Aztalan State Park

PRELIMINARY PLANS

PLAN SUMMARY

* Good access and a central location are the hallmarks of Option Two. Hwy. Q is rerouted around the Visitor's Center which is located southwest of the existing entrance. The long organic shaped Visitor's Center is placed parallel to the natural repose of the land. Visitors can experience great views of the site from inside the building and enjoy educational signs and displays on the place. From here trails lead throughout the site.

BENEFITS VS. IMPACTS

* The major benefit of this plan is that it has the best views and ready access to many of the site's strongest features. For an archeological site that has long suffered from a lack of visibility this plan would make a step toward reversing that trend. While the building can be seen from the site it will lead away of our education and access missions. Much of the Visitor's Center is located on top of what is now Hwy. Q. This lessens the amount of disruption to previously undisturbed land, but locating the road and building here requires a willing seller and coordination and approval by the County Highway Department.

ACCESS

* Entry Sequence:
Signs along Hwy. B would be added to direct visitors to the site. To create a sense of arrival, wayfinding signs would be added on both sides of Hwy. Q at the north end of the maker mounds. Low-key but informative signs would direct the visitor to turn onto the site and guide them to the Visitor's Center.

* Vehicle Access:
The park entry would be located along the newly routed Hwy. Q. Cars would enter the parking lot on the west side of the building. Visitors would either park and enter the Visitor's Center or continue on to the lower parking lot. A new service center would be located at the south end of the site with it's own gated entrance.

* Pedestrian Access:
A wood-chip trail connects a number of interpretive nodes around the site. These nodes include educational signs, and perhaps seating. The pedestrian arrives at the visitor's center across a paved and grassed plaza, which could include a sculpture of a Mississippian at a fish weir. This water and sculpture element would combine with event space and the trail head to make this a very exciting part of the site.

OPTION TWO

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Technical Advisory Team

Design Group