

Native American Interpretive Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 | 11:00 a.m.



Welcome

Buddy Mitchell
Interim Chancellor, UTIA

Remarks

Joseph DiPietro
UT President

Remarks

Jan Simek
Distinguished Professor of Science

Overview of project and vision

Fred Allen
*Past President
Gamma Sigma Delta*

Overview of design and plants

Sam Rogers
*Landscape Architect and
Associate Professor of Plant Sciences*

Remarks

Chief Michell Hicks
*Principal Chief
Eastern Band of the Cherokee*

Ribbon Cutting

Homage

To preserve and strengthen acknowledgement and appreciation for a culture that accepted existence in subservience to nature and the land.

To increase awareness that the land, not bringing forth bountiful harvests, will yield future harvests only if we care for the land like a mother for her child.

To nurture the emerging realization that nature is not our adversary but is a life sustaining force not to be subdued without dire consequence for life on earth.

To enhance the meaning of democracy and the validity of our Constitution by accepting the validity of lifestyle, myth and tradition of bygone and remaining Native American culture.

To somehow show a way for integration of past and present, of nature and technology, of myth and logic, of order and freedom....to bring together the best of the two worlds.

To reveal the sustaining utilization and respect for nature, the earth and the plants as expressed by the Native American culture.

"That the Great Spirit may be with you and that reality may not afflict the dreams of yesterday and of tomorrow."

- H. Van de Werken, 1982

The Native American Interpretive Garden is a cooperative effort between the University of Tennessee and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. The goal of the project is to honor the Native American tradition dating back to 644 A.D. when the Woodland People used burial mounds as a way of burying and honoring their deceased. Additionally, the project is designed to enhance educational opportunities and the aesthetic beauty of the Indian Mound Park by adding additional native plants and interpretive signs.

The original design developed by Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design Professors Hendrik van de Werken and Don Williams has been updated and enhanced by Sam Rogers, registered landscape architect and associate professor in the Department of Plant Sciences. Thanks to the early efforts of Professors van de Werken and Williams, the Indian Mound was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

The agriculture honor society Gamma Sigma Delta Tennessee Chapter in 2008, at the proposal of then President Fred Allen, adopted the Indian Mound Park as a long-term service project. Funds for the project have been contributed by Gamma Sigma Delta; Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources; UT Institute of Agriculture units including Extension, AgResearch, and the College of Veterinary Medicine; UT Knoxville Offices of the Chancellor and Provost; and the UT System Administration Office of Equity and Diversity.

