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COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE,
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UT Arlington One of First to Receive Sustainability Certification for Landscape

The Sustainable Sites Initiative™, a new rating system for sustainable design in landscape and site development, named UT Arlington's The Green at College Park one of the first three projects in the world to be certified according to the organization's rigorous benchmarks.

The award acknowledges UT Arlington's commitment to sustainability as an integral part of the College Park District; an entertainment, living and shopping development spanning more than 20 acres that is helping revitalize downtown Arlington. "This designation shows that UT Arlington is on the cutting-edge of sustainable practices, not just in our buildings, but all across campus," said Meghna Tare, UT Arlington's director of sustainability. "The Green is a place to enjoy nature and to learn about how to preserve the natural environment."

The Sustainable Sites Initiative, also known as SITES™, is a partnership of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden. SITES™ provides a ratings system for landscape design that is similar to the popular U.S. Green Building Council's LEED designations and is currently owned and run by GBCI, the same organization that runs the UCGBC LEED program.

With the help of design and sustainability experts, the SITES partners established a list of guidelines and performance benchmarks in 2009. Worldwide, more than 150 pilot projects – including The Green at College Park –worked toward initial certification.

David Hopman, ASLA, an associate professor of landscape architecture in UT Arlington's College of Architecture Planning and Public Affairs, worked with faculty research associate Sonal Parmar to lead the efforts to achieve SITES pilot project certification. Arlington-based Schrickel, Rollins and Associates provided a team of landscape architects, engineers and architects that developed the project from master planning through construction. It was funded through a North Central Texas Council of Governments grant in partnership with the City of Arlington and UT Arlington. UT Arlington was an enthusiastic partner in the project and encouraged Schrickel Rollins to incorporate new products and concepts.

The University of Texas at Arlington is a comprehensive research institution with approximately 55,000 students in the heart of North Texas. Visit <http://www.uta.edu/> to learn more.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hopman".

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