

Interpretive Plan



For the
Senac Site
Aurora Historic
Landmark



Prepared for

Aurora History Museum
& Historic Sites

by **INTERPRET-SITE™**
ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTIONS & INTERPRETATION CONSULTANTS
L.L.C.

Todd Christopher McMahon
16081 E Loyola Pl
Aurora, CO 80013
<https://www.interpret-site.com>
303-817-6932

12/10/2024

Oct 2, 2023, 9:22 AM

Acknowledgments

The following people were invaluable to the development of this plan, providing necessary input, feedback and other assistance when needed. Their contribution was made not only for the following interpretive plan, they also helped produce the landmark nomination. This plan would not have been possible without their assistance.

Northern Arapaho Tribe:

Gail Ridgley, Crystal C' Bearing, Eugene Ridgley, and Matthew Wallowing Bull (Northern Arapaho Spiritual Leader)

Southern Arapaho Tribe:

Fred Mosqueda

City of Aurora:

T. Scott Williams – Director of the Aurora History Museum/Historic Preservation Program; Gordon C. Tucker Jr., Ph.D. - Aurora Historic Preservation Commission; Lizz Ricci - Curator Aurora History Museum, Fendi Despres - Natural Resource Specialist Aurora Parks & Open Space; staff of the Aurora History Museum/Historic Preservation Program and other members of the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission.



Contents:

Page:

Part 1: Interpretive Goals and Objectives, Overarching Themes, Initial ideas on Targeted Audience(s)4

Part 2:Target Audiences, Key Tangibles and Theme Hierarchy Delivery14

Part 3:Native American Consultation/Collaboration, Information Network, Media Descriptions and Cost Range Estimate for Implementation.....34

References.....71

Appendix A (Staff Feedbackand SiteVisit)

Appendix B (Native American Consultation)



Part 1: Interpretive Goals and Objectives, Overarching Themes, Initial ideas on Targeted Audience(s)

Introduction

Developing the Interpretive Plan for the Senac Site (5AH.380) Historic Landmark is a group effort driven by the Aurora City-wide and departmental management goals, aims and objectives. The approach taken with this plan has been to split the development of it into various parts each one building on the last. Part 1, the goals, interpretive objectives and themes outlined below, the final theme hierarchy, signage locations and supportive networks that will be outlined in Part 2. Part 2 elaborate on many of the interpretive goals. Part 3 includes Native American Consultation/Collaboration, Information Network, Media Descriptions and the Cost Range Estimate for Implementation

A Definition of Interpretation

Interpreters connect visitors to important natural, cultural, and historical resources at parks, nature centers, historical sites, aquariums, zoos, and anywhere that people come to learn about places. NAI (the National Association for Interpretation) defines interpretation as "a purposeful approach to communication that facilitates meaningful, relevant, and inclusive experiences that deepen understanding, broaden perspectives, and inspire engagement with the world around us."

Plan goal structure:

The goal hierarchy contained in this section reflects the following structure:

City of Aurora management purposes/goals (City wide and departmentally)



Interpretive goals



Objectives (Outcomes)



GOALS

Overall Management Goals

Aurora Places Plan – Aurora’s Comprehensive Master Plan adopted Oct 2018

A sense of community is defined by the connections among people and shaped by shared culture, experiences and history p. 84

Excerpts of Sections Highlighted

✓ The Aurora History Museum

Aurora’s recent history is in many ways defined by a growing diversity of people, cultures and experiences. The city’s art, historic places and cultural resources are one way this rich history is expressed and experienced. (p. 84)

The Aurora History Museum collects and exhibits artifacts and documents pertaining to the history of Aurora and Colorado. It provides in-house research and educational programs and oversees the city’s historic preservation program. The libraries and museum also collaborate with other agencies and organizations, including local school districts, to provide access to a growing number of educational resources and develop exhibits of interest to the community. (p. 84)

✓ Historic Resources and Preservation

The city recognizes that preservation of its historic and cultural resources is important to the community at large, and that the city should play an active role in the protection and preservation of Aurora’s heritage through education, advocacy, training and partnerships. The Historic Preservation Ordinance, first adopted in 1985, creates a process for establishing historic landmarks, both historical and archeological.(p. 84)

Historic preservation is achieved through a partnership among the City Council, the Historic Preservation Commission, various city departments, the Aurora History Museum, the Aurora Historical Society, private property owners and others in the community. These partnerships provide shared cultural and economic benefits to the Aurora community. (p. 84)

From: *Aurora Places, comprehensive plan Oct 2018*

[>] Interpretive Goal:



The Senac Site provides an example to educate the public on how the City promotes the preservation of historic places through its historic preservation program in partnership with other organizations and entities.

Objective: Interpretive media for the Senac Site will highlight the relationship of the Aurora History Museum, the Historic Sites Program with the aim to educate the public about efforts to preserve Aurora’s past.

Indicator: Hits or visits to internet links (QR code) to the Aurora History Museum, the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission (and its Landmark program) will increase while the Senac Site materials are on display and promoted.

Objective: The Senac Site interpretation will educate the public on how this site was found, why it was excavated and partially preserved and the archaeologists who first identified and excavated the site.

Indicator: Visitors reading the Senac site interpretive material will be given access to a feedback form indicating knowledge of why the site was excavated (Federal National Historic Preservation Act).

Objective: Senac Site interpretation will explicitly ask visitors to not collect or leave any human trace near the site (or throughout the reservoir park) because of the loss of irreplaceable artifacts and out of respect to those past Native American settlers who once lived there.

Indicator: Once on-site interpretation is established, the actual site will show less human impact (less trash, social trails) etc. than other areas of the reservoir park.

Management Goal

A Diverse and Equitable City - From: Aurora Places, comprehensive plan Oct 2018 Page 90

Principle: Diversity and equity are assets to be nurtured and promoted by the city.

Goal: Create safe and welcoming public spaces throughout the city that are designed to increase communication and understanding and reduce conflict among cultures.

Goal: Embrace and promote multiculturalism in education, communication, celebration, and commerce.

Practices:

 Placetypes:



- Provide public spaces in urban districts and other placetypes for celebration and to bring people of different backgrounds and cultures together.

↳ Government Services:

- Promote educational opportunities designed to address cross-cultural communication, discrimination, language learning, history, citizenship and job training to promote cultural understanding.
- Communicate planning, development and city services matters in multiple languages and manners to promote accessibility by all Aurorans.
- Strengthen trust between the city and diverse communities by promoting inclusion and the celebration of cultural differences.

[>] Interpretive Goal:

While highlighting the Senac Site with a temporary exhibit (or other media) and with on-site interpretive signage we want the public to gain an appreciation for past Native American cultures as well as acknowledging that the current Native American population remains as a vibrant part of the Denver area's population (including Aurora).

Objective: The Senac Site will compare and contrast artifacts and activities common to all households today with those from the Pre-Contact past as shown through the artifacts found at the site.

Indicator: Visitors to the exhibit (or other media) will be provided with a feedback questionnaire showing an increased general knowledge of Pre-contact cultures in Aurora.

Objective: The Senac Site interpretive materials will be made available in English and Spanish, have at least some of the materials accessible for screen readers (via cell phone or internet) and use Native American language quotes and sayings as appropriate.

Indicator: Visitors whose language is not English and visitors who have special accessibility needs will be directed to a special feedback form that will show increased use over time.

Objective: The Senac site interpretive materials will include content from a current Native American tribal perspective in addition to standard archaeological interpretation.

Indicator: Interest in Native American content programming will increase through time through a yearly feedback survey on the adequate degree of content related to this subject.



▶ Management Goal

An Authentic Aurora – From: *Aurora Places, comprehensive plan Oct 2018 page 96*

Principle: The creation of great places, the preservation of traditionally unique places and effective marketing and promotion are essential to improving Aurora’s image.

Goal: Create distinctive destinations that attract people from around the region and the world.

Goal: Use Aurora’s heritage and historic resources as a basis for community events, urban design and community pride.

Goal: Use diverse cultural resources and the arts in urban districts and other placetypes to create destinations.

Practices

Placetypes

- Protect and highlight Aurora’s cultural and historic resources and places.

The Image of the City

- Survey, evaluate, preserve and enhance historical resources to add special character to urban districts, neighborhoods and other districts.

Interpretive Goal:

We want to promote a visitor experience to all visitors and residents of Aurora the Senac Site’s on-site interpretation landmark signage, the temporary exhibit and the Aurora Museum for further inquiry and knowledge

Objective: The ribbon-cutting ceremony will include Native American participation, such as the NASU (Native American Student Union), City leaders and will be advertised widely to the public through the City’s communications team department.

Indicator: The opening and dedication of the Senac Site landmark sign will be attended by a large and diverse number of people from the community.

Objective: The Senac site will be promoted on all the Historic Landmarks Program materials (website, brochure) etc as a place to visit, learn and reflect on a place of past occupation of Native American society in Aurora.



Indicator: Visitation use for the Senac Site Landmark site will be monitored for use by the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission and staff/volunteers from the Parks, Open Space department.

Objective: The Senac Site will be marketed (promoted) to the City’s educational institutions as a way for students and educators to engage in an authentic site to visit as well as to connect with the Aurora History Museum for further learning opportunities.

Indicator: Over time the Senac Site will see an increase in access by educational groups wanting to experience the site and learning more from utilizing content developed by the Aurora History Museums education team.

Themes

Significance Point A: The Senac Site Served as a Seasonal Home for Indigenous Peoples from A.D. 245 to A.D. 1055

 Theme:

The Senac Site was a campsite home repeatedly re-visited in the ancient past.

Sub-themes:

Sub-theme 1: Senac was the perfect campsite

Supporting point

Environmental attributes made it ideal for seasonal occupation, semi-permanent stream, protected low-point stone quarry near-by.

Sub-themes 2: Different activities were performed at the Senac Site

Supporting point

Finding and manufacturing stone tools, food processing (animal and local natural foods), campfires for staying warm and cooking.

Sub-theme 3. The people who lived at Senac were Native American

Supporting points

Archaeologically, we do not know what tribe their Native American descendants are and what name they called themselves.



Native Americans living today are the closest living relatives to the people that occupied places like the Senac site and we can turn to their oral stories for insight into who they were and what their culture was like.

Sub-theme 4. Did they live in shelters or constructed homes?

Supporting point

We can infer that there were shelters of some type at the site due to the variety of activities however we do not know exactly what they looked like. Most likely they were brush structures since we have some evidence of these types at other archaeological sites in the area (DIA).

Sub-theme 5. How did they make stone tools?

Supporting point

Flintknapping (stone tool manufacturing using pressure and percussion techniques) was used from a nearby stone “quarry”.

Sub-theme 6. Evidence points to changes of technology and stone tool-making over time

Supporting point

Projectile points (go from spear to later arrow points).

Sub-theme 7. Clues to food processing and other activities are found at the Senac site

Supporting point

The Senac site has evidence of small stone flake tools (used in butchering and possibly plant processing), bone awls for cloth making, fire pits (to stay warm and possibly to aid in tool making) and ceramics to carry water and food.

Sub-theme 8. How do we know the Senac Site’s age?

Supporting point

Radiocarbon dating. The process can be explained as measuring the decay rate of carbon found in former living things (like wood from old campfires).

Sub-theme 9: What customs and cultural practices or beliefs did they have at the Senac Site?

Supporting point

Archaeological and historic evidence at sites like Senac only allow speculation however we may gain some more insight by asking modern descendant peoples.



Sub-theme 10. Why did they not return to the site after the last dated occupation?

Supporting point

We do not know although we have evidence that other sites around the region were also abandoned roughly the same time too possibly indicating environmental changes or cultural changes or both.

Sub-theme 11. Where are the descendants of the people who lived at Senac so many years ago today?

Supporting point

The descendants are alive and well and living in either tribal reservations or within large urban cities like Denver and Aurora.

Sub-theme 12. What does the location of Senac mean in terms of the 1851, Treaty of Fort Laramie?

Supporting point

The Senac site is located on land through the Treaty of Fort Laramie by the US government to the Cheyenne and the Arapaho Tribes. The treaty was broken almost immediately with the establishment of cities and towns such as Denver in 1858 and led to the Sand Creek Massacre, the US Indian Wars and forced settlement on reservations by these Tribes.

Significance Point B: Senac site is just one example of many historic places that the City aims to preserve and protect as part of Aurora’s vision for the future.

 Theme

The Senac Site artifact collection and site preserves important information for future research and cultural understanding.

Sub-themes:

Sub-theme 1: Senac site was discovered by archaeologists hired by the US Army Corps of Engineers to record and evaluate the impact of the construction of the Aurora Reservoir (initially called the Senac Dam).

Supporting point

The National Historic Preservation Act requires agencies to record and evaluate historic and pre-contact sites before destroying or harming them.

Sub-theme 2: The Senac site collection owned by the State, managed by the City.



Supporting point

The collection is owned by the State of Colorado and the Aurora History Museum is a State-Approved Repository holding the collection in trust for the State.

Sub-theme 3. The site was recorded and excavated by Aurora’s own Ms. Marcia Tate who identified many sites in Aurora and Colorado and made a large impact to help document and preserve many of them.

Supporting point

Highlight Ms. Tate’s work as an early professional female archaeology consultant making an impact in Aurora.

Sub-theme 4. The Senac site offers a place to connect with some of the first peoples to live in what is today Aurora.

Supporting point

The landmark interpretive signage will create a special location for understanding and appreciation.

Sub-themes 5. The entire archaeology collection will provide further insight for future Aurorans.

The collection offers the opportunity for continued research and exhibition. Qualified researchers can make an appointment to study and examine the collection at the Aurora History Museum.



Targeted Audiences

Public Citizens

Bicyclists, Walkers/Runners, Kayakers from the local community

Students/Teachers

Local School Groups from the local community

Heritage Enthusiasts

Researchers

Feedback and Future Phase

The Planning team for this project consists of the staff (Staff) of the Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites program, select Historic Preservation Commissioners (content experts) and Todd McMahon of Interpret Site LLC (who serves on the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission) who drafted the initial interpretive plan outline. Feedback and comments were received from Staff and select Commission members. Just a few comments were received in written format (Appendix A) however the Staff had a good in-person discussion on the draft outline and the opportunities and challenges faced in developing



the interpretive plan during a visit to the landmark site (Oct 2, 2023) within the Aurora Reservoir Open Space Park.

The following statements are intended to capture most of the feedback that was received.

- The majority of the planning team expressed a desire to include Native American voices (perspectives) in the interpretive messaging.
- Some of the planning team liked the use of QR codes to link collections or other media to the proposed wayside sign location.
- The majority of the team agreed that the existing bench located just off the trail would provide an ideal location for an interpretive sign and contemplative space.
- Placing directional signs directed to bicyclists in each direction may attract their attention to stop at the landmark sign.
- Since part of the site is underwater it was suggested that this fact should be emphasized to deter looting (digging and artifact collecting) in the areas of the site that is not submerged.
- Perhaps a sign could be placed in the water to tell kayakers about the sensitive nature of the site that is underwater.
- The native plants at the site could be identified with possible Native American use (also this could be done at the Senac Nature Center).
- It would be optimal to have an artistic rendering of the site showing use by Native Americans at the site (preferably from a Native American artist).
- We also talked about directional signs placed at the Lakehouse and Southshore trail entrance and the trail access point along E Southshore Pkwy.

While it was agreed that these access points would provide the best location, other access points were subsequently visited. None of the other trail (Aurora Reservoir) access points were deemed to offer the convenience of accessing the Senac site with as much ease as that described above.



Figure 1: Possible Wayside Landmark Location



Part 2: Target Audiences, Key Tangibles and Theme Hierarchy Delivery

Targeted Audiences and Prescriptions to Reach Them

The targeted audiences for the visitor experience of the Senac site have been selected as Bicyclists, Walkers/Runners, Kayakers (in the Aurora Reservoir Park); Students/Teachers (in the region around the site), Heritage Enthusiasts and Researchers (external). Below are typical profiles of each of the anticipated audiences most likely to engage with the Senac site interpretive signage at the Aurora Reservoir.



Bicyclists

The Interpretive Planning team identified one of the main audiences that is likely to engage with signage for the Senac landmark interpretive sign, bicyclists that use the trail system in the Aurora Reservoir for recreational purposes. Capturing and enticing their attention are key goals to creating a successful interpretive experience. Below are some characteristics that may typify obstacles and opportunities posed by capturing this group:

Characteristic:	Obstacle or Opportunity:	Implication:
Travel on the trail near the site now	Travel fast and may miss the wayside sign	Place wayfinding sign on the trail to alert them of the opportunity and to slow down for pedestrian traffic
May not stop unless needed or easy	Create an incentive to stop (Create a Bike Rest Stop)	Air tire pump station and bike parking, perhaps another bicyclists bench to invite a slow down to the sign location
Often travel fast	Make them slow down with a reduced ped-crossing sign	Order and install a reduced speed sign along with a point of interest/bike rest sign
Need for wayfinding information at the start of the two closest trail-heads	Information about landmark direction and distance (miles/kilometers)	Place information sign at the two closest trail heads (with small map)
What path to take may not be clear	May not know what trail to take at juncture near the two trail head entrance/exits	Place a wayfinding arrow pointing to the landmark location at trail juncture



Interpretive Prescriptions for the Bicyclists Audience

Bicyclists	Wayfinding on trail and along path, trail-head, plants, tie-in with Senac Nature Center, ADA accessibility, Native American voice in interpretation (audio), moral appeal message protecting the site, bike rest stop function
------------	--

Please see the prescriptions wayfinding section that will aid visitor engagement for multiple audiences below.



Walkers/Runners

Walkers and Runners from the surrounding neighborhood are an audience that may likely engage with the Senac site interpretive sign. These two groups are very familiar with the trails and stops of the Reservoir, yet are more likely to stop and engage if there are signs and designated rest areas for them to enjoy the view and area. Walkers in particular may have dogs with them, so making sure that the Senac site is clear of animal waste and trash will be a priority. Regulatory and moral signage are key to curbing bad behavior at this historic and sacred site (Podolinsky 2022). Some “walkers” may be wheelchair assisted therefore a concrete or stable ground turning point and easy sign access is recommended for the interpretation of the site (see access considerations below).

Characteristic:	Obstacle or Opportunity:	Implication:
May travel alone or with others	Create an incentive to stop with a bench to encourage rest	Keep the existing bench and possibly add another
May also be interested in the native plants and animals in the area	Have smaller signs identifying local native plants and animals	Research the natural biology (birds) and plants and place a sign or signs identifying some of them
Some of the walkers and runners may need ADD assistance	Make sure the path to the sign is wheelchair/stroller accessible; make the sign accessible in terms of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)	Cement path to the sign, QR code link to WCAG tools for the sign or a solar or hand crank talking sign with Native American voices/interpretation. Braille, Large Format available on museum website. Tactile cast of artifacts from the site on the wayside or at the nature center



Need for wayfinding information at the start of the two closest trail-heads	Information about landmark direction and distance (miles/kilometers)	Place information sign at the two closest trail heads (with small map)
What path to take may not be clear	May not know what trail to take at juncture near the two trail head entrance/exits	Place a wayfinding arrow pointing to the landmark location at trail juncture
May be a researcher or have a historic preservation interest	How to access and make an appointment to see the collection at the museum and information on the City's Historic Preservation Commission	Information on how to research the collection and the Historic Preservation Commission
May intentionally cause harm to the site	Deter collections and disturbance	Moral appeal signage with some legal prohibition to collecting and emphasize most of the site is underwater

Interpretive Prescriptions for Walkers/Runners

Walkers/Runners	Wayfinding on trail and along path, trail-head, plants, tie-in with Senac Nature Center, ADA accessibility, Native American voice in interpretation (audio), moral appeal message protecting the site
-----------------	---

Please see the prescriptions wayfinding section that will aid visitor engagement for multiple audiences below.



Kayakers

Aurora Reservoir has a large number of non-motorized recreational boaters, the majority being kayakers and paddle boards. The City makes both available for rental purposes at the Reservoir and often people will bring their own devices as well. Kayakers in particular are the most likely to travel away from the main beach area toward the Senac Creek extension and into



the Landmark water boundaries. Some may choose to dock near the site if signage is available and can be viewed from the water area. To deter docking and excavating for artifacts it is recommended that signage be placed in the water by the site to discourage this behavior. A regulatory message in the water may be the best approach for conveying this message and encouraging proper behavior. Perhaps the sign could also include a message of “Respect this sacred space so future generations can continue to enjoy it”.

Characteristic:	Obstacle or Opportunity:	Implication:
May intentionally cause harm to the site	Deter collections and disturbance	Moral appeal signage with some legal prohibition to collecting and emphasize most of the site is underwater, sign in the water (sensitive area)
Recreation Water Sports People	May not know they can stop, rest to read the sign	Directional wayfinding sign in the water
Anglers	May want to know about Native fishing/hunting habits	Communicate and compare modern fishing with ancient practices

Interpretive Prescriptions for Kayakers

Kayakers	Wayfinding on lake and moral appeal message protecting the site (underwater)
----------	--



Figure 2: A boating sign example from a historic site in Florida.



Figure 3: A regulator sign similar to this with a moral-appeal message should be considered to deter congestion caused by boat docking and discouraging artifact collection.



School Groups

There are a number of neighboring elementary, middle and high schools (both private and public) in the area around Aurora Reservoir. The Senac site therefore is an ideal location for students and teachers to spend a day out to visit an authentic pre-contact archaeological cultural site. The location is ideally suited for local field trips so students can “learn in their own backyards”. Aurora Reservoir is ideally suited for ecological and biological studies, adding a historic human cultural aspect makes this an ideal synergistic opportunity. The City of Aurora’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space already tap into this with their Senac Creek Nature Center. The Nature Center is located near the boat docks, swim beach and picnic area of the Park. The Senac site can be visited along with the Nature Center by following the main trail around the Park. The site and the Center are only approximately 1.65 miles in distance. This is an ideal distance for middle and high school students to embark on a half day field trip excursion. Alternatively, a field trip to the Reservoir may start at the Nature Center and then the students may take auto transportation and park closer to the archaeological site later in the day. School Groups outside the area may also start in the Nature Center (the area of the Reservoir that receives the most public visitation).

The Aurora History Museum may also develop school programming that can tie into and give direction to school groups to the site through special educationally guided trips, promoted and booked through the Museum’s educational department. The interpretive area for the site therefore should be reasonably large enough to accommodate a small class of 10-15 elementary and middle school students. Space considerations should include room for a teacher and children to at least see and view the signage and bench area without too much difficulty. Having a small display of artifacts or replicas along with interpretive signage in the Senac Nature Center is strongly suggested so that all visitors to the Park (especially only those that visit the beach area) can learn about the importance of the site at the Senac Nature Center.

Characteristic:	Obstacle or Opportunity:	Implication:
May intentionally cause harm to the site	Deter collections and disturbance	Moral appeal signage with some legal prohibition to collecting and emphasize most of the site is underwater, sign in the water (sensitive area)
Tie in with Colorado History lessons	Getting the word to the teachers	Create a media campaign (brochures and website) sent to the local schools
May want to tie in environmental	Extend the opportunity with exhibit in the Senac	Have a few representative artifacts and information at the Senac Creek Nature Center



education with the site visit	Creek Nature Center	
Have 15- 30 students	Have enough space for the school children and adults	Have space for small class in the interpretive area
May also be interested in the native plants and animals in the area	Have smaller signs identifying local native plants and animals	Research the natural biology (birds) and plants and place a sign or signs identifying some of them
Some of the walkers and runners may need ADD assistance	Make sure the path to the sign is wheelchair/stroller accessible; make the sign accessible in terms of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)	Cement path to the sign, QR code link to WCAG tools for the sign or a solar or hand crank talking sign with Native American voices/interpretation. Braille, Large Format available on museum website. Tactile cast of artifacts from the site on the wayside

Interpretive Prescriptions for School Groups

School Groups	Wayfinding on trail and along path, trail-head, plants, tie-in with Senac Nature Center, ADA accessibility, Native American voice in interpretation (audio), moral appeal message protecting the site, special outreach to local schools, room for small classes
---------------	--

The Senac Creek Nature Center offers space to put up a temporary exhibit case and permanent panel on the Senac Creek site. The panel could also direct people to the trail and interpretive sign at the landmark site within the Park.



Figure 4: The Senac Creek Nature Center is an ideal location to offer a temporary exhibit case of artifacts, basic site information and directions to the wayside signage in the Park.



Figure 5: Interior wall space at the Senac Creek Nature Center.



Figure 6: Freestanding display at the Senac Creek Nature Center.





Figure 7: Possible exhibit pedestal with arranged artifacts from site at the Nature Center.



Figure 8: Idealized concept for nature center signage and case on the site at the Senac Nature Center.

Please see the prescriptions wayfinding section for the trail head that will aid visitor engagement for multiple audiences below.



Heritage Enthusiasts

Heritage enthusiasts go out of their way to discover and support historic preservation. While typically heritage enthusiasts are a small number in a given population. Studies have shown that heritage tourists bring in a large number of direct and indirect economic benefits to a community (see <https://www.archaeologybenefitscolorado.com>). While highlighting the Senac site in a suburban setting will likely bring negligible economic benefit to Aurora it adds an important piece to the larger historic preservation efforts for the City, making Aurora a destination City that includes a broad number of historic landmarks. Clearly the opportunity to recruit more heritage enthusiasts must continue so the interpretive signage must reference the City's Historic Preservation landmark program encouraging support and participation.



Figure 9: Promoting Landmark visitation in the Guide.



Characteristic:	Obstacle or Opportunity:	Implication:
Committed to seeing authentic landmark experiences	Knowing about the site/interpretation	Make sure the site is advertised in the landmark brochure and the historic preservation website
May want to explore other sites and get involved in more Aurora Museum programs	Knowing about other sites and museum opportunities	Add information on the interpretive materials to encourage involvement in other historic preservation and museum programs
May want more information	Extend the opportunity with exhibit in the Senac Creek Nature Center	Have a few representative artifacts and information at the Senac Creek Nature Center

Interpretive Prescriptions for Heritage Enthusiasts

Heritage Enthusiasts	Wayfinding on trail and along path, trail-head, plants, tie-in with Senac Nature Center, ADA accessibility, Native American voice in interpretation (audio), more information on other landmarks and museum programs
----------------------	--

Please see the prescriptions wayfinding section that will aid visitor engagement for multiple audiences below.



Researchers

Archaeological Researchers typically are graduate-level students working on MA thesis and PhD. projects. While a very small audience, their existence is one of the prime reasons collections are stored at museums and repositories. They are stored for future investigations and re-analysis. Like many of the other audiences, awareness of the site and its collection (stored at the Aurora History Museum) should be broadly promoted. One key aspect that this audience needs is information on how to contact the Aurora History Museum to do further research. This should be mentioned in the wayside exhibit and indoor interpretation space.



Characteristic:	Obstacle or Opportunity:	Implication:
Will want to know more about the site and the artifacts	Not knowing how to make an appointment to view the artifacts and reports at the museum	Include instruction on the details of museum artifact access
May want to visit the site interpretation	Knowing where the site is located and how to visit	Target information to local University and College students to visit

Interpretive Prescriptions for Researchers

Researchers	Wayfinding on trail and along path, trail-head, plants, tie-in with Senac Nature Center, ADA accessibility, Native American voice in interpretation (audio), instructions on accessing the collection, special outreach to local universities and colleges
-------------	--

Please see the prescriptions wayfinding section that will aid visitor engagement for multiple audiences below.

Interpretive Prescriptions

The above outlined audience groups share many similarities in terms of prescriptions needed to engage a meaningful visitor experience. All groups require wayfinding signage directing audiences to the site. Therefore the following section describes wayfinding prescriptions on bringing these groups to the Landmark interpretive visitor experience.

Wayfinding to the Landmark Site (for Multiple Audiences)

Besides direction given from the Senac Creek Nature Center to the North at the main Aurora Reservoir public access area (see the Nature Center opportunities for School Groups above), the two main public access points for reaching by Bicycle, or foot are from an access trail entrance to the Park near the Lakehouse at Southshore recreation/pool center. Public parking near this entrance is restricted to homeowners of the Southshore Master Association only. Therefore this entrance will only be used by local residences and their guests. Still the entrance



way itself is a public access point and will require signage to direct the public to the landmark site if they are seeking a visit to the designated pre-contact landmark site.



Figure 10: The local residence of the Southshore community may use this entrance. The wayside sign is shown here and scaled out for emphasis.

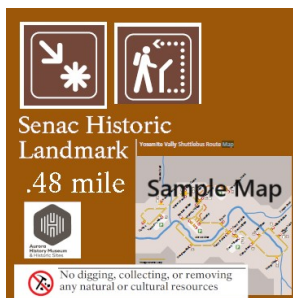
There are existing spaces in the regulatory sign at the entrance that could incorporate information on how to access the landmark site.



Figure 11: The Lakehouse at Southshore trail entrance wayside sign is conceptualized above giving a map and regulatory information. The sign uses the Society for Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD) and National Park Service (National Park Service 2009) standards.



The trail will direct people to the site using international recreation symbol signs.



*Figure 12:
Proposed
Lakehouse trail
entrance directional
wayfinding sign.*



*Figure 13:
Mock design
of trail post
signs to
direct
visitors to
the site.*



*Figure 14: Proposed trail post
wayfinding signs. B. is optional as long
as A. is visible from point B.*



*Figure 15: Closeup of the directional wayfinding post
sign (point A).*



Most of the general public will most easily access the site and visitor experience from the west trail-head access point located along E. Southshore Pkwy and near S. Quantock Way.



Figure 16: The main public access point for the site found along E/ Southshore Pkwy.



Figure 17: Conceptual wayfinding sign at the E Southshore Pkwy entrance (similar to the Lakehouse trail entrance).

This entrance will need another wayfinding direction sign at the start of the trail for the first gravel trail juncture and a larger sign is envisioned near the main concrete Trail head juncture.



Figure 18: Envisioned trail post wayfinding sign from the West trail entrance to the Senac site.



Figure 19: Main juncture sign with the concrete reservoir perimeter trail.



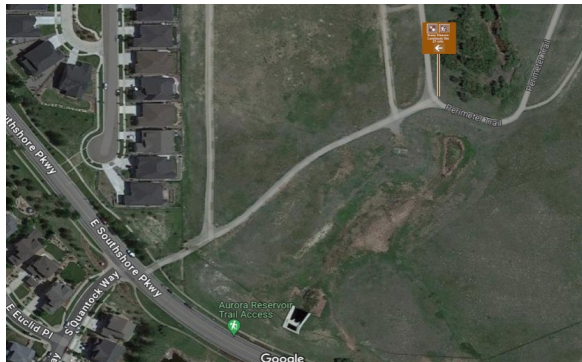


Figure 20: Location of main wayfinding direction sign (exaggerated size) along "Perimeter Trail".



Figure 21: "Perimeter Trail" wayfinding sign at West trail access junction.

The main wayfinding sign is directed to Bicyclists, Walkers/Joggers and other pedestrian and wheelchair accessible audiences. To grab Bicyclists attention it is recommended that the City consider making the Senac interpretive and landmark spot a bike "rest stop" and/or repair/air stop (if feasible).



Figure 22: Bicycle Point of Interest, Interpretive, Pedestrian Crossing sign.



Figure 23: Bicycle Repair Stop sign post if feasible (single pole, signs on both sides for each direction).



Figure 24: Wayfinding sign for bicycles and pedestrians on Perimeter Trail northbound.





Figure 25: Wayfinding sign along Perimeter Trail southbound.



Figure 26: Suggested wayfinding sign placement (exaggerated size) northbound.

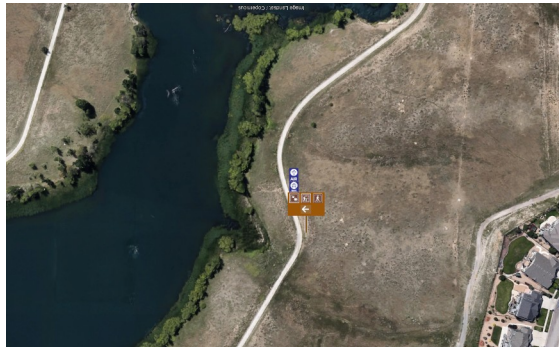


Figure 27: Suggested wayfinding sign placement (exaggerated size) southbound.



Figure 28: Imagined bike/repair stop with concrete turn around at the Senac site interpretive sign.

The main interpretive wayside sign for the Senac site archaeological landmark could also include a small rock or brick step to mount the City of Aurora Landmark sign if desired (see discussion below). The interpretive wayside should offer a visitor experience with an opportunity to learn about the archaeological research, the historic landmark program and tie-in to the Aurora History museum, yet most importantly an opportunity to see and hear a Native American perspective on the site. It's very



important behaviorally for the public to respect the location by leaving little to no trace of their visitation.



Figure 29: The main interpretive wayside sign for the Senac landmark site. The sign here is suggested to be a standard low-profile 45 degree 42×24 inch sign. The accompanying audio post is described below.

Audio Experience

The Senac site interpretive wayside must include a Native American perspective. The actual text panel should include Native language quotes and perspectives (see concept mock-up section). In addition as an added value to the experience it is suggested that the site include an audio post or embedded audio element that could include a prerecorded message/interpretation from a Native American person and perhaps the archaeologist who discovered the site, (Ms. Marcia Tate). Including an audio post helps to ensure that the sign is also ADA accessible and compliant with State Law HB21-1110 and content accessibility guidelines. The marketplace for interpretive audio enhancements is fairly varied with options that include embedded apparatuses to solar powered and hand-cranked models



Figure 30: Blackbox-av Solar panel audio box option,



Figure 31: Blackbox-av Solar powered audio box post.



Figure 32: Blackbox-av hand-crank model, metal post.



Figure 33: Blackbox-av hand-cranked audio post wood.



Figure 34: Tour-mate solar powered audio post,



Figure 35: Tour-mate plate with options.



Figure 36: Tour-mate Solar panel post with "phone" cord.



Figure 37: Tour-mate solar panel kit to embed in sign.



Figure 38: Tour-mate integrated audio with sign.



Figure 39: Tour-mate hand-crank audio post option.



Figure 40: Tour-mate hand-crank audio ADA accessible post option.



Alternatively audio and other ADA accessible options could be offered through an QR code link. However this would require continued URL link web site support and may limit those without a smartphone or coverage access problems at the site. It has also been shown that QR codes can be easily hacked with false QR codes placed over official options allowing thieves to take private identities, credit card information and malicious virus/phishing.



Figure 41: QR code tie in can allow linking to collections and accessibility however this does require maintenance of the link and monitoring against malicious obscuring of the QR code.

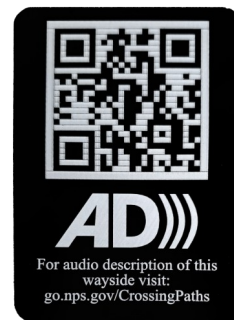


Figure 42: Example of a closed captioning option offered via a URL link and QR code.

Other Accessible Considerations

The Senac site interpretive sign should also consider wheelchair pedestrians. In order to be more accessible, the City may wish to pour a concrete turn around near the audio post and, if feasible, the bike air repair station. If a wheelchair turnout is constructed, the site must be monitored by a Permitted archaeologist.

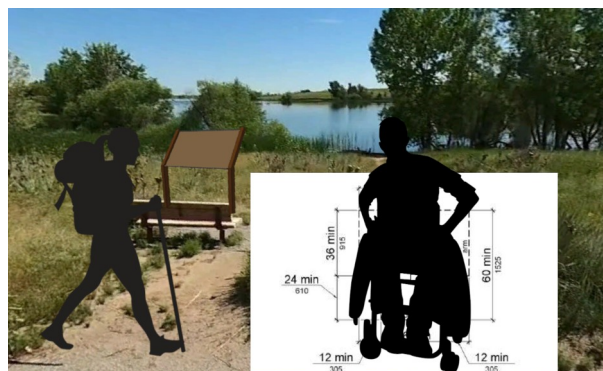


Figure 43: The interpretive wayside should be accessible to both pedestrians, bicyclists, and wheelchair participants.



Translation of the interpretive material into Spanish may also be made available with the use of a QR code possibly.

Key Tangibles

In addition to the landmark archaeological site itself, there are other tangibles (interpretive opportunities) that relate to the site. As discussed with some of the audience profiles, the plants and animals found today and how a few Native plants and animals were used by indigenous inhabitants are another area that could be interpreted to add value to the experience for visitors. This is particularly true for school groups who may be at the site to learn about the ecology of the area.



Figure 44: Modern plant flora identification sign example.



Figure 45: Conceptual plant identification along with information on Native American use offers an interpretive opportunity.

The recovered artifacts from Senac and the process of finding, recording and excavating the site are other possible story points. Among the most visually interesting artifacts from the Senac site collection at the Aurora History Museum are a Bison skull, Bison bones, bone awls, cord-market pottery sherds, and projectile points. These objects could be interpreted with the story of their discovery and excavation at the Senac Creek Nature Center. These artifacts could be part of a temporary exhibition or incorporated with photos/replicas for permanent display purposes.



Figure 46: Bison bone material from the Senac site for possible display

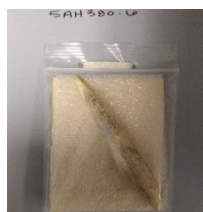


Figure 47: Bone awl from the Senac site.



Figure 48: Projectile Point from the



Figure 49: Biface tool from the Senac site





Figure 50: Cord-marked pottery sherd from the Senac site.



Figure 51: Another projectile point example from the Senac site.



Figure 52: Biface tool from the Senac site.



Figure 53: Shatter flake from the Senac site.

Theme Hierarchy Delivery (Wayside Sign and Nature Center)

The wayside sign can focus first of all on giving a welcome from a descendant Native American. The sign can be enhanced by an artist rendering of the site during its indigenous occupation and potential audio voice descendant individual(s) and the archaeologist who discovered the site (Ms. Marcia Tate). The main take-home messages could include: The Senac Site was a campsite home repeatedly re-visited in the ancient past (Theme A (see part 1)) and that the Senac site is just one example of many historic places that the City aims to preserve and protect as part of Aurora's vision for the future (Theme B (see part 1)).

Sub-themes for Theme A include that Senac was the perfect campsite, reworded at the "Perfect Campsite". This is supported by pointing out that environmental attributes made it ideal for seasonal occupation with a semi-permanent stream and a protected low-point stone quarry near-by. Sub-themes for Theme B could include the fact that the Senac site offers a place to connect with some of the first peoples that live in what is today Aurora.

This is supported by having the interpretation create a special location for understanding and appreciation. Also, The entire archaeology collection will provide further insight for future Aurorans. This is supported by the fact that qualified



researchers can make an appointment to study and examine the collection at the Aurora History Museum thus supplying information to researchers.

The wayside will also include a moral-appeal message that has been proven to be effective (Ham (2013) Podolinsky (2022)) in supporting beneficial conservation behaviors. A QR code link could support Accessibility needs (i.e. closed captioning, contrast and visual assistance). Also a QR code link may be an option if an audio voice post is not feasible.



Figure 54: A conceptual thematic layout for the main on-site wayside sign for the Senac site

Having a companion exhibit panel and possibly a temporary exhibit case of artifacts at the Senac Creek Nature Center allows the ability to explore additional themes, sub-themes and supporting points. The main takeaways being that visitors will gain an understanding that the Senac Site Served as a Seasonal Home for Indigenous Peoples from A.D. 245 to A.D. 1055 (Theme A).

A permanent interpretation sign in the Senac Creek Nature Center will inform visitors and tie-in to the following themes, sub-themes and supporting points: The people who lived at Senac were Native American (Theme A sub-theme 3); different activities were performed at the Senac Site (Theme A, sub-theme 2 and 7); no shelters or constructed homes were found at the site (Theme A, sub-theme 4); Senac Site's age (Theme A, sub-



theme 8); why did they not return to the site after the last dated occupation? (Theme A, sub-theme 11). Please see a conceptual layout for the text panel below.



Figure 55: Conceptual thematic layout mock-up for the interpretive panel at the Senac Creek Nature Center.



Figure 56: Suggestions for a display case and interpretive sign for the Senac Creek Nature Center.

The Landmark Plaque?

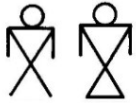
All the Aurora Landmark buildings have brass plaques. The Senac site could have this plaque mounted to top or side of the sign or perhaps on an adjacent rock or stone structure. Perhaps though, since there may be a risk of theft and vandalism, this site may not be the best candidate to have a brass marker?



Figure 57: The brass marker for landmark historic properties in Aurora.



Part 3: Native American Consultation/Collaboration, Information Network, Media Descriptions and Cost Range Estimate for Implementation



Native American Consultation/Collaboration

The Aurora History Museum outreached to the following Native American Tribes regarding the Senac Dam Site interpretive plan: The Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming and the The Southern Cheyenne and Southern Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. Please see Appendix B which includes notes from the consultations that occurred on January 19, 2024, February 28, 2024 and May 20, 2024.

To summarize, a few interpretive suggestions made by the Tribal representatives are as follows:

- ▶ The site should mention some sovereignty history, in particular the 1851 Treaty of Ft Laramie. Under this Treaty, the US Government gave the area around where the Senac Dam site is today to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. This Treaty was broken almost immediately by European descendant settlement in places such as Denver, Colorado. Tensions increased leading to the Sand Creek Massacre event in 1864 and eventual forced movement of these Tribes to the present day reservations.
- ▶ Through oral stories, the area around where the Senac site is located is believed to have been occupied and/or hunted by Arapaho Chief Little Raven. By the early 1800's the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes were forced to leave their original homelands of the Great Lakes and made more frequent camps and semi-permanent homes in the Plains region. Chief Little Raven was an important leader to the Arapaho and Cheyenne peoples and sought peace through negotiations with the US Government.
- ▶ There were other suggestions of adding a welcome message in the Arapaho language, adding the flag of Northern Arapaho Tribe, a timeline of historical events with regard to the Cheyenne and Arapaho history and involving a Tribal artist to provide a visual image if possible. It was also suggested that the site is sacred due to the fact that it was likely a gathering spot not only for the Tribes but also for the animals like the Bison. The site was also ideally located near stone tool resources and a spring (upstream from the site). An image of the site as it looked before the reservoir was constructed was suggested as well.





The plants should also be interpreted with both Native American (Arapaho) and English names and indigenous uses. They suggested reaching out to the Kiowa/Apache, too, to see if they have any stories they would like to share as well. The Tribal representatives in general liked the proposed ideas and considered the site as being Sacred. Representatives from the Northern Arapaho Tribe blessed the site.



An Additional Interpretive Sign

The Native American suggestions are probably best served with an additional interpretive sign focused on the sovereign history of the Senac site area. This panel would complement the Pre-Contact sign described in Part 2. This sovereign history explains the story of the indigenous community in Aurora after the Senac site was occupied post A.D. 1100. Looking back at the developed themes, the approach of expanding this information ties into a number previously stated Themes and sub-themes, namely: Point A, Sub-theme 11. Where are the descendants of the people who lived at Senac, so many years ago, today? Point A, Sub-theme 12. What does the location of Senac mean in terms of the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie?

Native Americans living today are also apart of Aurora’s diverse population. Although many Native Americans still live on reservations, many also live within the Denver-Aurora metropolitan area. This diversity message is a key aim that relates directly to Aurora Places, a comprehensive plan stating that diversity and equity are assets to be nurtured and promoted by the City. Focusing on these messages creates safe and welcoming public spaces that are designed to increase communication and understanding and reduce conflict among cultures (see Interpretive Plan/Progress Report Part 1).

Expanding on the feedback received by our Tribal partners necessitates the incorporation of an additional Theme and a reframing of some sub-themes and movement of Point A, sub-themes 10, 11 and 12 to the following Significance Point and Theme:

Themes for a Possible Second Panel

Significance Point C: The Native American history of the area post A.D. 1100 involves Native Peoples/European Descendant tensions, broken treaties, conflict and resettlement.



Theme:

The Senac Site is located in an area once given to the Sovereign
Tribal Nations of the Cheyenne and Arapaho

Sub-theme 1. Where are the Naive American peoples today?



Supporting point

While we do not know where the people who lived at the Senac Dam Site lived after A.D. 1100, we know that by A.D. 1800's many Native Tribes that occasionally camped and hunted on the Plains continued to do so with greater frequency and in contact and sometimes in conflict with European-descendant settlers.

Sub-theme 2. The descendants of the people who lived at Senac are alive and well.

Supporting point

Their descendants are alive and well and living in either tribal reservations or within large urban cities like Denver and Aurora.

Sub-theme 3. The 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie gave land to the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples in the area where the Senac Dam site is located today.

Supporting point

The Senac site is located on land given through the Treaty of Fort Laramie by the US government to the Cheyenne and the Arapaho Tribes. The treaty was broken almost immediately with the establishment of cities and towns such as Denver in 1858 and led to the Sand Creek Massacre, the US Indian Wars and forced settlement on reservations by these Tribes.

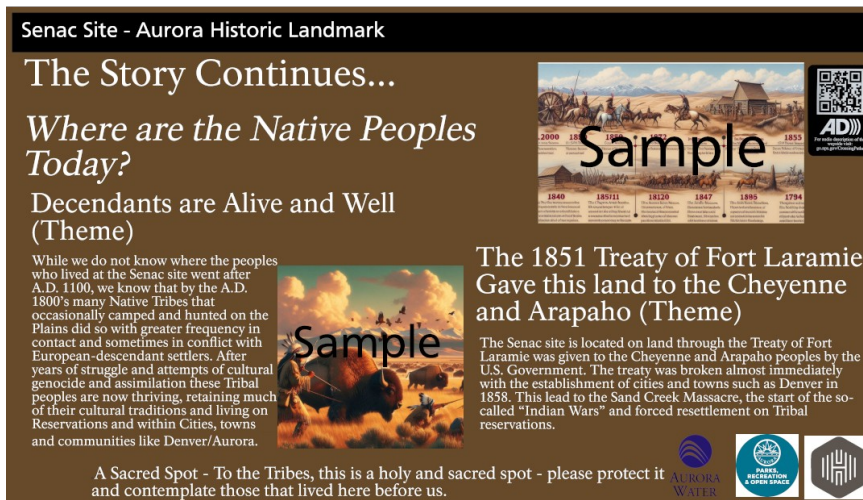


Figure 58. A conceptual thematic layout for the proposed second wayside sign for the Senac site covering the Sovereign Nation History of the area.





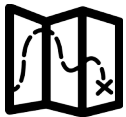
Figure 59: Both Proposed Interpretive Signs for the Senac Site.



Other Media and Nature Center



As proposed in Part 2, the talking audio post (hand cranked, solar or electric) could also include recorded messages from a Native Americans today on the significance of the site and the related sovereign history of the Arapaho and Cheyenne peoples in this area. Other media tie-in could also be provided via a QR code to audio or video, or other internet delivered experiences etc. Also the Senac Nature Center should also incorporate the above Theme with its text panel.



Mapping the Visitor Experiences

The visitor flow in the information network for each targeted audience type reflects the typical sequence of information desired by the visitors. Basic orientation and virtual way-finding are key to direct visitors to the site and the visitor center. The targeted audience requires an information network necessary to support the success of each experience.



The interpretive experiences are layered, reflecting the need to serve different audiences. The layers are designed to stand alone, but also to pique interest in other interpretive opportunities that one may visit in-person on site or by conducting more research (with steps on how to make a research inquiry).

The prescriptions are presented to reflect the sequence of the desired visitor experience with the wayside signage or a visit to the Senac Creek Nature Center. That experience is broken down into the following segments:

- Awareness and Pre-Trip (trip planning) experience: How that audience is informed to come and experience the Senac Dam Landmark site, including maps, brochures, social media etc.
- Navigation experience: Wayfinding, travel to the site/center.
- Arrival experience: Visitor options and landscape senses.
- Primary experience: The primary story points (take home messages)
- Departure experience: Reflection and action (encouraging further inquiry, participation in other City of Aurora offerings), quiz and/or feedback.
- Return visit: Schedule other events to commemorate the site with speakers, tribal representative/artists, other celebrations.
- Post-trip experience: Link to historic landmarks, other sites to visit, (partner links).
- Potential extended experience: Information on repository access, Historic Preservation events, educational programs for schools and educators volunteer information, etc.

The targeted audiences for the visitor experience of the Senac site have been selected as

Bicyclists, Walkers/Runners, Kayakers (in the Aurora Reservoir Park); Students/Teachers (in the region around the site), Heritage Enthusiasts and Researchers (external).



Target Audience (Bicyclists)

Trip Stage	Information	Delivery Strategy/Comments
------------	-------------	----------------------------



<p>Awareness and Pre-trip (trip planning)</p>	<p>Marketing and trip planning</p>	<p>Senac Landmark site is listed in the activities to do for the Aurora Reservoir, historic sites brochure, other media (social, print – maps, website, Aurora Access TV etc.). Local neighborhood HOA/special district information outlets, etc.</p>
<p>Navigation</p>	<p>Orientation and wayfinding</p>	<p>Wayfinding signs on the two closest reservoir public access entrances, directional wayfinding along trail route (see Wayfinding section in Part 2).</p>
<p>Arrival Experience</p>	<p>Landscape today, interpretive signs, water, plants and animal activity</p>	<p>Point of interest stop/bike rest repair stop. They will see two interpretive signs and possible audio post or QR link. May hear or see others experiencing the site.</p>
<p>Primary Experience</p>	<p>Take home messages:</p> <p>The Senac Site was a campsite home repeatedly revisited in the ancient past.</p> <p>The Senac Site artifact collection and site preserves important information for future research and cultural understanding.</p> <p>The Senac Site is located in an area once given to the Sovereign Tribal Nations of the Cheyenne and Arapaho.</p> <p>Native American identification use of botanical/animal items.</p> <p>Protect and reflect on the importance of this sacred site.</p>	<p>Wayside signs on the following topics: (1) Pre-Contact (2) Sovereign Tribal History (3) Audio post or QR audio/visual experience (4) plant identification, (5) moral message of protection.</p>



Departure Experience	Reflection at the bench, encourage further exploration. Possible QR feedback questionnaire. Carefully leave the area and head back on the trail.	Encourage a visit to the Senac Creek Nature Center, Aurora History Museum etc. Possible QR feedback questionnaire.
Return Visit	Encourage other bikers/non-bikers to visit.	Promote the site within bike enthusiast groups via social media, maps etc.
Post-trip	Visit the Senac Creek Nature Center and other historic sites encouraged	Signs should encourage more to explore on agencies websites, etc.
Potential Extended Experiences	In-person visit to the museum or historic site/events	Mention opportunities in the wayside signs, brochures etc.



Target Audience (Walkers/Runners)

Trip Stage	Information	Delivery Strategy/Comments
Awareness and Pre-trip (trip planning)	Marketing and trip planning	Senac Landmark site is listed in activities for the Aurora Reservoir, historic sites brochure, other media (social, print – maps, website, Aurora Access TV etc.) Local neighborhood HOA/special district information outlets.
Navigation	Orientation and wayfinding	Wayfinding signs on the two closest reservoir public access entrances, directional wayfinding along trail route (see Wayfinding section).
Arrival Experience	Landscape today, interpretive signs, water, plants and animal activity	Point of interest stop/bike rest repair stop. Will see two interpretive signs and possible audio post or QR



		link. May hear or see others experiencing the site.
Primary Experience	<p>Take home messages:</p> <p>The Senac Site was a campsite home repeatedly revisited in the ancient past.</p> <p>The Senac Site artifact collection and site preserves important information for future research and cultural understanding.</p> <p>The Senac Site is located in an area once given to the Sovereign Tribal Nations of the Cheyenne and Arapaho.</p> <p>Native American identification use of botanical/animal items.</p> <p>Protect and reflect on the importance of this sacred site.</p>	Wayside signs on the following topics: (1) Pre-Contact (2) Sovereign Tribal History (3) Audio post or QR audio/visual experience (4) plant identification, (5) moral message of protection.
Departure Experience	Reflection at the bench, encourage further exploration. Possible QR feedback questionnaire. Carefully leave the area and head back on the trail.	Encourage a visit to the Senac Creek Nature Center, Aurora History Museum etc. Possible QR feedback questionnaire.
Return Visit	Encourage walkers and runners to visit	Promote the site visit within local HOA, special district media (newsletters, social media and in-person presentations, annual meetings/community events).
Post-trip	Visit the Senac Creek Nature Center and other historic sites encouraged	Signs should encourage more to explore on agencies websites, etc.
Potential Extended Experiences	In-person visit to the museum or historic site/events	Mention opportunities in the wayside signs, brochures etc.





Target Audience (Kayakers)

Trip Stage	Information	Delivery Strategy/Comments
Awareness and Pre-trip (trip planning)	Marketing and trip planning	Senac Landmark site is listed in activities for the Aurora Reservoir, historic sites brochure, other media (social, print – maps, website, Aurora Access TV etc.) Local neighborhood HOA/special district information outlets.
Navigation	Orientation and wayfinding	Sign in the water protecting the area (sensitive/sacred area) (emphasize no collecting, camping or long-term use). Encourage viewing the wayside interpretive signs near the trail stop.
Arrival Experience	Water – landscape beach/edge – signs neat the trail.	Point of interest stop/bike rest repair stop. Will see two interpretive signs and possible audio post or QR link. May hear or see others experiencing the site.
Primary Experience	<p>Take home messages:</p> <p>The Senac Site was a campsite home repeatedly revisited in the ancient past.</p> <p>The Senac Site artifact collection and site preserves important information for future research and cultural understanding.</p> <p>The Senac Site is located in an area once given to the Sovereign Tribal Nations of the Cheyenne and Arapaho.</p>	Wayside signs on the following topics: (1) Pre-Contact (2) Sovereign Tribal History (3) Audio post or QR audio/visual experience (4) plant identification, (5) moral message of protection.



	<p>Native American identification use of botanical/animal items.</p> <p>Protect and reflect on the importance of this sacred site.</p>	
Departure Experience	<p>Reflection at the bench, encourage further exploration. Possible QR feedback questionnaire. Carefully leave the area and head back on the trail.</p>	<p>Encourage a visit to the Senac Creek Nature Center, Aurora History Museum etc. Possible QR feedback questionnaire.</p>
Return Visit	<p>Encourage kayakers to return to this site with others</p>	<p>Promote the site visit within local HOA, special district media (newsletters, social media and in-person presentations, annual meetings/community events) also possible boating sport groups.</p>
Post-trip	<p>Visit the Senac Creek Nature Center and other historic sites encouraged</p>	<p>Signs should encourage more to explore on agencies websites, etc.</p>
Potential Extended Experiences	<p>In-person visit to the museum or historic site/events</p>	<p>Mention opportunities in the wayside signs, brochures etc.</p>



Target Audience (School Groups)

Trip Stage	Information	Delivery Strategy/Comments
Awareness and Pre-trip (trip planning)	<p>Marketing and trip planning</p>	<p>Senac Landmark site is listed in activities for the Aurora Reservoir, historic sites brochure, other media (social, print – maps, website, Aurora Access TV etc.) Also</p>



		<p>advertised as a resource for educators/home school teachers in the educational materials sent out by the Aurora History Museum and the Open Space education departments. Possible lesson plans and special programs (talks and or on-demand field trip offerings) made by the Museum and the Open Space educational staff. Promotion may also start with neighborhood schools (K-12) in the area around the Senac site.</p>
Navigation	Orientation and wayfinding	<p>Wayfinding signs on the two closest reservoir public access entrances, directional wayfinding along trail route. (see Wayfinding section)</p>
Arrival Experience	Landscape today, interpretive signs, water, plants and animal activity	<p>Point of interest stop/bike rest repair stop. Will see two interpretive signs and possible audio post or QR link. May hear or see others experiencing the site.</p>
Primary Experience	<p>Take home messages:</p> <p>The Senac Site was a campsite home repeatedly revisited in the ancient past.</p> <p>The Senac Site artifact collection and site preserves important information for future research and cultural understanding.</p> <p>The Senac Site is located in an area once given to the Sovereign Tribal Nations of the Cheyenne and Arapaho.</p>	<p>Wayside signs on the following topics: (1) Pre-Contact (2) Sovereign Tribal History (3) Audio post or QR audio/visual experience (4) plant identification, (5) moral message of protection. This can tie-in to Colorado History and local ecological biology/animal field trip experiences (and subsequently produced lesson plans/programs)</p>



	Native American identification use of botanical/animal items. Protect and reflect on the importance of this sacred site.	
Departure Experience	Reflection at the bench, encourage further exploration. Possible QR feedback questionnaire. Carefully leave the area and head back on the trail.	Encourage a visit to the Senac Creek Nature Center, Aurora History Museum etc. Possible QR feedback questionnaire.
Return Visit	Encourage students to return with their parents/siblings etc.	Schedule educational programs/events (on-demand or scheduled) for educators/students and home school teachers
Post-trip	Visit the Senac Creek Nature Center and other historic sites encouraged	Signs should encourage more to explore on agencies websites, etc.
Potential Extended Experiences	In-person visit to the museum or historic site/events and lessons/crafts etc.	Mention opportunities in the wayside signs, brochures etc.



Target Audience (Heritage Enthusiasts)

Trip Stage	Information	Delivery Strategy/Comments
Awareness and Pre-trip (trip planning)	Marketing and trip planning	Senac Landmark site is listed in activities for the Aurora Reservoir, historic sites brochure, other media (social, print – maps, website, Aurora Access TV etc.) Also advertised as a resource with Chamber of Commerce. Visit Aurora website etc.



Navigation	Orientation and wayfinding	Wayfinding signs on the two closest reservoir public access entrances, directional wayfinding along trail route (see Wayfinding section in Part 2)
Arrival Experience	Landscape today, interpretive signs, water, plants and animal activity	Point of interest stop/bike rest repair stop. Will see two interpretive signs and possible audio post or QR link. May hear or see others experiencing the site.
Primary Experience	<p>Take home messages:</p> <p>The Senac Site was a campsite home repeatedly revisited in the ancient past.</p> <p>The Senac Site artifact collection and site preserves important information for future research and cultural understanding.</p> <p>The Senac Site is located in an area once given to the Sovereign Tribal Nations of the Cheyenne and Arapaho.</p> <p>Native American identification use of botanical/animal items.</p> <p>Protect and reflect on the importance of this sacred site.</p>	Wayside signs on the following topics: (1) Pre-Contact (2) Sovereign Tribal History (3) Audio post or QR audio/visual experience (4) plant identification, (5) moral message of protection.
Departure Experience	Reflection at the bench, encourage further exploration. Possible QR feedback questionnaire. Carefully leave the area and head back on the trail.	Encourage a visit to the Senac Creek Nature Center, Aurora History Museum etc. Possible QR feedback questionnaire.
Return Visit	Encourage walkers and runners to visit	Schedule educational programs/celebration events



		with the site as a key tie-in.
Post-trip	Visit the Senac Creek Nature Center and other historic sites encouraged	Signs should encourage more to explore on agencies websites, etc.
Potential Extended Experiences	In-person visit to the museum or historic site/events and lessons/crafts etc.	Mention opportunities in the wayside signs, brochures etc.



Target Audience (Researchers)

Trip Stage	Information	Delivery Strategy/Comments
Awareness and Pre-trip (trip planning)	Marketing and trip planning	Senac Landmark site is listed in activities for the Aurora Reservoir, historic sites brochure, other media (social, print – maps, website, Aurora Access TV etc.) Also advertised/promoted with local higher education programs (Anthropology/History).
Navigation	Orientation and wayfinding	Wayfinding signs on the two closest reservoir public access entrances, directional wayfinding along trail route (see Wayfinding section in Part 2)
Arrival Experience	Landscape today, interpretive signs, water, plants and animal activity	Point of interest stop/bike rest repair stop. Will see two interpretive signs and possible audio post or QR link. May hear or see others experiencing the site.
Primary Experience	Take home messages:	Wayside signs on the following topics: (1) Pre-



	<p>The Senac Site was a campsite home repeatedly revisited in the ancient past.</p> <p>The Senac Site artifact collection and site preserves important information for future research and cultural understanding.</p> <p>The Senac Site is located in an area once given to the Sovereign Tribal Nations of the Cheyenne and Arapaho.</p> <p>Native American identification use of botanical/animal items.</p> <p>Protect and reflect on the importance of this sacred site.</p>	<p>Contact (2) Sovereign Tribal History (3) Audio post or QR audio/visual experience (4) plant identification, (5) moral message of protection.</p>
Departure Experience	<p>Reflection at the bench, encourage further exploration. Possible QR feedback questionnaire. Carefully leave the area and head back on the trail.</p>	<p>Encourage a visit to the Senac Creek Nature Center, Aurora History Museum etc. Possible QR feedback questionnaire.</p>
Return Visit	<p>Encourage college students to visit the site and utilize/study the collection at the Aurora History Museum</p>	<p>Give information on how to access the museum collection (via appointment).</p>
Post-trip	<p>Visit the Senac Creek Nature Center other historic sites encouraged and the museum to study the collection (qualified researchers only)</p>	<p>Signs should encourage more to explore at the museum and with other on agencies websites, etc.</p>
Potential Extended Experiences	<p>In-person visit to the museum to study the collection/archives</p>	<p>Mention opportunities for qualified researchers in the wayside signs, brochures etc.</p>



Accessibility Considerations



Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

By order of State law HB21-1110 the interpretive panels and materials as a product of local government must comply with accessibility standards or risk lawsuits. All wayside exhibits, smart phone apps, web links, etc. should all be in compliance with these accessibility standards and requirements for both print and web-based resources. The signage should also consider the principals of Universal Design (UD) and Universal Design Learning (UDL) to reach various age and ability audiences.



Media Descriptions

Each of the two wayside panels are proposed to follow the design concepts discussed previously (see for Panel A (Pre-Contact) Interpretive Plan/Progress Report Part 2 and Panel B (Sovereign History) above). Both wayside signs will follow National Park Service Guide to Wayside Exhibits for Low-Profile Bases in a cantilever design. Low profile panels are low and angled. A standard base consists of a frame, which holds the exhibit panel, and legs, which hold the frame and panel at the preferred viewing. Most exhibit bases are installed by directly burying their legs into tamped dirt; however for added stability cementing the bases in place may be preferred. The base's simple, unadorned form helps to reduce its visual intrusion on the landscape. They are often made of anodized aluminum, weatherproof steel or durable painted aluminum designed to provide years of service, even in harsh environments. The following panels could be sized at 42x24 inches or 36x24 inches. The proposed audio post sign has limited text area and includes instruction on how to hear the voices. The proposed Senac Creek Nature Center panel could be adapted to a number of walls or configurations (along with a small display case for temporary or replica artifacts).

Panel A: Draft Text (Pre-Contact)



Headline Catch Title 1:	Welcome to a Gathering Spot from Ancient Times <i>Bienvenido a Un Punto de Encuentro de la Antigüedad*</i>
Focus body text	Wouukohei, Vá'ôhtáma* (Welcome in Modern Arapaho)



	<i>and Cheyenne languages)</i>
Headline Catch Title 2:	The Perfect Campsite <i>El Camping Perfecto*</i>
Focus body text	<p>You are at the location of the Senac Dam Archaeology Landmark location. This site served as a seasonal home for indigenous peoples from A.D. 245 to A.D. 1055. It was discovered in 1986 by archaeologists prior to the construction of the Aurora Reservoir. Native Americans at this site made stone and bone tools and had used locally made cord-marked pottery to store food and water (one piece though was found to be similar to those found from western Nebraska). The site was ideally situated for the people to hunt nearby pronghorn, deer and prairie dogs as well as well as to gather local food like Chenopodium (goosefoot) or Amaranthus (pigweed). The location was perfect, it was near a stone quarry, a nearby spring and the adjacent Senac Creek. The site was excavated prior to the construction of the Reservoir and a large part of the site now is submerged under the water. Artifacts from the site are now at the Aurora History Museum.</p> <p><i>Se encuentra usted en el emplazamiento del Hito Arqueológico de la Presa de Senac. Este yacimiento sirvió de hogar estacional a los pueblos indígenas desde el año 245 d.C. hasta el 1055 d.C.. Fue descubierto en 1986 por arqueólogos antes de la construcción del embalse de la Aurora. Los nativos americanos de este yacimiento fabricaban herramientas de piedra y hueso y utilizaban cerámica local marcada con cordones para almacenar alimentos y agua (aunque se encontró una pieza similar a las halladas en el oeste de Nebraska). El emplazamiento era ideal para cazar berrendos, ciervos y perritos de las praderas, así como para recolectar alimentos locales como Chenopodium (pata de ganso) o Amaranthus (hierba de las praderas). La ubicación era perfecta, estaba cerca de una cantera de piedra, un manantial cercano y el arroyo Senac adyacente. El yacimiento se excavó antes de la construcción del embalse y gran parte de él está ahora sumergido bajo el agua. Los objetos del yacimiento se conservan en el Museo de Historia de Aurora.*</i></p>
Possible Inset/Sidebar or Quote:	<p><i>...there is still much about the prehistory of the Colorado Plains to be learned.</i></p> <p><i>Brian P. O'Neil, Part of the concluding remarks from his report titled, "Data Recovery Program at Site 5AH380 For The City of Aurora Proposed Senac Dam and Reservoir. Arapahoe County. Colorado"</i></p> <p>...aún queda mucho por saber sobre la prehistoria de las Llanuras del Colorado. Brian P. O'Neil, Parte de las observaciones finales de su informe titulado "Data Recovery Program at Site 5AH380 For The City of Aurora Proposed Senac Dam and Reservoir. Condado de Arapahoe. Colorado".*</p>
Key Body Content:	Ancient Native peoples doing stone tool making, bone and hide processing with fire pits artist rendering (either stock/A.I. generated or Native Artist).
Photo or drawing caption:	<p><i>Artist conceptualization of the Native American peoples living at the Senac site approximately a thousand years ago.</i></p> <p><i>Conceptualización artística de los pueblos nativos americanos que vivían en el yacimiento del Senac hace aproximadamente mil años.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 3:	For Future Research and Cultural Understanding <i>Para futuras investigaciones y comprensión cultural*</i>



Focus body text	<p>The Senac Dam site offers a place to connect with some of the first peoples to live in what is today Aurora. The site is also just one example of many historic sites that the City aims to preserve and protect as part of the City of Aurora’s vision for the future. The artifacts excavated from the site are owned by the State of Colorado and managed by the City. The entire archaeology collection will provide further insights for future Aurorans.</p> <p><i>El yacimiento de Senac Dam ofrece un lugar para conectar con algunos de los primeros pueblos que vivieron en lo que hoy es Aurora. El yacimiento es también un ejemplo de los muchos lugares históricos que la ciudad pretende conservar y proteger como parte de su visión de futuro. Los artefactos excavados en el yacimiento son propiedad del Estado de Colorado y están gestionados por la ciudad. Toda la colección arqueológica proporcionará más información a los futuros habitantes de Aurora.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 4:	Saving and Protecting this Place <i>Salvar y proteger este lugar*</i>
Focus body text	<p>Imagine this is your family’s favorite gathering picnic location. You would not want this place to be harmed or destroyed. Stand back, enjoy, and do not litter, dig or remove any artifacts or plants. Your actions will help preserve these places for the enjoyment of current and future generations. Don’t Erase the Traces of Aurora’s Past!</p> <p><i>Imagine que es el lugar de picnic favorito de su familia. No te gustaría que este lugar fuera dañado o destruido. Apártate, disfruta y no tires basura, caves ni arranques ningún artefacto o planta. Tus acciones ayudarán a preservar estos lugares para el disfrute de las generaciones actuales y futuras. ¡No borres las huellas del pasado de Aurora!*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 5:	Explore More <i>Explorar más*</i>
Focus body text	<p>Aurora has a number of historic landmarks and the Historic Preservation Commission is dedicated to identifying and landmarking places that are significant to Aurora. Learn more by visiting the City of Aurora’s historic preservation web site. Qualified researchers can also make an appointment to study the Senac site collection at the Aurora History Museum.</p> <p><i>Aurora cuenta con varios monumentos históricos y la Comisión de Preservación Histórica se dedica a identificar y marcar lugares que son significativos para Aurora. Para más información, visite el sitio web de conservación histórica de la ciudad de Aurora. Los investigadores cualificados también pueden concertar una cita para estudiar la colección de yacimientos del Senac en el Museo de Historia de Aurora!*</i></p>



Panel B: Draft Text (Sovereign History)



Headline Catch Title 1:	The Story Continues... La historia continúa...*
Headline Catch Title 2:	Where are the Native Peoples Today? ¿Dónde están hoy los pueblos indígenas?*
Key Body Content:	Historic Buffalo hunters (stock or A.I.) artist rendering or Native artist drawing.
Photo or drawing caption:	<i>Artist conceptualization of the historic Native American peoples hunting Buffalo near the Senac site approximately 170 years ago.</i> <i>Conceptualización artística de los pueblos nativos americanos históricos cazando búfalos cerca del yacimiento del Senac hace aproximadamente 170 años.*</i>
Headline Catch Title 2:	Descendants are Alive and Well Los descendientes están vivos*
Focus body text	While we do not know where the peoples who lived at the Senac site went after A.D. 1100, we know that by the A.D. 1800's many Native Tribes that occasionally camped and hunted on the Plains did so with greater frequency in contact and sometimes in conflict with European-descendant settlers. After years of struggle and attempts of cultural genocide and assimilation these Tribal peoples are now thriving, retaining much of their cultural traditions and living on reservations and within cities, towns and communities like Denver/Aurora. <i>Aunque no sabemos adónde fueron los pueblos que vivieron en el yacimiento de Senac después del 1100 d.C., sabemos que en el 1800 d.C. muchas tribus nativas que acampaban y cazaban ocasionalmente en las llanuras lo hacían con mayor frecuencia en contacto y a veces en conflicto con los colonos de ascendencia europea. Tras años de lucha e intentos de genocidio cultural y asimilación, estos pueblos tribales prosperan en la actualidad, conservan gran parte de sus tradiciones culturales y viven en reservas y en ciudades, pueblos y comunidades como Denver/Aurora.*</i>
Key Body Content:	Timeline artist rendering of Arapaho and Cheyenne from the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie to today (stock or A.I. generated or Native artist).
Photo or drawing caption:	<i>The timeline of significant events for the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples from 1851 to today.</i>
Headline Catch Title 3:	The 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie El Tratado de Fort Laramie de



	1851*
Focus body text	<p>The Senac site is located on land given through the Treaty of Fort Laramie to the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples by the U.S. Government. The treaty was broken almost immediately with the establishment of cities and towns such as Denver in 1858. This led to the Sand Creek Massacre, the start of the so-called “Indian Wars” and forced resettlement on Tribal reservations.</p> <p><i>El yacimiento de Senac se encuentra en tierras cedidas por el Gobierno de Estados Unidos a los pueblos cheyenne y arapaho en virtud del Tratado de Fort Laramie. El tratado se rompió casi de inmediato con el establecimiento de ciudades y pueblos como Denver en 1858. Esto provocó la masacre de Sand Creek, el inicio de las llamadas “guerras indias” y el reasentamiento forzoso en reservas tribales.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 4:	A Sacred Spot <i>Un lugar sagrado*</i>
Focus body text	<p>To the Tribal peoples today – The Senac site is a sacred spot – please protect it and contemplate those that lived here before us.</p> <p><i>A los pueblos tribales de hoy: el yacimiento del Senac es un lugar sagrado; por favor, protéjanlo y contemplen a quienes vivieron aquí antes que nosotros.*</i></p>



Panel C: Drat Text (at the Senac Creek Nature Center) (one panel or two)

Headline Catch Title 1:	Senac Archaeology Site at Aurora Reservoir <i>Yacimiento arqueológico del Senac en el embalse de Aurora*</i>
Headline Catch Title 2:	A Seasonal Home For Indigenous Peoples From A.D. 245 to A.D. 1055 <i>Un hogar estacional para los pueblos indígenas de 245 a 1055 d.C.*</i>
Key Body Content:	Two Photos of excavations at the Senac Site in 1989.
Photo or drawing caption:	<i>The University of Colorado at Denver conducted excavations at the Senac site in the Spring of 1989. This</i>



	<p><i>is the site looking east prior to the construction of the reservoir.</i></p> <p><i>La Universidad de Colorado en Denver realizó excavaciones en el yacimiento del Senac en la primavera de 1989. Este es el yacimiento mirando hacia el este antes de la construcción del embalse.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 2:	<p><i>Who found the site and why?</i> ¿Quién encontró el sitio y por qué? *</p>
Focus body text	<p>The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires Federal agencies to record and evaluate historic and pre-contact sites before destroying or harming them. The Senac site was discovered by archaeologists hired by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1986 to record and evaluate the impact of the construction of the Aurora Reservoir (initially called the Senac Dam). The site was first recorded by Ms. Marcia J. Tate and Paul D. Friedman, subsequently then excavated by Brian P. O’Neil, all from Powers Elevation Inc. Ms. Marcia Tate identified many archaeological sites in Aurora. Her impact in recording and protecting archaeological sites in Aurora was large and significant. Dr. James Grady, and Mr. E. Dederick Carrasco of the University of Colorado at Denver conducted additional field excavations at the Senac site in the Spring of 1989.</p> <p><i>La Ley Nacional de Preservación Histórica de 1966 obliga a los organismos federales a registrar y evaluar los yacimientos históricos y anteriores al contacto antes de destruirlos o dañarlos. El yacimiento de Senac fue descubierto por arqueólogos contratados por el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de los Estados Unidos en 1986 para registrar y evaluar el impacto de la construcción del embalse de Aurora (inicialmente denominado presa de Senac). El yacimiento fue registrado en primer lugar por Marcia J. Tate y Paul D. Friedman, y posteriormente excavado por Brian P. O’Neil, todos ellos de Powers Elevation Inc. La Sra. Marcia Tate identificó muchos yacimientos arqueológicos en Aurora. Su impacto en el registro y la protección de los yacimientos arqueológicos de Aurora fue grande y significativo. El Dr. James Grady y el Sr. E. Dederick Carrasco, de la Universidad de Colorado en Denver, realizaron excavaciones adicionales en el yacimiento de Senac en la primavera de 1989.*</i></p>
Key Body Content:	<p>UCD Excavations (second photo) and/or photo of Archaeologist Ms. Marcia Tate.</p>
Photo or drawing caption:	<p><i>University of Colorado at Denver excavations in 1989 at the Senac site looking southeast across the excavation units.</i></p> <p><i>Excavaciones de la Universidad de Colorado en Denver en 1989 en el yacimiento de Senac mirando hacia el sureste a través de las unidades de excavación.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 3:	<p><i>Did they live in shelters?</i> ¿Vivían en refugios?*</p>
Focus body text	<p>We can infer that there were shelters of some type a thousand years ago near this site due to the variety of activities, however we do not know exactly what they looked like. Most likely they were pit or basin houses</p>



	<p>since we have some evidence of these structure types from this time period at other archaeological sites in nearby areas.</p> <p><i>Podemos deducir que hubo algún tipo de refugio hace mil años cerca de este yacimiento debido a la variedad de actividades, aunque no sabemos exactamente qué aspecto tenían. Lo más probable es que se tratara de casas de foso o de cuenca, ya que tenemos pruebas de este tipo de estructuras de este periodo en otros yacimientos arqueológicos de zonas cercanas.*</i></p>
Key Body Content:	Photo of a basin house found at DIA
Photo or drawing caption:	<p><i>This is a photo of a pit or basin house found near Denver International Airport (DIA). It likely had tree branches, leaves or hides covering the walls around the structure.</i></p> <p><i>.Esta es una foto de una casa fosa o cuenca encontrada cerca del Aeropuerto Internacional de Denver (AID). Probablemente tenía ramas de árbol, hojas o pieles cubriendo las paredes alrededor de la estructura.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 4:	How did they make stone tools? ¿Cómo fabricaban las herramientas de piedra?*
Focus body text	<p>Flintknapping (stone tool manufacturing) using pressure and percussion techniques was used with material from a nearby stone “quarry”. Evidence points to changes of technology and stone tool-making over time.</p> <p><i>Se utilizó el sílex (fabricación de herramientas de piedra mediante técnicas de presión y percusión) con material procedente de una "cantera" de piedra cercana. Los indicios apuntan a cambios tecnológicos y de fabricación de herramientas de piedra a lo largo del tiempo.*</i></p>
Key Body Content:	Photos of projectile points (Archaic and Ceramic Period) found at the Senac Dam Site.
Photo or drawing caption:	<p><i>Photos of projectile points (Archaic and Ceramic Period) found at the Senac Dam Site now stored at the Aurora History Museum.</i></p> <p><i>Fotos de puntas de proyectil (periodo Arcaico y Cerámico) encontradas en el yacimiento de la presa de Senac, ahora almacenadas en el Museo de Historia de Aurora.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 5:	Clues to food processing and other activities are found at the Senac site. En el yacimiento del Senac hay indicios de procesamiento de alimentos y otras actividades.*
Focus body text:	<p>The Senac site has evidence of small stone flake tools (used in butchering and possibly plant processing), bone awls for clothes making, fire pits (to stay warm and possibly to aid in tool making) and ceramics to carry water and food.</p> <p><i>En el yacimiento de Senac se han encontrado pequeñas herramientas de piedra (utilizadas en la carnicería y posiblemente en el procesamiento de plantas), punzones de hueso para la confección de ropa, hogueras (para mantenerse caliente y posiblemente para ayudar en la fabricación de herramientas) y cerámica para transportar agua y alimentos.*</i></p>
Key Body Content:	Image of a bone tool, cord-marked ceramics sherd and Bison bones found during excavations at the Senac site.
Photo or drawing caption:	Bone tool, Bison (Buffalo) bones and a piece of Ceramics (pottery) found at the Senac site now stored at the Aurora



	<p>History Museum.</p> <p><i>Herramienta de hueso, huesos de bisonte (búfalo) y un trozo de cerámica (alfarería) hallados en el yacimiento de Senac, ahora almacenados en el Museo de Historia de Aurora.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 6:	How do we know the Senac Site's age? ¿Cómo sabemos la antigüedad del yacimiento del Senac?*
Focus body text:	<p>Radiocarbon dating was used to tell archaeologists how long ago the site was occupied. Radiocarbon dating is a process that measures the decay rate of carbon found in formerly living things (like wood from old campfires). By counting the remaining carbon in a lab, an age estimate can be made for the site to determine use by people with the tools they left behind.</p> <p><i>La datación por radiocarbono se utilizó para indicar a los arqueólogos cuánto tiempo hace que el yacimiento estuvo ocupado. La datación por radiocarbono es un proceso que mide la velocidad de descomposición del carbono que se encuentra en los seres vivos (como la madera de las hogueras antiguas). Contando el carbono restante en un laboratorio, se puede hacer una estimación de la edad del yacimiento para determinar el uso que le dieron las personas a las herramientas que dejaron.*</i></p>
Key Body Content:	Image of carbonized wood from an excavated site
Photo or drawing caption:	<p><i>Organic material such as burned wood (from ancient campfires) which were found at the Senac site provides ideal material to conduct radiocarbon dating.</i></p> <p><i>El material orgánico como la madera quemada (procedente de antiguas hogueras) que se encontró en el yacimiento del Senac proporciona un material ideal para llevar a cabo la datación por radiocarbono.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 7:	What customs and cultural practices or beliefs did they have at the Senac Site? ¿Qué costumbres y prácticas culturales o creencias tenían en el yacimiento del Senac?*
Focus body text:	<p>Archaeological and historic evidence at sites like Senac only allow speculation however, we may gain some more insights by asking modern descendant peoples.</p> <p><i>Las pruebas arqueológicas e históricas de yacimientos como Senac sólo permiten especular, pero quizá podamos obtener más información si preguntamos a los descendientes modernos.*</i></p>
Key Body Content:	Artist reconstruction of the site (copy of one at the wayside Pre-Contact sign).
Photo or drawing caption:	<p><i>Artist conceptualization of the Native American peoples living at the Senac site approximately a thousand years ago.</i></p> <p><i>Conceptualización artística de los pueblos nativos americanos que vivían en el yacimiento del Senac hace aproximadamente mil años.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 8:	Why did they not return to the site after the last dated occupation? ¿Por qué no volvieron al lugar tras la última ocupación fechada?*
Focus body text:	<p>We do not know although we have evidence that other sites around the region were also abandoned roughly the same time, too, possibly indicating environmental</p>



	<p>changes or cultural changes or both.</p> <p><i>No lo sabemos, aunque tenemos pruebas de que otros yacimientos de la región también fueron abandonados aproximadamente en la misma época, lo que posiblemente indica cambios medioambientales, culturales o ambos.*</i></p>
Key Body Content:	Site excavation photo from 1989.
Photo or drawing caption:	<p><i>Excavations at the Senac site from 1989 looking west.</i></p> <p><i>Excavaciones en el yacimiento de Senac desde 1989 mirando hacia el oeste.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 9:	Where are the descendants of the people who lived at Senac so many years ago today? ¿Dónde están hoy los descendientes de las personas que vivieron en Senac hace tantos años?*
Focus body text:	<p>Native Americans today are the descendants of the people who once lived at places like the Senac site. Tribal peoples are alive and well and living in either reservations or within large urban cities like Denver and Aurora.</p> <p><i>Los nativos americanos de hoy son los descendientes de los que vivieron en lugares como el yacimiento de Senac. Los pueblos tribales están vivos y viven en reservas o en grandes ciudades como Denver y Aurora.*</i></p>
Key Body Content:	An Arapaho Tribal Person today.
Photo or drawing caption:	<p><i>An Arapaho Tribal Person visiting the Senac site while planning the interpretation of the site.</i></p> <p><i>Una persona de la tribu Arapaho visitando el yacimiento de Senac mientras planificaba la interpretación del yacimiento.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 10:	What does the location of Senac mean in terms of the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie? ¿Qué significa la ubicación de Senac en relación con el Tratado de Fort Laramie de 1851?*
Focus body text:	<p>Through the Treaty of Fort Laramie the US government gave the land that is now the Senac site and land in what is today Aurora to the Cheyenne and the Arapaho Tribes. The treaty was broken almost immediately with the establishment of cities and towns such as Denver in 1858. These settlements led to the Sand Creek Massacre, the so called “Indian Wars” and forced settlement on reservations.</p> <p><i>Mediante el Tratado de Fort Laramie, el gobierno de EE.UU. cedió a las tribus cheyenne y arapaho las tierras que hoy ocupan el emplazamiento de Senac y lo que hoy es Aurora. El tratado se rompió casi de inmediato con el establecimiento de ciudades y pueblos como Denver en 1858. Estos asentamientos provocaron la masacre de Sand Creek, las llamadas “guerras indias” y el asentamiento forzoso en reservas.*</i></p>
Headline Catch Title 11:	The Senac site offers a place to learn about the past and the artifact collection will provide further insight for future Aurorans. El yacimiento del Senac ofrece un lugar para aprender sobre el pasado y la colección de artefactos proporcionará más información a los futuros aurorenses.*
Focus body text:	<p>The collection offers the opportunity for continued research and exhibition. Qualified researchers can make an appointment to study and examine the collection at the Aurora History Museum.</p>



	<i>La colección ofrece la oportunidad de seguir investigando y exponiendo. Los investigadores cualificados pueden concertar una cita para estudiar y examinar la colección en el Museo de Historia de Aurora.*</i>
Headline Catch Title 12:	Visit the Landmark Site
Focus body text:	The Senac Dam site can be visited within the Aurora Reservoir. Follow the trail south around the Reservoir. South of the Nature Center look for the Map and directional signs to the site.** <i>El emplazamiento de la presa de Senac puede visitarse dentro del embalse de Aurora. Siga el sendero hacia el sur alrededor del embalse. Al sur del Centro de la Naturaleza, busque el mapa y las señales de dirección al emplazamiento.*</i>
Key Body Content:	Map showing the location of the Senac Dam site location.

* translation will need to be checked for accuracy.

**wayfinding sign(s) will need to be installed south of the Nature Center and picnic/beach area at the start of the trail that travels south around the reservoir.



Talking Audio Post/QR Program Proposed Content and Signage

The interpretive approach for the proposed audio “talking post” or QR content should be based on provoking interest and educational/cultural content. The content is aimed at being enjoyable to the listener and must be based upon communicating a theme. Ideally each program should attempt to stimulate as many senses as possible. Therefore sound clips should include not just voice narration and interviews but also background sounds and effects.

The audio program must also attempt to stimulate the listener in achieving higher levels of learning and self actualization as demonstrated by Abraham Maslow’s higher levels of learning. The listener is challenged by inquiry to answer more complex questions leading ultimately to being inspired by the presentation and undertaking further action.

Working Title: What does the Senac Dam Site Mean to the Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes?

Theme: The Senac Dam Site represents a connection to earlier Native occupations and in 1851 the area where the site is located was given by the US government to the Cheyenne and Arapho Tribes.

Audience: The general public aged 12 – 80 that is curious about archaeology and history and of the site, the area and Indian history.

Button One- Background and Significance



Introduction - We hear Native American voices (children playing, women and men talking) The narrator introduces himself/herself and gives a brief history and background on the discovery and excavation of the Senac Dam site. The narrator explains how the site was dated and the evidence of activities at the site. The narrator explains that we do not know who the descendant Tribes are who lived at the site. The narrator explains that the area where the site is located was known historically and through oral tradition to have been used by tribal peoples such as the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and other groups. In 1851 the land where the Senac Dam site is located was given to the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples by the signing of the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie.

Transition from the introduction:

The program starts with a short interview with members of the Arapaho Tribe who are asked what the Senac site means to the Tribes today?

Button Two – Oral Traditions

Sub theme 1: Oral Traditions inform us that the Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes hunted and camped at places near the Senac Dam site.

The narrator asks the Arapaho tribal member if there are stories that have been handed down through the generations about their ancestral tribal members living in places like the Senac site?

Button Three – Later Impacts

Transition:

The narrator asks the Tribal representative about what happened to Tribes like the Arapaho after treaties were signed and broken, and how Tribal people feel about the loss of their lands?

Sub theme 2: The Senac Dam site reminds us of the long struggle of the Native American people's history leading to conflict at the Sand Creek Massacre and eventual displacement to the reservations

The narrator points out that there are Native American people today living in modern towns and cities like Aurora. The narrator states that the Native Peoples in Aurora make up part of the City's rich diversity.

Button Three – Lessons from the Past for Today

Transition:

Indian music (drumming or flute) plays and the narrator then asks the Tribal representative what he/she would like all visitors to come away with when visiting this site?



Conclusion:

The narrator encourages visitors to come to the Aurora History Museum to learn more and leave no trace at this sacred site.

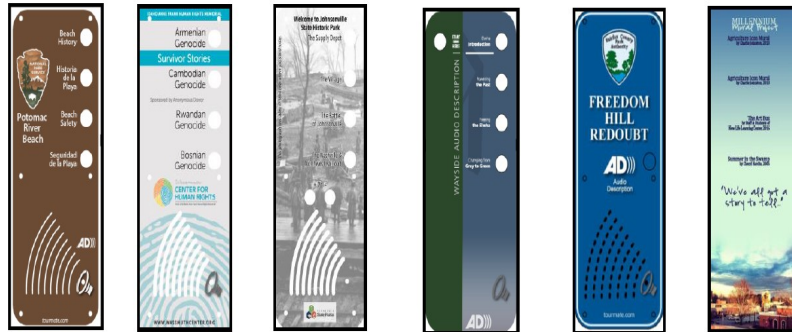


Figure: 60: The audio post face plate would have a custom label.

The audio post would then have four buttons with the titles of “Background and Significance”, “Oral Traditions”, “Later Impacts” and “Lessons from the Past for Today”. The design should also include all the key partners (Aurora History Museum, Aurora Parks and Open Space and Aurora Water) and should match the style of the wayside signs. Variations on the proposed labels will depend on the audio post manufacturer, style (solar), hand-cranked, or built-in (see Interpretive Plan/Progress Report Part 2).



Cost Range Estimates

The following are cost range estimates based on the information available at this time. They include design development and fabrication by outside vendors. Installation is presumed to be done in-house by agency staff. All panels include design, layout, resource acquisition, text writing, digital file preparation, graphic production, mounting system and installation on-site. Costs are based on comparable (2024) material prices. The final project cost will vary depending on the length of time that passes prior to the project moving ahead and if some items (like design layout and installation etc.) can be done in-house by one of the agency partners. Items may also be done in separate phases or individual items at a time (see suggestions below). In-house agency design/installation will significantly reduce the cost-range estimates outlined below.

Area	Strategy	Unit Cost	Cost	Comments
Public access trails	Wayfinding trail sign custom map and universal rec.	\$80 - \$220	\$240 - \$660	3 aluminum entrance signs with custom map and NPS Uniguide and SEG D National



	symbols for the targeted audiences of Bicyclists, Walkers/Runners, School Groups, Heritage Enthusiasts and Researchers			Recreation symbols (Lakehouse at Southshore, Southshore Dr. and south of Senac Creek Nature Center). May have in-house designers/City preferred vendors). Please see figures 10, 11, 12, 16, 17 in Part 2 for conceptual designs and placement.
	Directional post wayfinding signs with SEG National Recreation Symbols (arrow posts) for the targeted audiences of Bicyclists, Walkers/Runners, School Groups, Heritage Enthusiasts and Researchers	\$120 - \$200	\$480 - \$800	4 aluminum directional arrow and symbols along trail juncture points. Please see figures 13, 14, 15 and 18 in Part 2 for conceptual design and placement.
	Larger main juncture trail sign for the targeted audiences of Bicyclists, Walkers/Runners, School Groups, Heritage Enthusiasts and Researchers	\$180 - \$300	\$180 - \$300	1 "Perimeter Trail" aluminum wayfinding sign at West trail access junction. Please see figures 19, 20 and 21 in Part 2 for conceptual design and placement.
	Bicycle Point of Interest, Interpretive, Pedestrian Crossing sign for the targeted audiences of Bicyclists,	\$300 - \$400	\$300 - \$800	2 aluminum bicycle "Point of Interest" signs with directional arrow to catch bicycle interest audience. May be two separate low-profile signs on two posts or on one post with two sides. Please see figures 22, 24, 25, 26, 27 in Part 2 for



	Walkers/Runners, School Groups, Heritage Enthusiasts and Researchers			conceptual design and placement.
	Bicycle Repair Stop sign posts with SEGD National Recreation Symbols (arrow posts) (blue) for the targeted audiences of Bicyclists.	\$120 - \$200	\$240 - \$400	2 signs on single post if bike/air repair station is feasible. Please see figures 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 in Part 2 for conceptual design and placement.
Watercraft/water user sign	Wayfinding on lake with moral appeal message protecting the site (underwater) custom message for the targeted audience of the Kayakers.	\$100 - \$250	\$200 - \$500	1 or 2 signs on a single wood post in the water of Aurora Reservoir across from the interpretive signage area. Please see figures 2, 3 in Part 2 for conceptual design and placement.
Interpretive Wayside Signs	Panels A and B. Main Interpretive low-profile signs for the targeted audiences of Bicyclists, Walkers/Runners, School Groups, Heritage Enthusiasts, Kayakers and Researchers (either 42x24 inches or 36 x 24 inches)	\$2,700 - \$4,500	\$5,400 - \$9,000	2 interpretive signs on graffiti resistant High Pressure Laminate (assumes some graphic design services). Does not include any commissioned art renderings. Please see figures 29, 54 in Part 3 for conceptual design and placement. See proposed text and content above section tables for panels A and B.
Plant Identification Signs	Small signs with indigenous names and uses	\$11 - \$15	\$220 - \$300	Small post signs with information on native name and use as well as common name. Please see Part 2 for



				conceptual design and placement.
Bicycle Air and Repair Station	Bike Air tire repair station for the targeted audiences of Bicyclists.	\$900 - \$3,600	\$900 - \$3,600	1 Bike/Air repair station. This may vary in size and durability. Please see figure 28 in Part 2 for conceptual design and placement.
Audio Talking Post	Capturing audio senses and cultural perspective of indigenous community for the targeted audiences of Bicyclists, Walkers/Runners, School Groups, Heritage Enthusiasts, Kayakers and Researchers	\$1,800 - \$2,700	\$1,800 - \$2,700	1 solar or hand-cranked audio post. Cost does not include oral history recording and production (in-house?). Please see figures 31- 40 in Part 2 for conceptual design and placement. See proposed content/themes in the above section table for the Talking Audio Post/QR Program Proposed Content and Signage.
Oral History Recording	Audio capture of Native American voices on the Senac site importance for either the Talking Post or website QR code and other museum/open space programming	\$300 - \$400	\$300 - \$400	Oral history recording. See proposed content/themes in the above section table for the Talking Audio Post/QR Program Proposed Content and Signage.
ADA concrete pad for handicap access and turnaround	Accessibility access for mobility assisted individuals. For the targeted audience of assisted individuals School Groups, Heritage Enthusiasts, and	\$250 - \$400 cement pad \$1,500 - \$3,000 for archaeology monitoring.	\$1,750 - \$3,400	For greater access to the signs and the visitor interpretive experiences. Please see Part 2 for conceptual design and placement.



	Researchers. Plus archaeological monitoring by a permitted archaeologist			
Senac Nature Center	Panel C: Interpretive =sign(s) in the Nature Center for the targeted audiences of Walkers/Runners, <u>School Groups</u> , Heritage Enthusiasts, Beach users, and Researchers	\$800 - \$2,500	\$800 - \$2,500	1 or 2 interpretive signs at the Senac Nature Center. Costs vary for this and could be done in-house or with outside vendors. Please see figures 55 and 56 in Part 2 for conceptual design and placement. See proposed text and content above section tables for panel C.
	Display Case of artifacts from the Aurora History Museum (on-loan) or replicas	\$300 - \$500	\$300 - \$500	1 cube on pedestal or wall mount with a selection of artifacts from the Senac site. Please see figures 7, 8 and 56 in Part 2 for conceptual design and placement.
Historic Landmark Plaque	Standard Aurora Historic Landmark Plaque	\$150 - \$250	\$150 - \$250	May need to be installed on a rock or bench. Please see figures 7, 8 and 56 in Part 2 for conceptual design and placement.
General Strategies	Part of the Landmark Brochure			Can be done in-house
	Web Site QR code interaction			Can be done in-house?
	Feedback form etc.			Can be done in-house?
	Tours and special events			Varies by type and cost (too many variables)
Total Cost Range			\$13,260 - \$26,110	Estimated cost (some costs could be absorbed in-house). Interpretive Plan production (Parts 1, 2 and 3) pro-Bono



				cost/match estimated value \$15,000 - \$20,000. AHM has also contributed with hosting two on-site consultations.
--	--	--	--	--



Possible Phased Implementation

The entire interpretive network recommended in this plan could be developed in 1-2 years depending on funding. With that in mind, we are presenting an implementation plan categorized into manageable and complete chunks, labeled in terms of Phase and Priority levels. Funding sources could come from a variety of sources starting with agency budgets, special funding sources or grant funding opportunities. The Phases below are roughly divided by on-site preparation/planning (phase one), outdoor interpretive signs (phase two) and indoor signs and artifacts (phase three). If the City decides to do a phased approach or funds only small pieces – it is imperative though that a schedule of implementation be established. It would not be effective at all to *piecemeal* the plan as too many items support the full communication strategies and their effectiveness. Not following the full Interpretive Plan for the Senac Dam site and its supporting elements would not be in the public or the Tribal partners best interests.

Phase One (Site Prep/Planning)

Key Improvements:
 Make ADA improvements to the proposed wayside signage location.

Actions Recommended:
 Clearing and concrete pad, planning for air/bike station and sign placements
 Hire a permitted archaeologist to monitor ground-disturbing activity

Phase Two (Outdoor Signage)

Key Improvements:
 Wayside Interpretive Signs are produced and installed along with talking audio post-trip
 Wayfinding directional signs produced and installed
 Install Bike/Repair Station (If feasible)

Actions Recommended:
 Continued Native American consultation
 Design layout and content produced for all the outdoor signs



Hold outdoor opening event with Tribal partners and dignitaries
Promote the event and the site (see network support strategies)

Phase Three (Senac Creek Nature Center)

Key Improvements:

Senac Nature Center Interpretive Sign Designed and Produced
Display case of artifacts installed

Actions Recommended:

Plan for Interpretive panel space
Decide on artifacts or replicas to display
Hold indoor opening event with Tribal partners and dignitaries
Promote the event and the site (see network support strategies)



Effectiveness Monitoring and Re-Tooling

Key indicators for success based on the proposed interpretive goals were outlined in Part 1. It is recommended that once the plan has been implemented and established, that all the agency partners create a uniform evaluation plan and that the agencies meet and share their evaluation indicating success or need for improvement to the plan, as well as any of the strategies or media products. This could be articulated in a separate plan, protocol or memorandum of understanding that identifies areas in need of improvement.

Evaluation techniques and strategies

The following is a brief summary of selected approaches based on the National Park Service's *Interpretive Planning Tools for Heritage Areas, Historic Trails and Gateways*. Evaluation can be direct (audience interacts with evaluator) or indirect (visitors' actions and responses are tracked without their knowledge). Qualitative measures assess the depth and effectiveness of the experience (perhaps by interviewing respondents), while quantitative approaches produce measurable results (determining, for example, what percentage of visitors surveyed were able to describe the significance of the site or region).

Since it is impossible to evaluate each visitor's experience, evaluators must rely on well-designed sampling (surveying a specific number) of visitors to represent the whole. In order to be valid, sampling techniques must be random and representative of the whole spectrum of visitors. For example, every tenth person who visits the site while a recorder is at the site would be asked to respond to a survey – not just the visitors who look the friendliest. Informal evaluation can also be revealing. For example, interpreters conduct informal evaluation during every visitor contact to



gain a general impression of program effectiveness. While the results of the conversations are not scientific, they still play a role in assessing interpretive services.

The visitor experience objectives developed and found in Part 1 of this Interpretive Plan can be reconfigured to create measurable outcomes. Measurable visitor experience outcome describe a set of desired outcomes. The following examples are typical of those that might be created (for example):

- A majority of visitors will be able to describe the significance of the Senac Dam site.
- A majority of visitors will be able to describe the importance of the Treaty of 1851 to the sovereign Nations of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.

Planning for evaluation – A robust evaluation plan should be adopted. A regular schedule of evaluation should be an ongoing activity of each agency. The evaluation accomplishes the following:

- Provides a balanced view of program effectiveness
- Utilizes feedback that has been gathered systematically (not just anecdotally)
- Gathers empirical evidence of strong and weak areas of a program or service
- Fuels opportunities to improve effectiveness



Monitoring and Site Stewardship

Evaluation requires planning, time and staffing to complete. Consideration should go to using college interns and/or volunteers to conduct evaluation at less cost. Several communities in Colorado such as Douglas County are developing site stewardship programs that train volunteers to evaluate and monitor historic and pre-contact sites. Aurora might be able to join in on this network to help monitor these sites regularly. Currently members of the Historic Preservation Commission regularly visit landmark sites to identify issues and problems and report on them at monthly meetings.

Revisiting Opportunities and Challenges

With the plan nearing completion, take one last look at the opportunities and challenges that were identified during the process. Make sure that the plan has:

- Emphasized strengths
- Mitigated weaknesses
- Exploited opportunities
- Accounted for impacts
- Acknowledged challenges and identified ways to meet them
- Recognized threats and put defensive mechanisms in place



Evaluating the Plan (Ename Charter)

ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) has created a “Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites,” also known as the Ename Charter. The Charter puts forth principles for effective interpretation, addressing the following:

- Access and understanding
- Information sources
- Context and setting
- Authenticity
- Sustainability
- Inclusiveness
- Research, training and evaluation
- The need for ongoing evaluation and adjustment

The implementation of the Senac Dam Site Interpretive Plan and all its elements should be evaluated using this internationally recognized standard rubric and evaluation tool.

Begin Implementation

Once this Interpretive Plan is adopted it should be posted on a website as a way that encourages continued public feedback. Print copies should also be produced for those truly interested. Distributing a press release, hosting a press event, and making presentations to organizations and governments are good ways to celebrate the completion of the plan and let partners and the public know that implementation has begun.

Moving the Interpretive Plan Forward

Even small-scale, inexpensive implementation projects can attract media attention and demonstrate steady progress to constituents and financial supporters, so these should be celebrated and publicized with each milestone and victory, no matter how small. Publicly thank the appropriate partners and supporters and commemorate their efforts through special events, news releases, plaques, and other means.

Showcasing ongoing programs will motivate managers, staff and partners and will maintain existing sources of public support and add new ones. Implementation may lead to increased visitation, strengthened engagement of residents through greater use of the site’s or region’s assets, and enhanced stewardship through financial contributions or volunteer efforts. It is vital to continue to communicate the implementation plans and milestones to the public and all partners, using the strategies put in place during planning. Together we can all benefit from a carefully



crafted and executed interpretive plan for the Senac Dam Site – a significant City Landmark with a large story to share!



References

Ham, Sam H.

2013 *Interpretation: Making a Difference on Purpose*. Fulcrum Publishing, Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)

(2008). *Charter for the interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage sites*. General Assembly of ICOMOS, Québec, Canada.

National Park Service

2002 *UniGuide Standards Identification, Wayfinding and Visitor Information for National Parks*. National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

2009 *Wayside Exhibits a guide to developing outdoor interpretive exhibits*. National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

2010 *Interpretive Planning Tools for Heritage Areas, Historic Trails and Gateways*. National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office: Annapolis, MD

Podolinsky, Matthew Anthony

2022 *The Effect of Moral And Threat Appeals on Reducing Depreciative Behavior at Rock Art Sites*. MA Thesis. Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism The University of Utah. Salt Lake City.

