



U CITY IN BLOOM

FALL - 2022

Our mission is to enhance University City through artfully designed public gardens, community involvement, partnerships, and environmental education.

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Jo Seltzer, artist



Plein Air Art Festival

Sunday, October 9, 2022

Reception and Art Sale 5 – 7 PM

- Throughout the month preceding October 9, dozens of local artists will produce original artwork throughout University City.
- On Sunday, October 9, we will announce the winners at the art festival reception and you will have the opportunity to purchase an original piece of art.
- In late October, Gallery Show on UCB website thru December. You will be able to view the artwork, make a selection of your favorite U. City landmarks, gardens, or scenes, and purchase using Paypal.

FLASH FLOODS DAMAGE VERNON NURSERY



Our hearts go out to the many University City residents who lost so much during the flash floods in late July. University City received almost 15" of rain in under 48 hours – that's equivalent to a third of the normal annual rainfall for the year.



U City in Bloom is permitted to use the Vernon Nursery site, which belongs to MSD, because it is in the floodplain and therefore unbuildable. In the early morning hours July 26, Mother Nature took her floodplain back. The next morning, a large crew of U City in Bloom volunteers and staff members showed up at the Vernon Nursery to begin cleaning up the area, which had been inundated. Chain link fences were knocked down by the force of the water and anything that could float away did, from light plastic pots to our picnic tables. Our sheds were knocked out of place. From the small – picking fragments of trash out of the chain link fence – to the big – hefting water-soaked planters that had floated into odd places and retrieving heavy wooden tables that had ended up hundreds of feet away – every bit helped. Even the beehives disappeared. The next day, our beekeeper, Jim Patterson, brought new hive boxes and a queen bee. Many of the bees made their way back are busy again, a hopeful sign. We were also grateful that the hoop greenhouse was not damaged, but the City lost much of its vehicle fleet to the rushing waters, including the trucks used by UCB. We thank everyone who helped clean up our area on Vernon.

SEVENTH ANNUAL PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION, OCTOBER 9

Linda Ballard



DELMAR AND TRINITY

Autumn, with its crisp, clear air and golden, slanted light, is a perfect time for plein air artists to prop their easels up outdoors and capture the moment. U City in Bloom will hold its Plein Air Festival and Competition again this fall. Artists will be painting from September 1 through the day of the event, October 9. You may see them at work throughout

the City – around our historic civic buildings, in UCB gardens, in our beautiful parks or our unique neighborhoods.

On Sunday October 9, there will be a reception and showing of the artists' works at The Green Center, (8025 Blackberry Ave.) from 5 – 7 PM. Tickets for the reception will be available for \$20 and may be purchased at the tent on the east lawn of City Hall (6801 Delmar) from 8 – 12 noon. You may also pay at the door at 5 PM. Admission includes drinks and light refreshments from some of University City's finest restaurants and best home cooks. Meet the artists, visit with your neighbors, and have the opportunity to purchase a lovely work of art to take home.



THE GREEN CENTER

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE

Jesse Gilbertson

At UCB we provide beauty and inspiration and places for rest and enjoyment for any in our community who wander in or seek them out. Our handiwork is all over U City. Our schools are graced with many beautiful and expansive gardens and our parks are all complimented with a garden bed. U City is literally In Bloom everywhere you go. Containers line Olive Blvd and the Loop and pocket park gardens in many of the neighborhood medians. When you pay a parking ticket at City Hall you can at least find some joy in the flowers on your way in. After a workout at **Centennial Commons** you can wind down with a walk through the many colorful garden displays waiting there. Remember we do this for you and you are invited to take a minute and smell the roses. A good place for you to start are some things we have added this year.



CENTENNIAL COMMONS



OAKBROOK AND DELMAR

The first place you should go is our newest installment at **Oakbrook and Delmar**. This garden expansion was completed with the commendable talents of our Horticulturist Nathan Urben. An explosion of colorful annuals on the streetside literally slows traffic down on Delmar. The speed limit signs can't even compete. It gets better on foot. There are inviting paths that lead you in to admire a thoughtful selection of trees, shrubs and perennials. We can't wait for them all to grow in and embrace you as you enjoy a book or just want to rest on the bench that awaits.

Although it's not done yet, we invite you next to **Wellington and Midland** where we are expanding another garden bed to include a path and a place to sit. This lovely space has been maintained and generously watered for years by the surrounding neighbors. With the help of the city, we were able to have irrigation installed so they will no longer have to use the spigots on their homes. This allowed us to triple the size of the garden and begin developing it as a showcase and destination for the neighborhood. Come see the progress. We can't wait to celebrate its completion next year where it will be highlighted for our garden tour in the lovely Musick Neighborhood.



WELLINGTON AND MIDLAND



RUTH PARK WOODS

Finish your tour in the **Ruth Park Woods**.

We have been plugging this space since we started this project a year ago for good reason. This project immediately drew the attention of many ecologically minded and invested citizens and the NatureScapers were formed. This volunteer group is responsible for most of the 1000 hours of volunteering we have had in the woods since we started. The deep shade and winding trails and bird calls provide a welcome escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. We have discovered so many native plants and trees and birds, insects and animals that all thrive in this woodland. Our restoration efforts will continue to increase diversity and provide habitat for many more.

48th ANNUAL UNIVERSITY CITY MEMORIAL DAY RUN



U CITY IN BLOOM

PO Box 50283

St. Louis MO 63105-5283



It was a beautiful day for the 48th annual University City Memorial Day Run, a fundraiser for UCB, the Green Center, and the University City Public Library. Some racers have run this race for decades and now have grandkids in the Fun Run. We thank our generous sponsors, the UCHS ROTC Color Guard, the scores of community volunteers who got up early on Memorial Day to make it happen, and the nearly 1100 runners who participated.



Runners at the start of the 5 and 10 K events pass UCB's plantings in the roundabout

2023 GARDEN TOUR & PLEIN AIR EVENT



Watch for the 2023 Garden Tour and Plein Air Event in the University City Musick Neighborhood, October 1, 2023. See some amazing gardens and historic homes. And the revised Midland/Wellington Garden will be finished and open.

U City in Bloom is a 501(c)(3) organization
www.ucityinbloom.org

SPRING PLANT SALE



This year was a really good one for U City in Bloom's Annual Plant Sale. After two years absence because of the pandemic, it was wonderful to be back inside the Heman Park Community Center, which was newly repainted and looking very spiffy.

A huge round of applause for Linda Fried and Dalene and Jerry Tiers, who together with their loyal band of volunteer potters, plant diggers, and plant beautifiers made it all happen. Thanks to all of you who donated plants, and to those of you who volunteered the work on the Plant Sale weekend. Remember to mark your plants this fall so that you can identify those that need dividing in the spring. U City in Bloom is happy to take any extra plants that do not find a new place in your garden. Call us, we can even send volunteers to help you dig and divide perennials to donate to the Plant Sale. Be sure to put the 2023 Plant Sale, April 28 – 30, on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there.

U CITY IN BLOOM BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Director.....Judy Prange

Dir. of Horticulture.....Jesse Gilbertson

Chairman.....Jack Breier

Treasurer.....Craig Schriewer

Secretary.....Jo Seltzer

Board.....Linda Ballard

Board.....April Davis

Board.....Eric Karch

Board.....Charlotte Jackson

Volunteer

Coordinator.....Libby O'Connor

Board.....Jane Myers

Board.....Georganne Nixon

Board.....Mike Kimzey

Board.....Tim O'Connor

Board.....Mary Ann Shaw

Board.....Peg Woodworth

End of Year Giving Ideas for U City in Bloom Supporters

IRA ROLLOVER - If you are required to take a required minimum distribution, you are permitted to donate from your IRA directly to a charitable organization.

STOCKS, BONDS OR MUTUAL FUNDS - Donating appreciated securities directly to U City in Bloom is a simple way to make a year-end gift.

WILL or TRUST - U City in Bloom would be honored if you designate us as the beneficiary of your own Will or Trust.

U City in Bloom does not provide tax or legal advice.



You're Invited!

U CITY IN BLOOM

Plein Air Art Festival

Sunday, October 9, 2022



Jo Seltzer, Artist

Plein Air Artists will be painting at any location in University City in the month preceding the Art Festival on October 9. Please join us for a reception with the artists and treat yourself to food and beverages from U. City Restaurants. Artwork will be on display and available for purchase.

This is a special fundraiser for U City in Bloom.
Purchase tickets for \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.
Tickets are available at www.ucityinbloom.org,
or call 314-725-8243

ART FESTIVAL RECEPTION 5 – 7 PM

The Green Center,
8025 Blackberry Ave. 63130

NatureScapers

News From the Woods
 Barbara Brain and Kathy Freese

It has been one year since we began the first phase of the renovation project in Ruth Park Woods and what a satisfying year it has been, both in terms of the work completed and the continued enthusiasm and dedication of NatureScapers volunteers.

With Jesse's guidance, we began at the McKnight entrance, focusing on an area about 20ft on either side of the trail. Our task was to begin removing invasive Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) vines from the trees. The Wintercreeper had reached way up into the canopies of so many trees, happily flowering, fruiting and spreading its seeds throughout the woods and beyond. We removed as much of the Wintercreeper as possible, cut it at the base and treated it with a targeted dose of roundup to prevent regrowth. In this way, we removed the weight of the vines from trees and prevented it from reproducing by seed.

The Japanese honeysuckle proved trickier to remove, requiring a little more finesse to disentangle its slender stems from the young trees it was busy twining around and strangling. Many of those trees bear permanent signs of their brush with this prolific vine.

Several weeks ago, we completed the first phase of the project! Yay! We have made one complete pass along the Nature Trail from McKnight to the Golf Course, over 1/2 mile. We have cleared hundreds of trees from the damaging effects of these invasive vines and opened up views through the woods considerably.



This photo was taken in March & shows the damaging effects of Japanese honeysuckle vine.



Out of control invasive vines in one area of the woods.



Another area cleared of invasives. Virginia creeper, a native vine, covers some ground in the middle of the photo.




This brown eyed beauty (a juvenile Barred Owl) has watched us work in the woods all of his life. Several NatureScapers have seen him or her and we have all heard him and his parents calling to each other. This little barred owl should have an easier time finding food. It is hard for an owl to see a mouse moving underneath deep layers of Wintercreeper. Trust me, I have lost several tools this way.

So, what are we working on now? We have started again from the McKnight entrance and are venturing further from the trail, removing any vines that have grown back or that we missed on the first pass. We are also removing the vines from the ground at least 12 inches from each tree trunk to prepare for mowing and spraying the invasive ground cover later in the year. We are removing more Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera mackii*) now, too, by cutting it to the ground and treating the stumps with roundup, a satisfying change from removing vines.

Jesse ordered a new gator some time ago. It has been held up in the same shipping delays that have affected so much over the past two years but should be with us soon. We have begun moving many of our huge debris piles closer to the trail so that they can easily be dumped into the gator and hauled away.

This spring, we planted about 100 3-gallon size trees that Jesse obtained through Forest Releaf of Missouri's Project CommuniTree. (<https://moreleaf.org/plant/project-communitree/>). Next spring, we will plant shrubs and perennials in areas where the forest floor has been cleared. We can also expect to see some native perennials and annuals return from the "seed bank", too.

It is exciting for all of us to be in the second phase of this project. We have made visible progress in a relatively short period of time. As the invasives decline and the natives return, we will begin to see the woods restored to a more functional ecosystem. Insects that have evolved with these native plants will become more plentiful and birds and small mammals will have more to eat.

 **Huge thanks to Jesse Gilbertson for getting excited about the possibility of restoring the woods, to U City in Bloom for supporting the project and to all of our wonderful volunteers.**

To volunteer, please visit www.ucityinbloom.org to sign up on our volunteer page

Clip and return for tickets to the Art Festival Reception, Sunday October 9, 5 - 7 pm

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Number of Tickets _____ @ \$20 each Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I am unable to attend but would like to donate \$ _____

Make checks payable to: U City in Bloom, Mail to "Plein Air" P. O. Box 50283, St. Louis MO 63105-5283

Reservations online: www.ucityinbloom.org, or call: 314-725-8243