



Shade Structures and Muhly Grass Garden | photo courtesy of Amar Thakkar



## THE GREEN AT COLLEGE PARK

### The University of Texas at Arlington

The Green at College Park includes a gathering plaza, activity lawn, pedestrian promenade, shade arbors, layers of seating and pedestrian amenities. The park sits adjacent to a new mixed use development that includes a 7,000 seat special events center, apartments, single family homes, office, retail, and, of course, educational uses.

The park predominately functions as an ecological water detention system and large scale rain garden. An existing eroded drainage rill on the site, which flowed into an already overwhelmed Johnson Creek, spurred the concept of turning drainage into a major site feature and amenity. The landscape architects worked closely with engineers to develop an area drainage map and discovered that over 1/3 of the stormwater on the 468 acre UT Arlington Campus drained through the existing eroded channel on the site. The design consists of an intricate system that slows, cleans, and detains every drop of rainwater that falls onto the site and vastly increases the on-site infiltration rate. Additionally, a “storm spring” allows water that is already in underground storm drains from other areas of the campus to enter the site during large storm events to be filtered and retained.

Every aspect of sustainability on the project has been as rigorously analyzed as the storm drainage. The native and adapted plants in the drainage gardens are designed to thrive both in drought and flood conditions, and also to provide valuable habitat to a site that was once paved from curb to curb. A drought tolerant and “low mow” lawn has been limited to the recreational area and all other areas are planted with large sweeping masses of prairie grasses.

Interpretive signage planned for the site educates the public about the environmental ethic of the site and the complex natural systems that have been returned to a once highly degraded site. Shade and paving selections minimize the heat island effect in this space designed for gatherings and activity. Materials utilized on the site are primarily from the region and/or come from recycled materials. The rill garden features the first North Texas installation of a pervious paving material made from recycled glass and crushed granite.

<b>Location:</b>	Arlington, Texas
<b>Size:</b>	2.6 acres / 112,820 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>Type:</b>	Educational / Institutional
<b>Team:</b>	Schricket, Rollins and Associates The University of Texas at Arlington