



UC DAVIS ARBORETUM & PUBLIC GARDEN PROGRESS



JUNE – DECEMBER
2011



UC DAVIS
ARBORETUM AND
PUBLIC GARDEN

December 22, 2011

Dear John:

Six months ago, as a result of your support and leadership, the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden initiative began. With this tour today we wanted to show you the status of a variety of initiatives in which our new organization has been engaged and the progress we have made. We are truly exhilarated by opportunities that continue to be revealed, the increased level of commitment with our new team, the formation of new academic and administrative partnerships throughout campus, and the support of our donor community.

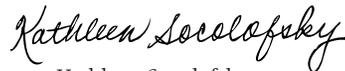
We appreciate your faith in our organization and its essential role in support of the vision of UC Davis.

Thank you.

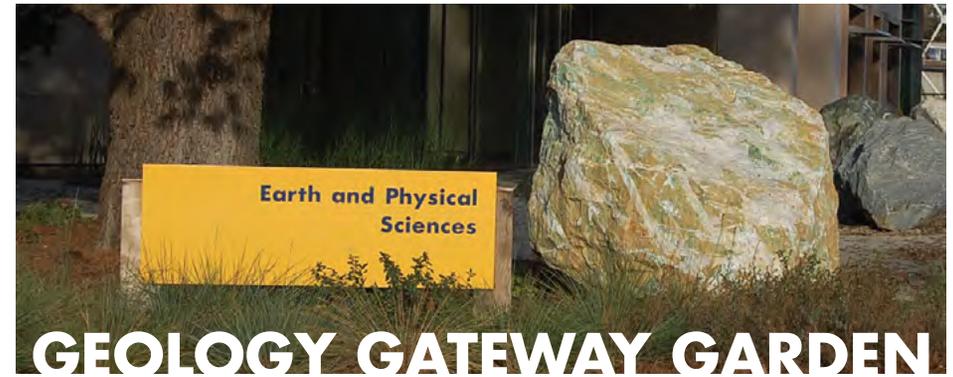
Sincerely,



Bob Segar
Assistant Vice Chancellor



Kathleen Socolofsky
Assistant Vice Chancellor



TEAM MEMBERS & PARTNERS

- Arboretum
- Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture
- Civil and Industrial Services
- Geology Department

On July 22nd 2011, the final stone was set as we work toward completing the campus's Geology GATEway Garden. This new garden, which features California native plants that are part of the Arboretum All-Stars program,

is a destination spot and outdoor education space for those interested in geological pursuits. The landscape contains rock specimens from throughout California and is already being used in many undergraduate geology courses. It also offers local school kids a place to study regional rock types without having to travel across the state. Arboretum staff is working with faculty and staff in the Geology Department to add interpretive, wayfinding and orientation signage to the garden.



Top: A 6,000 lb. boulder of silica with veins of pyrite serves as a monument to the entrance of the Earth and Physical Sciences building.

Left: Professor Schiffman, Geology Department, examines the Yuba blue teaching stone. All of the rock specimens, including this one, were carefully installed by Dave Klippert and his team from Civil and Industrial Services.



TEAM MEMBERS

- Arboretum
- Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture
- Civil and Industrial Services
- Grounds and Landscape Services
- Putah Creek Riparian Reserve

The La Rue Median Strip Conversion is the first of two pilot conversion projects to convert high-maintenance turf areas into lower-maintenance and lower-cost landscape types which will showcase Central Valley ecosystems and Valley-Wise plants. In addition to less water use and less cost to maintain, these conversions will be more attractive and give UC Davis a unique look and sense of place.

In order to convert the high-maintenance, high-water turf landscape on the La Rue Road medians to a low-water, low maintenance feature landscape we first had to get rid of the Bermuda grass, which was easier said than done. The extensive root

systems of Bermuda grasses go dormant during the winter season rendering them impermeable to traditional spray abatement methods.

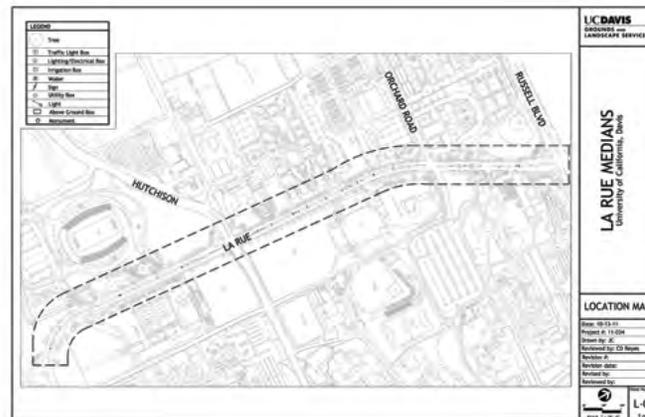
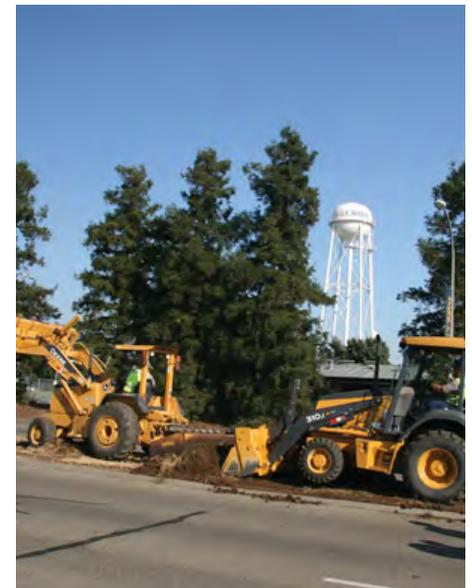
This past fall Grounds crews were able to spray this stretch of weeds twice in time for most of it to be removed by Civil and Industrial Services crews. In early January our team will seed the area with locally-collected native wildflowers to replenish the soil of its nutrients, prevent erosion, and give our team another growing season to make sure the pesky and resilient Bermuda grasses are completely eliminated. This next fall the area will be planted with a showcase of ‘cast-iron,’ regionally-appropriate plantings from the UC Davis Arboretum All-Star program.

This timeline and method is considered a ‘Best Practice’ for landscape work involving complete elimination of Bermuda-type grasses and one that will be used on similar projects in the future.



Top: The old turf represented a 1950s era aesthetic and required a high frequency of maintenance.

Right: The Bermuda grass turf was sprayed by Grounds staff in October to prepare it for removal by Civil and Industrial Services.



Top: Dave Klippert and his Civil and Industrial Services team prepared the space for its sustainable, low-maintenance landscape by removing the grass and hauling away the extra dirt so that Matt Forrest’s team from Grounds and Landscape Services can retrofit the irrigation from sprinklers to drip.

Left top: The location map shows how large this project is: the medians being converted to a low-water, low-maintenance landscape stretch from Russell Blvd. to Garrod Drive.



Left: The median grass removal is completed and ready for the new landscape that will include plants determined to be “cast-iron,” regionally-appropriate, beautiful and low-maintenance selections.



TEAM MEMBERS & PARTNERS

- Arboretum
- Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture
- Civil and Industrial Services
- Community Members
- Donors

The Nature's Gallery ceramic mosaic mural is a stunning work of art composed of over 140 tiles—hand-crafted by students, staff, faculty, and community members—each showcasing diverse drought-tolerant plants or insects found in the Arboretum's Ruth Risdon Storer Garden. Not only did community members help create the art, they also helped fund its installation. Their donations also support the campus's Art-Science Fusion Program which serves as the catalyst for this and similar GATEways art-science fusion projects.



From Top: The Nature's Gallery Mural was previously installed at the United States Botanical Garden in Washington, D.C.

Contractor Steve Stomblor and his crew pour the concrete foundation for the central wall.

Preview parties were held over the summer to thank donors for their support and update them on construction progress.

Left: A rendering of the finished Court area designed by GATEways Landscape Architect Ron Lutsko.



TEAM MEMBERS & PARTNERS

- Arboretum
- Art-Science Fusion
- Community Members
- Donors

Similar to the Nature's Gallery Court project, the Circle of Life Mural Seat Wall at the Oak Grove is the result of our partnership with the UC Davis Art-Science Fusion Program. Engaging community members at every stage of this project does not just result in a functional bench located in a scenic spot; the community-created art is educational, both for the creator and the visitor. It is also supported through donations by many of the same artists and volunteers who created the pieces and will serve as an everlasting connection between the campus and project supporters.

Each of the 43 large interlocking circular tiles which form the foundation of this seating wall represents one part of the life cycle of the mighty English oak. Similar to Nature's Gallery Court, these tiles are now available for dedication on the UC Davis Dedications website.



Top: The southern wall was installed December 5, on the second of two horseshoe-shaped seat walls located at the entrance to the Oak Discovery Trail.

Left: Donna Billick, cofounder of the UC Davis Art-Science Fusion Program, grouts the tiles in place.



TEAM MEMBERS & PARTNERS

- Arboretum
- Grounds and Landscape Services
- Putah Creek Riparian Reserve
- Wildlife Biology

The second pilot conversion project to convert high-maintenance turf areas into lower-maintenance and lower-cost landscape types is the Shields Grove Meadow Conversion. A meadow of native California grasses will be created on two acres of turf between the largest stands of oaks.

Initial herbicide treatments took place in October, irrigation infrastructure was updated by Matt Forrest's team to accommodate the new

landscape, and the area was seeded in early December by the Arboretum and Reserve staff. Now the seeds are germinating and will soon be a thriving meadow of native grasses comprised primarily of the California state grass, purple needlegrass. Soon this space will have gone from a little-used lawn that required mowing once a week and irrigation three times a week to a meadow of native grasses which requires mowing two to four times a year and irrigation about twice a month only during the summer.

Not only will the landscape become more sustainable, the grasses will potentially provide vital nesting ground for the western pond turtle; an outcome that dovetails serendipitously with a Wildlife and Fisheries Biology Department study on these turtles taking place nearby.

Top: The Shields Oak Grove lawn before the conversion.

Right: The western pond turtle (Clemmys marmorata) may find a new nesting ground in the Shields Oak Grove Meadow once the native grasses are established.



Western Pond Turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*) Photo Credit: James Bestiani U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Top left: Robert Bohn, Arboretum Steward, preps the soil for seeding.

*Top right: An example of purple needlegrass, which is native to California. The seeding on November 17th included purple needlegrass seeds (*Nassella pulchra*) which was once a dominant species in California grasslands before invasive grasses became dominant. Today, it is the State Grass of California and plays an important role in native grassland restoration and erosion control.*



Left top: JP Marié, UC Davis Putah Creek Riparian Reserve Steward, fills the seeder with a blend of native grasses.

Left: A sign tells visitors about the project and asks them to stay away from the needlegrass germination.



BUILDING MONUMENT SIGNS

TEAM MEMBERS & PARTNERS

- Civil and Industrial Services
- College of Letters and Science
- Grounds and Landscape Services
- Repro Graphics

Existing UC Davis wayfinding signage is confusing and does little to market the university, its academic programs, or mission of teaching, research and public service. Campus Planning and Community Resources staff is developing a comprehensive wayfinding plan which will include approximately 11 different types of signs to lead community members and visitors from streets to parking lots, and from parking lots to buildings.

A team from Repro Graphics, Grounds and Landscape Services, and Civil and Industrial Services is beginning the implementation of this program by updating the building monument signage nearest to visitor destinations. By utilizing our current investment in the existing hardware and modernizing it with the latest printing materials and technologies, these signs will go beyond letting visitors and community members know the names of our buildings. With full-scale implementation of this model, a simple walk across campus will serve a visitor-centered marketing function by communicating compelling stories about our university and the breadth of our academic expertise; these signs also address our campus's need for a building numbering system that complies with safety regulations.

Top: Terri Planiden of Civil and Industrial Services laminates and mounts the Cruess Hall sign.

Right: The building monument sign template we are currently piloting outside of Cruess Hall incorporates a graphic image chosen by the department to best represent the programs housed inside. This particular sign features a detail from a quilt that is part of the permanent collection at the Design Museum, a gallery that is open to the public.



CITY ARTS GATEWAY

TEAM MEMBERS & PARTNERS

- Arboretum
- Civil and Industrial Services
- Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture
- City of Davis
- Design and Construction Management
- Institute of Museum and Library Services

Thanks to funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and UC Davis ADA path improvement funds, the weedy field at the very east end of the Arboretum will soon be transformed into a beautiful garden featuring plants native to the lower Putah Creek watershed. The garden will feature themed plantings and interpretive signs to educate the public about regional flora and fauna, the history of the Putah Creek watershed, and how to create sustainable landscapes with native plants. Funding is also being sought through an urban greening grant in partnership with the City of Davis to improve bike and pedestrian

circulation, wayfinding, plantings, and demonstrations of stormwater management best practices that will strengthen connections between the city and Arboretum.

In addition to the grant funding mentioned above, the Davis City Council unanimously approved a proposal developed and shepherded by UC Davis Arboretum Assistant Director of Horticulture Emily Griswold to allocate \$40,000 towards the development of a sculptural gateway feature to highlight the link between the east end of the Arboretum and downtown Davis. The call for proposals from artists is complete, over 60 applications have been received, and the selection process is underway.

Top: The site plan shows the multi-use pathways, boardwalks, a riparian feature and meadow plantings.

Right: The current site of the garden is a wasted space. Once completed, it will serve as a gateway between the city and Arboretum.



