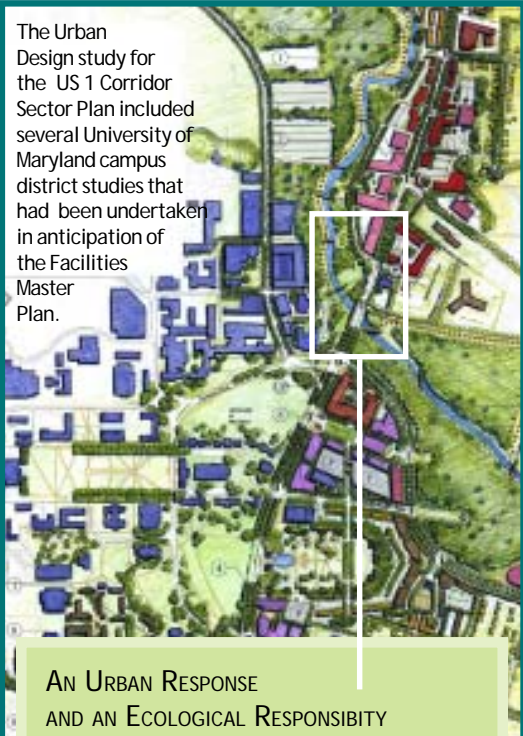


The Urban Design study for the US 1 Corridor Sector Plan included several University of Maryland campus district studies that had been undertaken in anticipation of the Facilities Master Plan.



AN URBAN RESPONSE AND AN ECOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY

The US 1 Corridor Sector Plan of 2001 established goals and guidelines for urban redevelopment, environmental protection, and economic viability along this busy thoroughfare. The urban design study (above) took a comprehensive look at the area and adopted a bold vision for a sustainable future in College Park. The 2002 Facilities Master Plan outlined the University of Maryland's desire to improve environmental conditions on and near the campus and to make a better connection with the surrounding community.

North Gate Park at the Paint Branch is identified in both plans as the cornerstone of future commercial and academic enterprises north of the main campus and the downtown. It is an urban open space that connects "town and gown" with new pedestrian bridges, foot and bicycle trails, and a rich and varied landscape. The park will entice all citizens of the region to enjoy the comfort and solace of natural places, witness the beauty of a balanced ecology, and share the experience in an artful, educational, and inspirational setting.

COLLABORATION PROTECTS AND ENHANCES OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR HERITAGE

The creation of North Gate Park at the Paint Branch is the result of a successful collaboration between state, county and local agencies and institutions, all of which are committed to protecting our natural resources and preserving our rich cultural heritage. The project was initiated by the Anacostia Heritage Trails Association and the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County, and coordinated by the College Park City-University Partnership and the University of Maryland Landscape Architecture Program. A proposal to the Maryland Heritage Area Authority for a non-capital funding grant was accepted in June 2002. The Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, the City of College Park, and the University of Maryland donated matching funds, with in-kind services provided by the Department of Natural Resource Sciences and Landscape Architecture.

Students of the Landscape Architecture Program created 22 design proposals, which were reviewed by design and planning professionals who awarded scholarship prizes and meritorious recognition. Student interns and professionally licensed faculty further developed the plans and met with representatives of the City of College Park, MNCPPC, and the University of Maryland for guidance and approval. They also estimated construction costs and finalized the plans for construction documentation and the contract bidding process.

North Gate Park on the Paint Branch has become a model for future cooperative design and implementation ventures. The advantages to the natural environment, to educational objectives and to our diverse community's quality of life are priceless.

For more information about North Gate Park at the Paint Branch and how you can participate in its long-term success, contact Brenda Testa, Director of Facilities Planning at the University of Maryland. Telephone: 301-405-5630 or e-mail: btesta@fm.umd.edu.

NORTH GATE PARK AT THE PAINT BRANCH

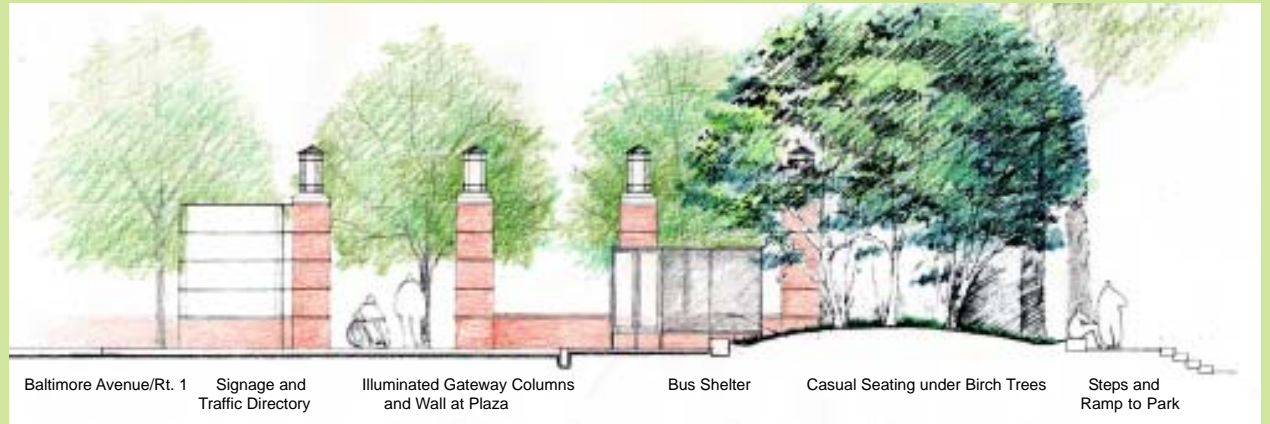
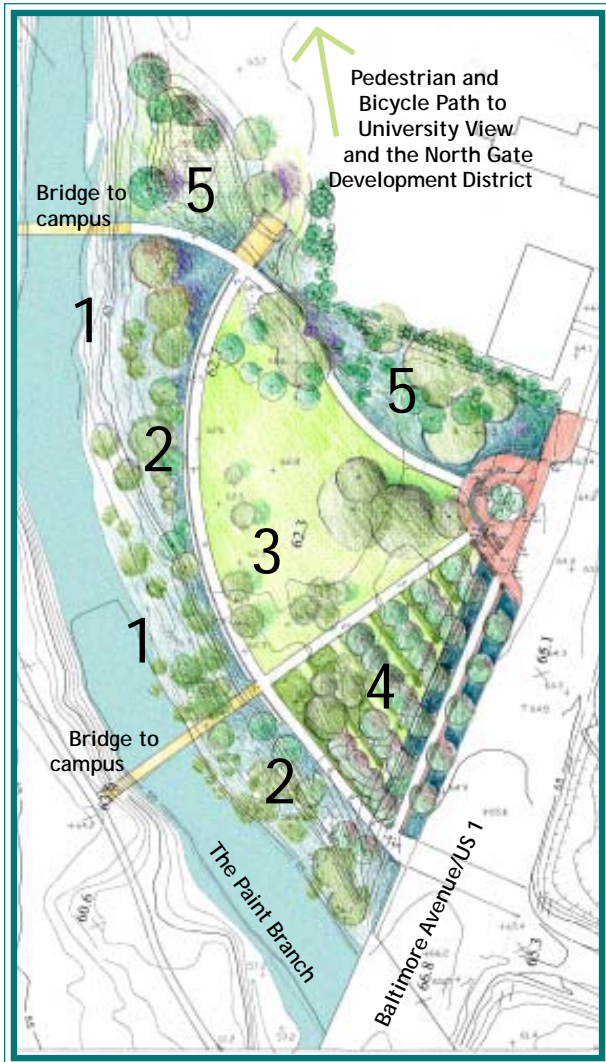
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND



FRAMING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT,
CONNECTING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY



The restored Paint Branch will be a place of discovery and wonder for people of all ages. Native plants will reveal the natural history of the site, establish an ecological balance in the urban setting, and give seasonal interest throughout the park.



Baltimore Avenue/Rt. 1 Signage and Traffic Directory Illuminated Gateway Columns and Wall at Plaza Bus Shelter Casual Seating under Birch Trees Steps and Ramp to Park

North Gate Park at the Paint Branch will be a place for learning about native plants and habitats of Maryland. Five garden scenarios will create clearly defined settings that interpret a variety of natural and cultural environments.

1. The **Paint Branch Restoration**, an ecologically sound restructuring of the stream corridor, will replace invasive plants with native vegetation. Bridges will carry interpretive signage and allow travelers to closely observe the stream ecology.
2. The **Forested Stream Buffer** is already well established and will be delineated with a dry stone retaining wall. This wall will serve as informal seating and interpretive medium. Images of leaves and the botanical names of the nearby plants will be etched in the capstone of the wall.
3. The **Wildflower Meadow**, bounded by foot and bike paths and framed by the towering canopies of long-established hardwood trees, will bring seasonal glory and wildlife activity in a broad expanse of herbaceous plants.
4. The **Orchard** interprets the agrarian history of the area and makes a connection to Charles Calvert, scientific farmer and donor of the land for the original Maryland Agricultural College. Native grasses beneath the grid of trees offer their ornamental and ecological value to the landscape.
5. The **Rain Garden**, a constructed landscape that will collect and treat storm water runoff from adjacent parking lot surfaces and roof drains, will flourish with plants that thrive in the extremes of periodic wet conditions and summer droughts.

The architectural focal point of the park is the plaza. Located across Baltimore Avenue from the College Park Volunteer Fire Station, this brick-paved terrace will incorporate a convenient bus stop and shelter. This civic landscape makes a graceful transition between the busy urban scene and the calm and quiet of the park. The integrated stairs, ramp and circular planter offer spatial definition, casual seating and universal access to the park. Directional signage guides travelers to MNCPPC recreational activities, Metrorail and MARC transit. Illuminated brick columns celebrate the park, the University of Maryland and the spirit of the city of College Park.

