



UC DAVIS ARBORETUM GATEWAYS PROJECT

*A NEW MODEL FOR A UNIVERSITY GARDEN
AND A NEW "FRONT DOOR" FOR UC DAVIS*



UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

ARBORETUM



A NEW MODEL FOR A UNIVERSITY GARDEN AND A NEW “FRONT DOOR” FOR UC DAVIS

UC Davis GATEways (Gardens, Arts, and The Environment): The UC Davis Arboretum and its academic partners propose to develop the Arboretum’s physical site and programs as a multi-layered learning experience that will enlighten campus members and visitors about UC Davis endeavors and places. In this vision, the Arboretum will function as an open door into the campus, a physical pathway and a thematic framework uniting outreach centers along the two-mile length of the Arboretum. It will provide a welcoming and engaging experience for visitors, a vital experiential learning laboratory for undergraduate and graduate students, an innovative means for disseminating the work of campus researchers, and a powerful outreach vehicle for the university.

With the UC Davis GATEways Project, the Arboretum landscape will continue to serve as the major botanical garden for the Central Valley, but it will also adopt an important new mission: to demonstrate—in teaching landscapes, exhibits, and displays—some of the important ideas and

complex issues UC Davis scholars are tackling, and to engage visitors through interactions with students, innovative uses of technology, and a range of learning opportunities, so that they become a vital part of the creative work and the spirit of inquiry at UC Davis.

The project builds on the widespread and deeply-held affection for the Arboretum among campus members, alumni, and the regional community. It also builds on the Arboretum’s unique position as 1) a physical portal to the campus that welcomes visitors and connects the campus with the local Davis community and the region; 2) an intellectual portal, reflecting the strengths of UC Davis in the sciences and arts in educational exhibits and programs; and 3) an emotional portal, through which people can disengage from the stresses of a fast-paced campus and experience the healing power of nature.

When built, the UC Davis GATEways Project will include:

- Physical gateway components
- Visitor Center and visitor amenities
- Lifelong learning spaces
- Arboretum gardens, teaching landscapes, and exhibits
- Public art
- Academic outreach centers
- Connections with UC Davis academic destinations





A TRANSFORMATIVE VISION FOR LEARNING

The GATEways vision is shaped by its educational and outreach programming which fosters a strong connection between the formal academy and the real-world. The GATEways program offers a transformative vision of the role of the university, with the Arboretum as a center for connecting the academic enterprise with the public it ultimately serves. This is truly a new paradigm and a model for a contemporary land-grant institution. It reflects the goals of the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land Grant Universities, which called on land-grant universities to

- create accessible campuses with new kinds of learning environments,
- make lifelong learning a part of their core public mission,
- reinvigorate the student experience with opportunities for learning outside the classroom, and
- prepare students to become leaders in creating solutions to the pressing issues facing society.

The GATEways Project answers all of these challenges for UC Davis. The landscape design, with its three prominent physical gateways into the campus, and the educational programming central to the project, will welcome visitors and invite them to investigate and benefit from the work of the university. A network of paths will lead them through the Arboretum to a series of outreach centers (exhibit and activity spaces in academic buildings) and learning environments (the GATEways Learning Institute, outdoor teaching gardens and classrooms, performance spaces) where they can actively interact with UC Davis students and faculty in a variety of learning experiences. This transformative and inclusive vision meets the agenda of accessibility, making UC Davis a land-grant institution that provides, in the words of Abraham Lincoln “public education built on behalf of the people who have invested in those public institutions their hopes, their support, and their confidence.”

MAKING THE VISION A REALITY

GATEWAYS LEARNING INSTITUTE

The GATEways Learning Institute, led in partnership by the School of Education and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, will link undergraduate learning, educational innovation, and public engagement, using the Arboretum as a living classroom and laboratory. As a focal point for active teaching and learning, the GATEways Learning Institute will integrate educational best practices and create a broad avenue for opening up the riches of the academic enterprise to the public. The GATEways Learning Institute will transform undergraduate and informal education by changing the role of the learner from a passive recipient of information to a dynamic, active participant and leader. Undergraduates will learn through experience as they work in teams to design and implement programs built on engaged participation and inquiry into the local environment and authentic experience in extending their learning to the community. The teaching and learning embedded in the GATEways project is its greatest strength.

The GATEways Learning Institute will draw upon and connect UC Davis' expertise in educational theory and practice with its strengths in leadership learning, the arts, scientific research and outreach. Innovative learning strategies will be discovered, fostered, evaluated and refined through this expertise. Undergraduate courses in methods for lifelong learning, environmental education and exhibit design, graduate research opportunities, experiential learning and leadership programs, and the innovative Art/Science Fusion Program will not only prepare students to provide meaningful lifelong learning opportunities for campus visitors, but also to take leadership roles in solving societal problems in their professional careers.



ARBORETUM DISCOVERY CENTER

Central to the engagement effort of the GATEways Project will be the Arboretum Discovery Center, a visitor center, museum, nature center, and site for innovative experiential learning. The Discovery Center will orient visitors to the Arboretum GATEways and feature exhibits designed by students that reflect the wealth of learning resources at UC Davis and translate the latest scientific discoveries made by campus researchers for public audiences. It will include exhibit labs where undergraduate students will learn to create compelling interpretive experiences for visitors and develop their own scientific understanding and creative expression through Art/Science Fusion courses. The exciting creative work of the Discovery Center will spill out to satellite locations throughout the GATEways landscape.



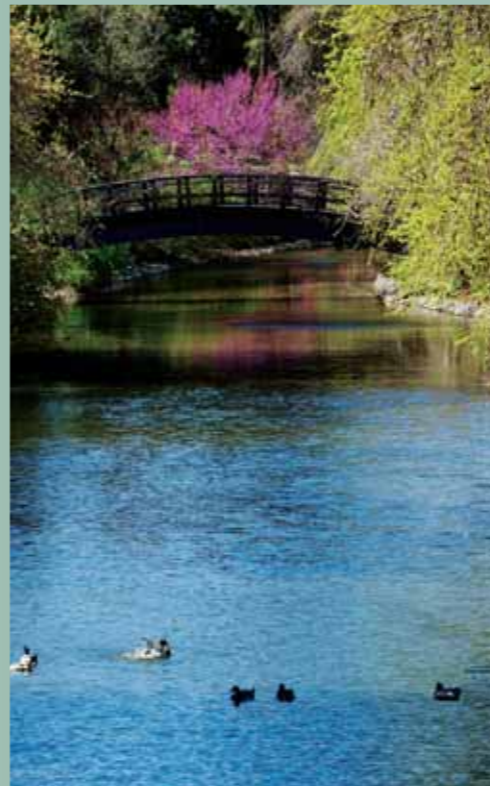
Terry Nathan



THE SITE

The UC Davis campus is set in the heart of the Central Valley, close to the state capital and San Francisco Bay Area, with easy access to the Sierra Nevada mountains, Pacific Ocean beaches, and the wine country in Napa and Sonoma counties. The site of the UC Davis Arboretum is rich in history, with an ancient Patwin Indian site, boundary markers for Mexican land grants, a Pony Express stop dating from the Gold Rush, and remnants of early agricultural settlement and the founding of the University Farm. Running along the length of the southern end of campus, the Arboretum is literally the front door to UC Davis, the entryway through which visitors, students, faculty, and staff reach the campus facilities. The Arboretum Waterway—the old north fork of Putah Creek, now dammed at both ends—and surrounding gardens provide habitat to hundreds of species of birds, insects, fish, aquatic invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

Over the past several years, there has been tremendous growth on the campus, in particular at the southern entrance where a “visitor corridor” is emerging with the construction of the new Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, the Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science, and a planned visual arts museum and hotel conference center, all located adjacent to the Arboretum. These changes represent a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the University and the Arboretum to engage the world through a series of new interpreted pathways, visitor and discovery centers, and outdoor laboratories for both the arts and sciences, organized around the three major points where UC Davis connects with the world both literally and figuratively, which we are calling the City Arts Gateway, the University Gateway, and the Arboretum Discovery Gateway.



Terry Nathan

PROJECT COMPONENTS

A network of paths will connect visitors with educational landscapes, public art, outreach centers, and campus visitor destinations along the Arboretum. These will link with central campus through the proposed Garden Walks and other open space connections.

ARBORETUM GARDENS, TEACHING LANDSCAPES, AND EXHIBITS

A landscape plan for the Arboretum will continue the Arboretum’s transformation from a collection of specimens into a vibrant living museum dedicated to “conservation through education.” Gardens and living museum exhibits will illustrate themes of biodiversity, environmental restoration, sustainable landscapes, habitat gardening, and local ecology, reflecting UC Davis’ strengths in the environmental sciences and commitment to solving societal problems.

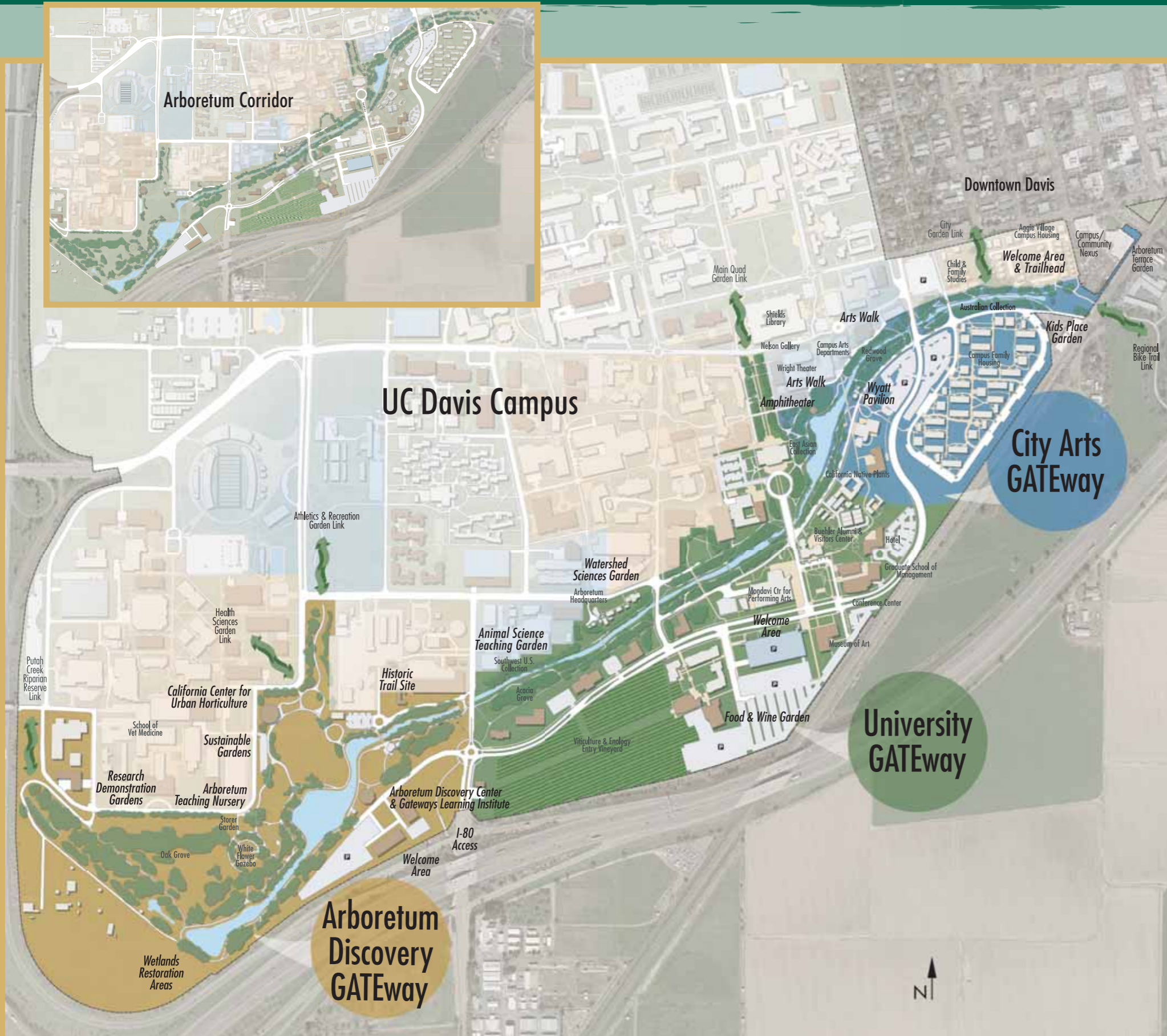
ACADEMIC OUTREACH CENTERS The UC Davis GATEways Project will link outreach centers (public exhibit and/or program spaces in academic buildings), academic facilities, and visitor destinations along the length of the Arboretum with a unifying system of landscapes, interpretive signage and exhibits. Visitors will learn about the work of these neighboring units and be inspired to participate in their outreach programs.

LIFELONG LEARNING SPACES The GATEways landscape will be a vibrant multi-level learning environment, with outdoor classrooms, performance areas, demonstration spaces, and interpretive signage to encourage use by UC Davis classes, K-12 classes, workshops, performances, and informal education projects.

ART/ SCIENCE FUSION AND PUBLIC ART The Arboretum landscape will be enhanced with the addition of permanent and changing installations of works of art. A unique feature of the project will be an emphasis on works created by UC Davis students and community members as part of the GATEways art/science fusion program. In addition, the project may include works commissioned from major artists, site specific landform art, and works by UC Davis art faculty. Public art will contribute to the cultural education and enhance the day-to-day experience of the campus community and Arboretum visitors, and highlight the artistic excellence of UC Davis programs. It will prompt visitors to respond not only to the work itself but to the surrounding landscape and neighboring exhibits with new perspectives.

PHYSICAL GATEWAY COMPONENTS Each GATEway will be designed to welcome K-12 school groups and adult tour groups arriving in buses, casual visitors arriving by car, and pedestrians and bicyclists. Orientation spaces will provide parking, clear wayfinding and orientation signage, gathering areas for group orientation, and direct connections with Arboretum collections and further with central campus.

VISITOR AMENITIES To create an outstanding visitor destination and enhance the visitor experience, the GATEway landscape will feature way-finding elements, seating areas, water fountains, restrooms, and eating areas. Fitness-related features, such as a health and wellness loop, will encourage visitors to connect with nature and improve their quality of life through activities ranging from meditation to reflection to active exercise.



City Arts GATEway

At the far east end of the Arboretum, adjacent to downtown Davis, the City GATEway (48 acres) has an important focus on the arts. It will draw people from the lively downtown Davis scene, with its restaurants, galleries, and upscale retail center, into the campus along an “arts walk” through the Arboretum gardens to the campus arts district. This area also has a focus on families, and will provide a range of destinations and programs for lively interaction and a relaxed, informal orientation to the campus.



University GATEway

Located at the center of the Arboretum, adjacent to central campus, the University GATEway (108 acres) has a focus on connecting visitors with the excellence of UC Davis through educational programming, exhibits, and interpreted gardens and landscapes. It will provide a welcoming site where regional visitors entering from Interstate 80 can be introduced to the vitality of the campus culture and the important work of UC Davis scientists and scholars.



Arboretum Discovery GATEway

At the west end of the Arboretum, the linear creekside space opens up into a broad, level area on the top stream terrace, with lovely vistas of the waterway and the coast ranges ten miles to the west. This area (110 acres) will be developed as a major regional destination, with a world-class botanical garden and discovery center. The focus will be on the environment and UC Davis’ expertise and innovative work in the environmental and plant sciences, urban horticulture, restoration biology, sustainable technologies, and science education.





City Arts GATEway

This area, with a focus on the arts and on families, will promote lively interaction and provide a relaxed, informal orientation to the campus. Visitors will come to run or walk the eco-fitness trail—learning and enjoying a beautiful setting as they work out—or bring their bikes to connect to an extensive regional bikeway. Families will play and learn in the children’s garden and enjoy informal music and theater performances at the amphitheater. An arts walk with sculpture and site-specific installations will draw regional visitors through the Arboretum to the city of Davis, and connect local residents with the campus arts district.

AUDIENCE

Families, Davis community, arts community

RESOURCES

- Campus/community nexus
- Transportation link between city, performing arts district, and campus

Campus arts features:

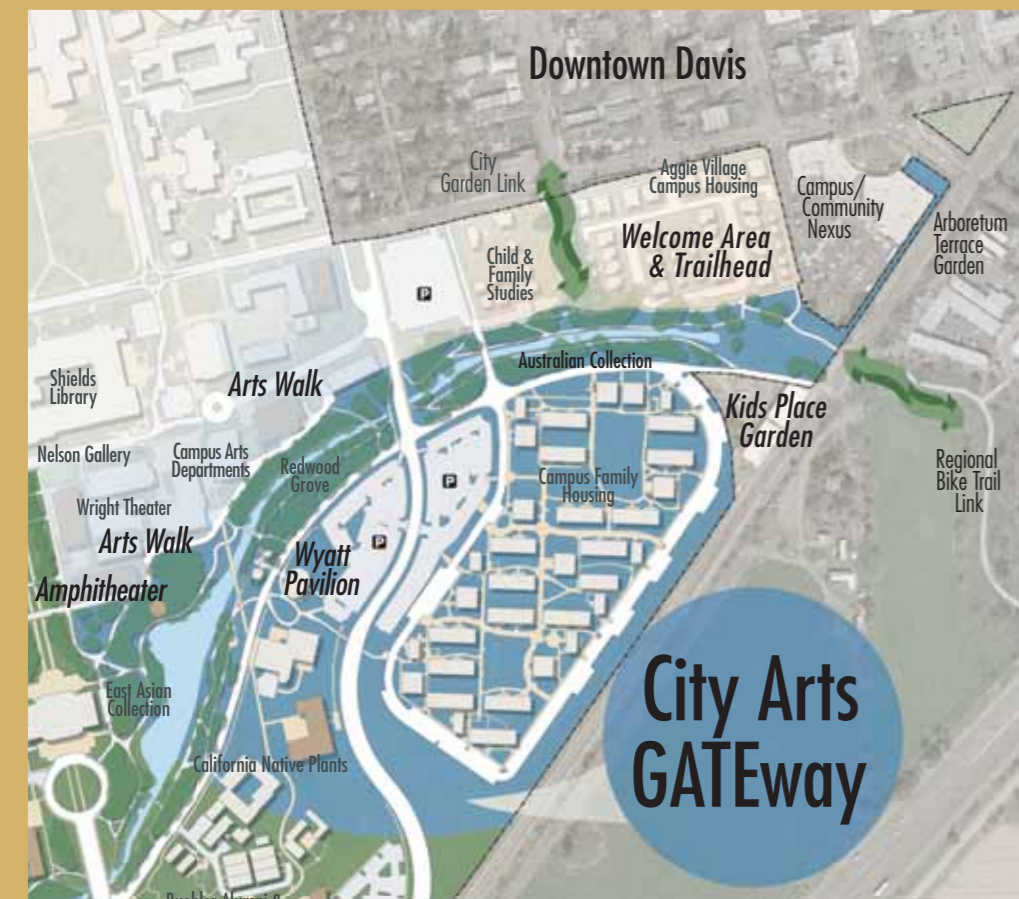
- Theater, Dance, Music, and Arts Departments
- Wyatt Theater
- Wright Theater
- TB-9 (UC Davis’ renowned ceramic arts studio)
- Nelson Gallery

Arboretum collections and gardens:

- Arboretum Terrace home demonstration garden
- Australian and East Asian Collections
- Redwood Grove
- North Coast Plants

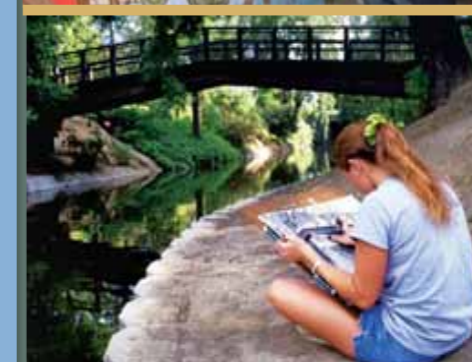
Other campus neighbors:

- Child and Family Studies
- Campus Housing



New Design Opportunities

- Arts Walk, Public Art and Performance Spaces
- Kids Place Garden
- Welcome Area & Trailhead for Health and Fitness Loop
- Amphitheater
- Wyatt Educational Pavilion





University GATEway

This welcoming site will introduce visitors from Interstate 80 to the vitality of the campus culture and the important work of UC Davis scientists and scholars. Student-led tours and interpretive programs, exhibits and hands-on workshops will highlight campus strengths in agriculture and environmental sciences. Visitors will follow Arboretum paths to interpreted gardens and academic outreach centers to learn about the latest research in animal science, wine and food science, geology and watershed science. The Native American Heritage Garden will provide a quiet place of contemplation to honor the indigenous Patwin people who once made their home here.

AUDIENCE

regional visitors, professional and academic colleagues attending conferences, alumni, prospective students, K-12 classes, tour groups

RESOURCES

Campus neighbors/ outreach centers

- Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
- Buehler Alumni and Visitor Center
- Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science (under construction)
- Hotel and Conference Center (coming soon)
- Museum of Art (planned)
- Core campus academic neighborhoods
- Watershed Sciences/ Physical Sciences/ Geology complex
- Animal Sciences teaching pavilion and urban agriculture exhibit
- Native American Heritage Garden—Native American Studies Dept.

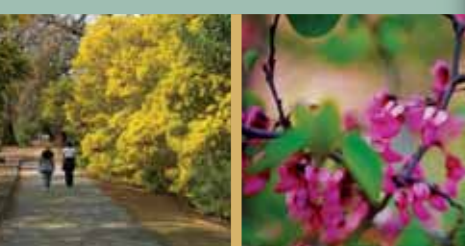
Arboretum collections and gardens

- Mary Wattis Brown Garden of California Native Plants
- Plants of the California Foothills
- Warren G. Roberts Redbud Collection
- Plants of the American Deserts
- Eric E. Conn Acacia Grove
- Conifer Collection
- Mexican and Southwest USA Plants



New Design Opportunities

- Animal Science Teaching Garden
- Food & Wine Garden
- Geology Garden
- Native American Heritage Garden
- Pedestrian Bridges to Central Campus
- Watershed Sciences Garden
- Welcome Area





New Design Opportunities

- Athletics & Recreation Garden Link
- Arboretum Discovery Center & Gateways Institute
- California Center for Urban Horticulture
- Health Sciences Garden Link
- Historic Trail Site
- I-80 Access to Arboretum Discovery Center
- Putah Creek Riparian Reserve Link
- Research Demonstration Gardens
- Sustainable Gardens
- Welcome Area
- Wetlands Restoration Area

Arboretum Discovery GATEway

This area will be developed as a major regional destination, with a world-class botanical garden and discovery center. Home gardeners will visit the demonstration landscapes of the California Center for Urban Horticulture to learn about the best practices in sustainable gardening and environmental restoration for California's future. Students and faculty at the GATEways Learning Institute will study effective ways to promote learning in informal settings, and put their studies into practice by designing new interpretive programs for campus visitors. A history trail will lead visitors back in time, to the days of California's native people, rancheros, gold rush, and early agricultural pioneers. At the Arboretum Discovery Center, exciting interactive exhibits will introduce visitors to California's rich and diverse natural world, and to UC Davis' worldwide leadership and innovation in the environmental sciences and sustainable technologies.

AUDIENCE

"destination" visitors, tourists, traditional botanical garden visitors

RESOURCES

Arboretum collections and gardens

- Ruth Risdon Storer Garden—demonstration garden of low-water-use perennials
- Carolee Shields White Flower Garden and Gazebo
- Peter J. Shields Oak Grove—internationally known scientific collection
- Mediterranean Collection

Campus neighbors

- Putah Creek Lodge—meeting and event facilities
- Health Sciences District
- School of Veterinary Medicine
- Athletics/recreation facilities: stadium, swimming pool, playing fields
- University Extension (proposed)

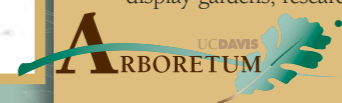
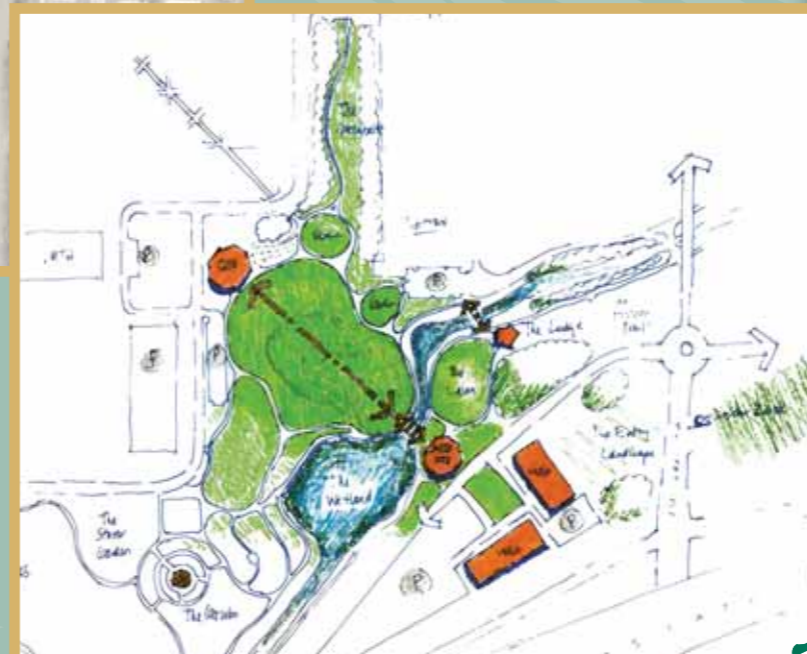
Historical sites

- Ancient Patwin Indian site
- Oak tree boundary marker for Mexican land grant
- Pony Express stop with historical marker
- Chinese settlement site
- Remnant of first agricultural irrigation system in Central Valley
- Early Davisville sites

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Welcome area—entry feature and orientation garden
- Arboretum Discovery Center—interactive exhibits and programs for families, K-12 classes, visitors
- GATEways Learning Institute—academic programs: art and art/science fusion; leadership; informal education; environmental education
- California Center for Urban Horticulture—display gardens, research gardens and landscapes

- Expanded Arboretum gardens, exhibits and teaching nursery





THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

The University of California, Davis is one of the nation's top public research universities and is part of the world's pre-eminent public university system. Founded in 1908 as the University Farm, UC Davis has grown into a comprehensive university with 30,000 students, offering more than 100 academic majors and 86 graduate programs. Recognized as a leading environmental "think tank" in the world, its scientific expertise and research accomplishments make it the first place Californians look to for education and problem-solving on critical global issues. When the U.S. faces an environmental crisis, UC Davis researchers are on the front lines.

UC Davis researchers were first to document the exposure to environmental contaminants faced by first responders at Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks.

Watershed scientists are leading the effort to learn from the Hurricane Katrina disaster in New Orleans and prevent levee breaks in the California Delta.

UC Davis scientists are leading research efforts in urgent human health issues, such as avian flu and West Nile virus.

Scientists at UC Davis identified the organism causing the disastrous Sudden Oak Death epidemic in Pacific Coast forests.

Research at UC Davis has revolutionized the \$45 billion-a-year California wine industry and brought California wine to international prominence. Campus researchers lead the fight against vineyard pests that threaten this economic powerhouse.

UC Davis provides worldwide leadership and innovation in the emerging fields of sustainable technologies for agriculture, transportation, and renewable and alternative energy.

The campus' environmental science program was recently ranked number one in the nation by U.S. News & World Report magazine.

UC Davis research programs in agriculture, animal sciences, plant sciences, food science and nutrition, ecology and environmental science were all ranked first in the nation based on journal article publication counts and citation data (ISI Essential Science Indicators).

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

UC Davis will celebrate its centennial in 2008-09, and the GATEways Project has been identified as a centerpiece of the centennial celebration, marking the campus commitment to continued innovation and leadership for the next 100 years.



10-YEAR PLAN

During the Arboretum's 2001 self-assessment and long-range planning process, more than 4,000 people responded to an audience survey about the Arboretum's importance to them and their vision for the future of the gardens. The survey showed very strong support for the Arboretum and helped identify and prioritize program areas in need of improvement. In response to the results of this customer research, the goals of the Arboretum's Ten-Year Plan 2002-2012 are to provide an exemplary place of beauty, learning, and environmental stewardship; inspire and educate visitors about the natural world and regionally-appropriate horticulture; strengthen the Arboretum's museum function and scientific and academic value; disseminate the expertise of UC Davis to the regional community; and promote environmental responsibility. These goals, in turn, provide a strong direction for development of the GATEways plan.



THE UC DAVIS ARBORETUM

The UC Davis Arboretum, founded in 1936, is the premier botanical garden for interior California, a living museum with 100 acres of gardens displaying 22,000 plants adapted to the region's Mediterranean climate. Located along the banks of the old north fork of Putah Creek, the Arboretum winds through the campus and has long been a campus emblem and a living symbol of the best of the UC Davis experience. Its documented plant collections are an internationally-known scientific and horticultural resource, representing an enormous repository of information on the horticultural uses of plants adapted to the cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers of California's Central Valley. The Arboretum is a national leader in visitor-centered museum practices and informal science education.





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1 Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616