

University of California, Riverside Native American Garden

The Native American Garden at the University of California, Riverside is a physical representation of UCR's ongoing commitment to and recognition of the original inhabitants of the land that is now UCR.

Jones & Jones led the design process with a committee of Indigenous faculty, staff, community and students exchanging knowledge and insights on the project. Conversations revealed needs for an outdoor classroom space, cultural space for the campus Native community, and a desire to expand relationships with Riverside's Indigenous community.

Important elements in the landscape gardens include a place for Indigenous art and plants in regional habitats of the four Tribes: Cahuilla, Serrano, Tongva, and Luiseño, whose homelands include the Santa Ana watershed. The garden features a variety of trees and plants native to the region and its tribes, such as chaparral, oak, sage scrub, and desert vegetation. Simple yet impactful detailing brings forward resonant textures and materials to create an natural oasis within the more urban campus setting.