



# U CITY IN BLOOM

SPRING 2024

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

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Judy Prange

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Charlotte Jackson



## Plant SALE

**Heman Park Community Center**  
975 Pennsylvania, University City

**Preview Party**

**Friday Evening**  
**April 26, 5 – 7 PM**



See enclosed information for details

### **Public Sale Hours:**

**Saturday April 27, 9 AM – 1 PM**

**Sunday April 28, 11 AM – 1 PM**

- Get great advice from plant experts
- Find what you need with ease – sun, shade, perennials, annuals, shrubs, trees, grasses, ground covers, herbs and vegetables, including annuals that will be used in the UCB gardens
- Discover native plants and trees for birds and butterflies, plus expert advice on how to use in your garden
- When you've planted your new purchases, recycle unneeded pots for next year's use by dropping them off at the Vernon Nursery, just east of the Dog Park



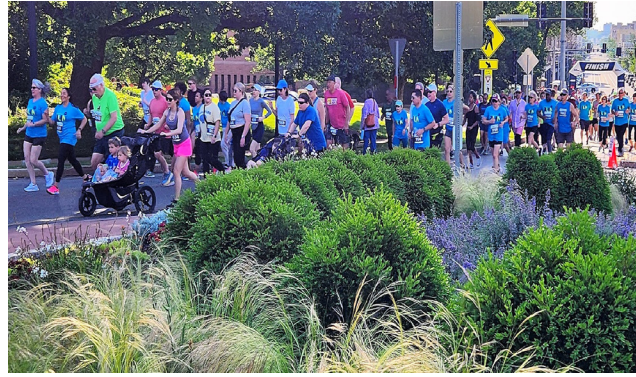
## UNIVERSITY CITY MEMORIAL DAY RUN MARKS ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The University City Memorial Day Run celebrates its Golden Anniversary this year. Who could have predicted that a small road race begun by volunteers in 1974 would be going stronger than ever in 2024? There are local families with three generations of runners who have competed – parents, children, and now the grandchildren of those who first stepped up to the start line half a century ago. Be a part of history and participate in this year's event! Get one of those cool race t-shirts and grab a special commemorative medal at the finish line.

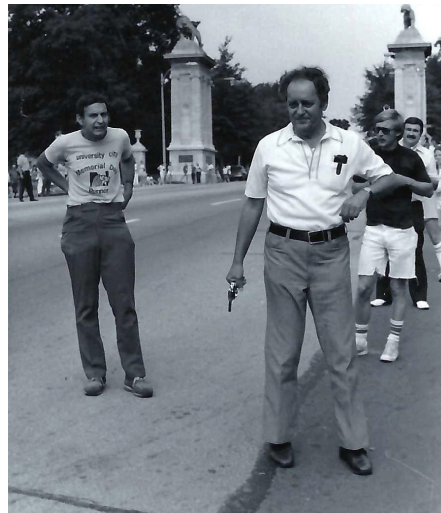
On Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, the 10 K race begins 7:30 AM in front of the University City Public Library (6701 Delmar), with the 5 K starting at 7:50 AM. The Fun Run for children and parents will take place at 9:15 AM on the nearby streets of the University Heights #1 subdivision, just west of City Hall.

For more information and to enter, visit [ucitymemorialdayrun.org](http://ucitymemorialdayrun.org). Proceeds from the Run benefit U City in Bloom, which has been one of its organizers for 25 years, along with the Green Center and the University City Public Library. Volunteers are always welcome to don a race t-shirt and help make the event safe and successful.

To volunteer, contact U City in Bloom Board member Eric Karch, [ekar76@hotmail.com](mailto:ekar76@hotmail.com).



The 2023 Memorial Day Run circles the U City in Bloom garden at the Delmar Roundabout



Traditionally, the Mayor starts the Run. Mayor Nathan B. Kaufman, foreground with starting gun; one of the Run founders, Jack Frohlichstein, left; and author David Carkeet, behind the Mayor, at the start in 1977



The Memorial Day Run is a family event with a Fun Run for kids and parents after the 5 and 10 K races

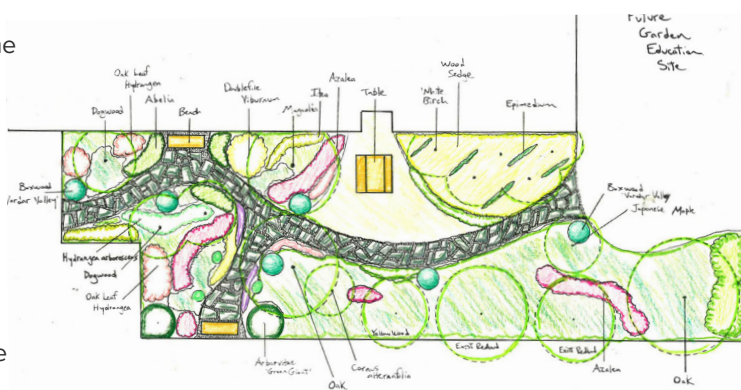


Runners enjoy post-race drinks and snacks donated by Run sponsors after their events

# LIBRARY GARDEN PLANS INCLUDE BEAUTY IN THE SHADE AND VEGGIES IN THE SUN

This spring you will be able to watch the transformation of both the secret garden on the University City Public Library's west side, and the parking lot beds to the north as our horticulturalist Jesse Gilbertson's plans are implemented by U City in Bloom staff and volunteers. In the secret garden, trees and shrubs will be planted first with a lovely selection of woodland perennials to follow. The trees will set the structure of this intimate space and will be positioned to add a little mystery for anyone walking the path and to provide a pretty view for anyone sitting on one of the benches. We just learned that this garden would connect to a new educational space that the library's youth services is planning.

The Library will build and grow vegetables in raised beds to introduce children to gardening and learn where their food comes from. Jesse plans to work closely with the Library staff so these spaces seamlessly transition and add to the beauty of the grounds. Look for additional renovations to the Delmar side and east side of the library to follow in 2025.



Plan for the west side Library Garden. To visit this area, enter from the Delmar side of the building.

## REPORT FROM THE WOODS

Jesse Gilbertson, Director of Horticulture

If you are driving or walking on McKnight near Olive Boulevard you will notice big changes at the Ruth Woods trailhead. No longer are there rank after rank of bush honeysuckle clumps standing shoulder to shoulder preventing any sort of access of sun or breeze or living space for native tree and shrub seedlings and perennials. No longer does wintercreeper drape down from the trees smothering bark and plants and dropping seed to reinforce its efforts to dominate the forest floor in partnership with the honeysuckle. No longer does it look like a dark foreboding jungle one would hesitate to enter. We are gaining our woods back and if you hadn't noticed, I can sure tell you the plants and birds and insects and animals have noticed.

As you look a little closer you might also notice a new footpath that starts near where the edge of the woods meets the golf course. After a year of clearing the area this past year it has become a favorite part of the project for me, and I decided we should share it with a new path. Many wonderful old trees live along this path and it's a favorite haunt of our local Barred Owl. With changes of grade and meandering turns it offers a fresh perspective into and out of the woods. Eventually you will join up with another little trail and you can go either left or right and find yourself taken to the main gravel trail.



Seeding willflower seeds in newly open areas in woods

In many places you can look from the seclusion of the woods to the sunny greens of Ruth Park Golf Course, and this is perhaps what I like most about this trail. No, I don't particularly like watching golf, but I do like watching hawks hunt rodents and birds chasing insects. The edge of the woods is where all the action is. This is a transitional space where you will find the most diversity of plants that can tolerate sun and shade and with that you get a greater numbers and diversity of insects that birds feed on, not to mention a diversity of seed for them to eat. Rodents like that seed too and if they aren't careful and you are lucky enough to be watching, you just might see them enter the food chain with the help of a diving hawk.

I could go on and on about what our community gains from this work. Within these trees is a place to reflect, to be inspired. It promotes physical activity and provides a connection with nature in our urban environment where it reduces city noise and moderates heat. A great sense of pride and community is found in green places, especially when those places are cared for. Our own community of volunteers that do the work is incredible and positive. This is where I shamelessly ask you to consider volunteering. The benefits of the woods are many and we see it as a noble endeavor to help bring them back to health for local ecology and our community to share.

## RUTH WOODS GETS NEW MARKER BENCH

What a wonderful gift! After three plus years of hard work clearing Ruth Park Woods, fittingly, the much-improved forest has a new entrance marker at the McKnight Trailhead. And it's a bench too! The same artisan who carved the weathered old sign, Allen (Al) Hopkins (in blue), created the bench for the Woods. Al has worked for the City since 1995 as a tree trimmer in the Forestry Division, and currently is the crew leader. He does chainsaw carvings in his free time. The log he used is from a City street tree that was removed by the Forestry crew. He said that he wanted to make something to replace the old sign that was unique as well as practical. Be sure to notice the charming little nature designs carved around the border.



Allen Hopkins (left) takes a break with fellow Forester on the bench he created





U CITY IN BLOOM

# Plant SALE

with

## Preview Party

Friday April 26, 5 – 7 PM



Sat. April 27, 9AM – 1 PM

Sun. April 28, 11 AM – 1 PM

**Heman Park Community Center**

975 Pennsylvania, University City



We are so pleased that our 33rd Annual Spring Plant Sale will return to its traditional location, indoors at the Heman Park Community Center, which was unavailable during the pandemic and flood clean-up years. The Sale is free and open to the public on Saturday, April 27, from 9 AM – 1 PM, and Sunday, April 28, from 11 AM – 1 PM. Knowledgeable gardeners are on hand to advise you as to which plants best fit your particular landscape, be it sunny, shady, wet, or dry.

In the weeks prior to the sale, volunteers will be dividing perennials from UCB gardens and potting them up along with contributions from local gardeners.

Also back is our festive Preview Party on Friday evening, April 26, from 5 – 7 PM. It offers guests first choice of the hardy perennials, bright annual flowers, trees, shrubs, herbs, and vegetables, along with wine, cheese, and appetizers. Reserve your place in advance at [ucityinbloom.org](http://ucityinbloom.org), by filling out the mail-in form below, or purchase your \$25 ticket at the door.

If you have plants to donate, or wish to volunteer to pot plants, contact Linda Fried at [lindafriedster@gmail.com](mailto:lindafriedster@gmail.com). Volunteers are also needed to work during the weekend of the event. Register with Libby O'Connor if you want to help out: [libby.oconner3@gmail.com](mailto:libby.oconner3@gmail.com). Proceeds from the Sale are used to plan, plant, and maintain the scores of U City in Bloom's community gardens and large planters throughout our community.



Volunteer potters enjoy the camaraderie of other gardeners at the Vernon Nursery in early spring.

Clip and return for tickets to the Plant Sale Opening Night Party Friday April 26, 5 – 7 PM, Heman Park Community Center

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 each      Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable to U City in Bloom, mail to P.O. Box 50283, St. Louis MO 63105-5283

Reservations online: [www.ucityinbloom.org](http://www.ucityinbloom.org), or call: 314-725-8243

# UNIVERSITY CITY LIBRARY'S GARDENS ARE A BIG PROJECT

When the University City Public Library opened in 1969, the landscaping consisted of some hawthorn trees on the east and west sides, a few old sycamores, and a line of barberry bushes along the parking lot. These bushes, whose thorns caught every bit of blowing paper that escaped Delmar-Harvard students' hands, were soon replaced by Bradford pear trees, an even less desirable species as time would tell. In the early 1990s, U City in Bloom tried to add more interest to the area by installing (perhaps without the full knowledge of the Library...) a raised bed bordered by the then-popular railroad ties at the southeast corner. It included a big "U C" outlined by small bushy plants. These proved to be an inviting nesting place for a mother mallard duck. She eventually led her growing ducklings off in search of water, which resulted in the Library staff's very own "Make Way for Ducklings" moment.

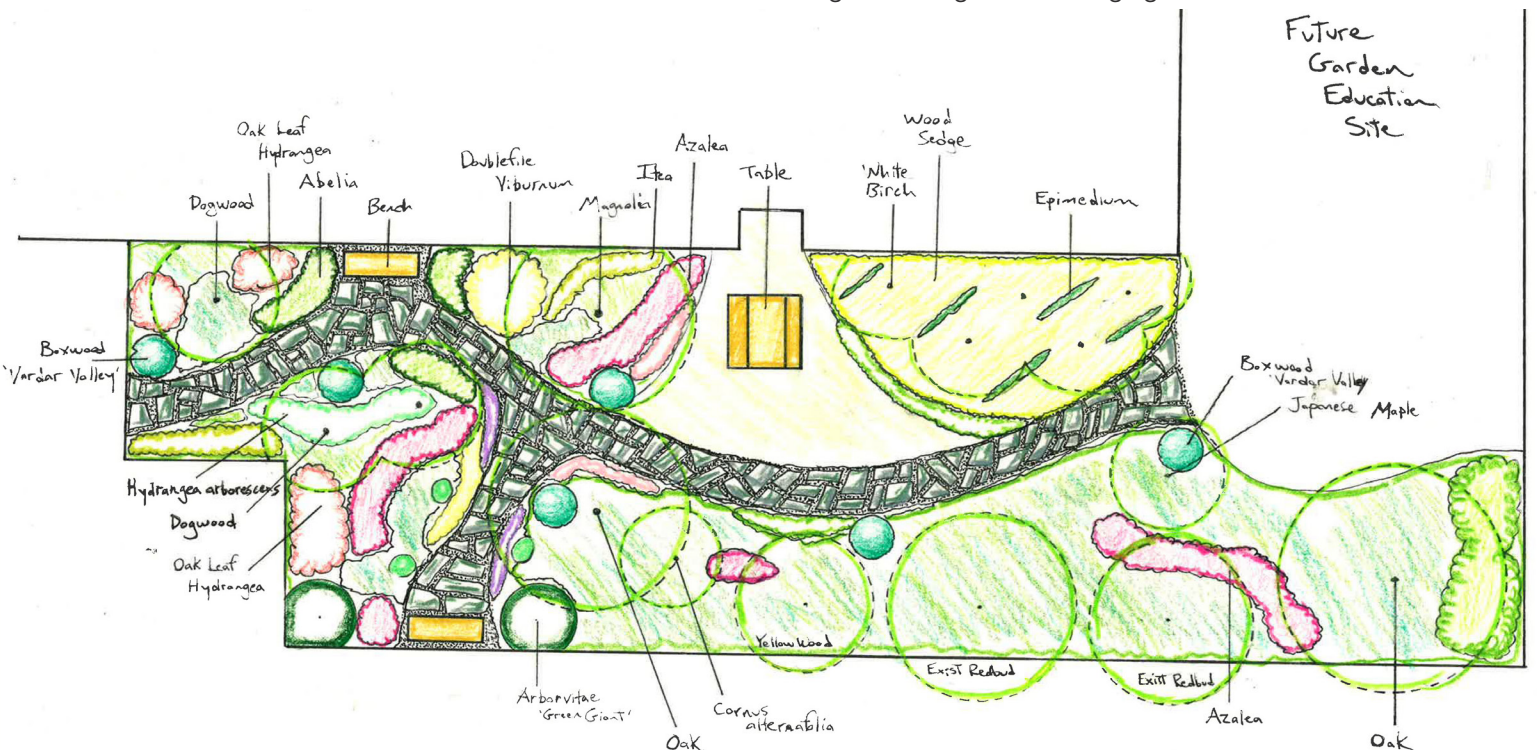
When Linda Ballard became Library Director in 1993, one of her first meetings was with UCB's Mary Ann Shaw to discuss how to make the Library grounds more attractive. The Friends of the Library raised money to fund the original installation by U City in Bloom, an azalea garden with shade plants, along the parking lot side. Next, understory plants were added on the east side, then Linda Wiggins- Kraft was commissioned to prepare a plan for the front of the building on Delmar. Finally, a charming hidden garden was planted on the west side outside the Library's workroom. Staff members enjoy breaks and lunch hours out on the benches.



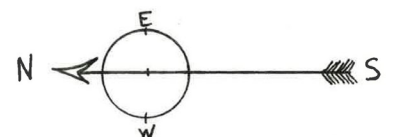
Horticulturalist Jesse Gilbertson's plans take shape in the west side garden

Five years ago, taxpayers approved a complete renovation of the Library building. Now open after major setbacks during construction, it is handsome and inviting inside, but the UCB gardens need replacing after construction, sewer excavation, tree removal, and no water availability severely damaged most areas. Worst of all, a major water main break in February 2023 flooded out the west side garden and filled the library basement with 160,000 gallons of water, destroying completed building work, books, stored furniture, and the elevator.

Our horticulturalist Jesse Gilbertson has big plans to redo all of the gardens. Already the former muddy hole from the water main break has been levelled, mulched, and a beautiful new flagstone path installed. The front garden is largely removed, returning briefly to what it looked like before our gardeners began working there so long ago.



UCITY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WEST GARDEN RENOVATION 2023-24



# Mark Your Calendars for Sunday, September 29

## Our ninth annual Plein Air Art Festival will be here before you know it.



September's 'Paint U. City' month will end with an all-day paint-out on Sunday, September 29. Artwork will be displayed and offered for sale during a reception from 5-7 PM at the Community Center. At the reception we will award cash prizes, including a special prize for a painting featuring a U. City Park.

U. City in Bloom's annual Plein Air Festival has become a favorite community event. In each of the past three years, 15-20 pieces of art were sold either during the event or from the online gallery.

Contact Judy Prange for further information: [judyprange@outlook.com](mailto:judyprange@outlook.com)  
University City Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania

### U CITY IN BLOOM BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Director.....Judy Prange  
Dir. of Horticulture.....Jesse Gilbertson  
Chairman.....Jack Breier  
1st VP..... Georganne Nixon  
Treasurer..... Craig Schriewer  
Secretary..... Jo Seltzer  
Volunteer Coordinator..Libby O'Connor

Board Members: Linda Ballard,  
Nicole Baumgarten, April Davis, Eric Karch,  
Mike Kimzey, Jane Meyers, Mark Winer,  
Tim O'Connor, Jane Schaefer,  
Mary Ann Shaw, Stevan Sreckovic,  
Dr. Monica Stewart, Annette Stowers,  
Peg Woodworth



**U CITY IN BLOOM**  
PO Box 50283  
St. Louis MO 63105-5283

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Permit No. 137  
Washington, MO  
63090



Head into the Raising Cane's in University City on April 27th and 28th to support U City in Bloom. Cane's will donate 15% of the proceeds brought in by customers who say they are here for U City in Bloom, or present the coupon received at the UCB Plant Sale April 26, 27, & 28.

## Memorials

### DONER

Tim Cusick  
Jack Breier & John Douglas  
Mike Rich  
Roger McFarland  
Anne Hunt Miller  
Thomas Peters  
LaVerne Ford-Williams

### IN MEMORY OF

Paulette Carr  
Paulette Carr  
Paulette Carr  
Paulette Carr  
Paulette Carr  
Paulette Carr  
Dorius Pointer, Shayne Burrow,  
Breana Conner

Christopher & Susan Stephen

Michael Grabel  
Jeri Devereaux  
Kim Ferguson  
June King  
Timmie Wiant  
Andrew Goodman  
Betsy Grant  
Diana & Jeffrey Hartnett  
Joseph Rezny  
Grover C. Johnson  
LaVerne Ford Williams  
Judith Crouch  
Debra Shatoff  
Rose & Bill Martin  
Barbara Shrauner  
Gladys Creer  
Judith Harmon  
Melvin & Gala Kennedy  
Carol Horth  
George & Barbara Johnson  
Mark Winer  
Linda Ballard

Connie & Charles Lichty

Bettye Dew  
Bettye Dew  
Mimi McNair  
Sgt. Michael King  
Lynn Breakstone  
Byrnar & Harriet Goodman  
Bill Gleiber  
Patricia Adams  
Barbara Rezny  
Geraldine Johnson  
Dr. Kashina Bell  
Jay Kiddon  
Ariella Rose Shatoff  
Roz & Bob Wykes  
Ely Shrauner  
Raymond Creer  
Sondra Ellis  
Donna R. Staton-Thurman  
Mike Jordan  
Rosalyn Wykes  
Tom Schaefer  
Tom Schaefer, Michael O'Connor

Judy Prange  
Jane Schaefer  
Jo & Carl Seltzer  
Karen Puckett  
Susan Schmalz  
Judy Prange  
Judy Prange  
Mary Granneman  
Jack Breier & John Douglas  
Cynthia & Daniel Davenport  
Jack Breier & John Douglas

## Honorariums

### DONER

Judy Prange  
Charlotte Jackson  
Washington University  
George & Barbara Johnson  
Carol Horth  
Hiram & Cheryl Martin  
Linda & Don Cohn  
Susan & Richard Pierce  
Cynthia Zirwes  
Blueberry Hill/Joe Edwards  
Patrick Barry  
Nancy Baglan  
Mary Knoche Trust  
Beverly White  
Debra Davis  
Jo Dalton  
Michael & Paula Gross  
Susan Rehkopf  
Nicole Blumner & Warren Rosenblum

Tom Schaefer, Michael O'Connor  
Tom Schaefer  
Tom Schaefer  
Gloria & Ermon Puckett  
Steven Schmalz  
Courtney Westlake  
Daniel White  
Daniel White  
Daniel White, Paulette Carr  
James Schmalz  
Janet Schoedinger

### IN HONOR OF

Tim Cusick  
Tim Cusick  
Jay Nixon  
Rosalyn Wykes B-day  
Bev Frazier  
Dianna Pierson Dimartino B-day  
Dalene Tiers & Jo Seltzer  
Jane Schaefer  
UCB volunteers & staff  
Blueberry Hill  
Julie Barry  
Linda Fried  
Dennis Fuller  
Judy Prange  
UCB Volunteers  
Linda Dalton  
Judith Stewart Gross  
Judy Prange  
Nicole Blumner

## SPRING GIFTING IDEAS



Have you received your IRA requirement minimum distribution requirement (RMD) for this year? Kindly consider directing your IRA custodian to make a distribution directly to U City in Bloom. We would be so appreciative and it may help to reduce your taxable income. \*

Naming U City in Bloom as a beneficiary under your IRA. It is simple to do, your IRA custodian can provide you with a designated beneficiary form to be completed. Thank you in advance.

\* UCB does not provide tax nor legal advice.  
UCB tax id: 43-1540073  
Address: PO Box 50283  
St. Louis, MO 63105-5283

UCB is a 501(c)(3) organization



Give STL Day is May 9, 2024  
Please consider donating to help U City in Bloom fund the purchase of interactive, educational signage for Ruth Park Woods