



# Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resource and Cultural Resource Development Project

## About the project

The Squaxin Island Tribe's Cultural Resource and Natural Resource project will be developed to address the growing departmental needs, organization and education to surrounding communities. This building will provide the tribe with gathering and work spaces along with cooking and eating space. It is expected to be among the first facility of its kind in Mason County certified as a LEED-NC Platinum building.

Numerous environmentally sustainable strategies have been suggested for implementation in this new facility. It is the desire of The Squaxin Island Tribe to be as sustainable as possible while providing a building constructed of sound materials that performs to the highest of standards and meets thermal comfort criteria.

## Project's Sustainability Goals

- Gray water storage from selected sinks and rainwater to feed both toilets and plant irrigation
- Reclaimed gray water line installed and sized for a community wide application
- Waterless urinals and low flow fixtures
- Under floor air distribution system to control high heat areas
- Solar power for electricity production
- Green Roof
- Natural ventilation and operable windows
- Living wall – plants to help with indoor air quality
- Light pollution reduction

## Building Character and Design

The building character is inspired from the traditional low pitched roof Long Houses used in the past by the Squaxin Island People.

The proposed facility will be housed within a structure

that will enable its staff and visitors to become stewards of their natural and cultural worlds. The facility will be an environmentally sustainable design project which will satisfy the following criteria:

- Make appropriate use of the land
- Enhance human health
- Strengthen the local economy and community
- Be a healthy environment to work in
- Be economical to build and operate
- Conserve plants, animals and endangered species and natural habitats
- Protect agricultural, cultural and archaeological resources.

## People of the Water – Cultural Background

Known evocatively as the "People of the Water," members of the modern Squaxin Island Tribe reside at seven inlets of southern Puget Sound in Washington. The Squaxin Island Reservation takes up the better part of an island north of Olympia. The tribal headquarters and trade center are located in Kamilche at Little Skookum Inlet, six miles south of Shelton in Mason County.



*Architect's rendering of proposed building compliments of Alfred Waugh, architect*

## Project contact:

Dan Neelands, Construction Manager  
Squaxin Island Tribe, 10 S.E. Squaxin Lane, Shelton, WA 98584

(360) 432-3975,  
e-mail: dneelands@squaxin.nsn.us  
web: www.squaxinland.org





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The island — a former state park — is uninhabited, but as a part of the reservation today, the tribe retains sole rights to it for recreational activities. The place is regarded as the focal point of their tribal life.

The Squaxin Island tribe's ancestors were water-oriented people who flourished along the sound's shores for unrecorded millennia. They subsisted on a cornucopia of fish, berries, roots such as camas, and the woods. Their traditions were organically tied to the generous environment. Salmon and other foods from the rivers and other waters were central to their diet and spiritual rituals. The creatures that sustained them embodied more than nourishment; they provided spiritual sustenance as well.

Like numerous first peoples before them, Northwest natives experienced the horrendous effects of the westward movement of thousands of land-hungry white homesteaders and others bent on beginning a new life. In

1854, the seven Squaxin bands, along with other southern Puget Sound tribes, took part in a council with the U.S. Government, in which they negotiated the Medicine Creek Treaty. Thousands of square miles of land were relinquished to the federal government, but tiny Squaxin Island — four and a half miles long and a half mile wide — was reserved for the Squaxin.

The Squaxin Island Tribe numbered among the first 30 Indian nations in the country to enroll in the federal government's Self Governance Demonstration Project, authorized by Congress in 1988. Currently the tribe sets its own goals and budgets using funds that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) formerly administered (<http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h3577.html>).

In November 2002, the Squaxin Island Tribe opened the Home of Sacred Belongings, as well as a museum library and research center, southeast of Kamilche. In 2004, the tribe constructed a tribal center adjacent to the museum. Their shared language, Lushootseed, is now taught in the tribe's learning center. ♻️

### *Message from the Chairman*

*The People of the Water have lived on these lands for millennia. We see this building as a demonstration of our respect for Mother Earth and the bounty she provides for us.*

*Our culture is sustainable. Our use of resources is sustainable. Our building will be a representation of who we are.*

*This new building will demonstrate the Tribe's leadership in pairing innovation with our traditional knowledge and protection of our resources.*

*We are using the best elements of traditional [longhouse] design knowledge and combining them with modern technology to create a truly sustainable home for our Natural and Cultural Resources programs.*

— David Lopeman



*Traditional Salish long house structure*

### Squaxin Island Tribe Project Sustainability Team

**David Lopeman**

Chairman, Tribal Council  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Ray Peters**

Executive Director  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Whitney Jones**

Deputy Executive Director  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Andy Whitener**

Director, Natural Resources  
Department  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Jeff Dickison**

Assistant Director, Natural  
Resources Department  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Rhonda Foster**

Director, Cultural Resources  
Department  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Larry Ross**

Specialist, Cultural Resources  
Department  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Brian Thompson**

Director, Planning and  
Community Development  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Lynn Scroggins**

Senior Planner, Planning and  
Community Development  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Dan Neelands**

Construction Manager  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Deborah Stoehr**

Director of Finance  
Squaxin Island Tribe

**Alfred Waugh, MAIBC, LEED AP**

Principal  
Alfred Waugh Architect

**Paul Anseeuw, P.Eng., LEED AP**

Principal  
Stantec Sustainable Solutions (S3)  
Group Leader

**Tom Marseille, P.E., L.A.P.**

Principal  
Stantec