the City of Naperville's forestry staff, Morton Arboretum staff and private arborists to ensure the health, care and when necessary, replacement of trees is managed according to the highest standards. In addition, volunteers, local garden clubs, staff and contracted vendors help to

maintain the historical period and general garden areas. The intent is to continue this standard for the design for future landscape needs and ongoing care.

A final landscape plan has been submitted for review and approval for the three new building structures on site. The design plans also propose to remove and replace the existing wood and chain link fences along Webster Street and Porter Avenue to be 6' height decorative metal fence matching the existing decorative metal fence along Aurora Avenue and at the NW corner of Porter and Webster. Existing landscape screening along Webster will remain.