

BIG CHANGES AT BRIGHTSIDE

Have you heard? This year, Brightside said goodbye to two long-time leaders, Gwen McFowland and Mary Lou Green. Both are now enjoying a well-deserved retirement.

Gwen McFowland started at Brightside in 1984. Gwen was often the first person someone would meet at Brightside with her warm smile and welcoming personality. In her decades of service, Gwen spoke with thousands of St. Louis residents about cleaning up and beautifying their

neighborhoods as well as the graffiti eradication process. She also positively affected thousands of teens working their first job in Brightside's Project Mainstreet. The teens gained valuable work skills and job experience while cleaning hundreds of miles of city streets.



Gwen and Mary Lou distributing annual Blitz Blooms.

Mary Lou Green began her tenure as Executive Director in 1990. For 36 years, Mary Lou worked with City leaders, Brightside staff and thousands of volunteers and donors to implement Brightside's programs to clean and green St. Louis. One of Mary Lou's proudest achievements is overseeing the transformation of the vacant gas station lot next to Brightside into the beautiful educational Demonstration Garden we know today. The garden is home to Missouri native plants and many sustainable conservation practices.

Mayor Cara Spencer declared May 17, 2026 as Brightside St. Louis Day in honor of Gwen and Mary Lou.

Gwen and Mary Lou established relationships with thousands of volunteers who continue to beautify our city. Through their hard work and dedication, Gwen and Mary Lou helped to shape Brightside into the respected organization it is today. In honor of their decades of service, the Brightside family had two 1904 World's Fair replica planters placed at the entrance to the Brightside Demonstration Garden. Special thanks to Tony Rocca and AKT Studios for their donation!



MEET THE BRIGHTSIDE TEAM

Taking over the legacy of Brightside are these amazing and hard-working team members.

Brightside's Demonstration Garden would not be anywhere near the beautiful, urban native plant garden it is today without our dedicated Garden Manager, Sean Gunsten. Sean has been tending to the Garden and leading volunteers for four years now.

Joe Cunningham joined Brightside as Program Manager coordinating and overseeing all Brightside programs including the City's Recycling Education and Outreach team. Hanna Lord-Howe and Ava Hohn make up the Saint Louis City Recycles team of Program Specialists who support City residents and answer all waste-related questions!

Sonia Rivera is the newest addition to Brightside and will be managing many of the office functions to ensure everyone gets what they need from Brightside. Welcome Sonia!

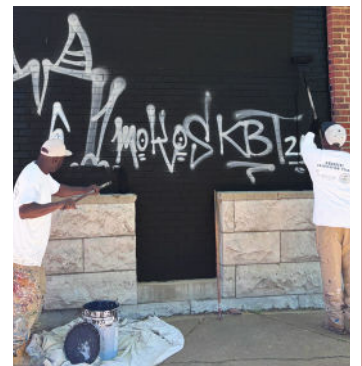


Left to right: Vince, Hanna, Joseph, Sameerah, James, Richard, Sonia, Sean, Ava and Joe.

Sameerah Robinson has been leading Brightside's Graffiti Eradication team for four years. Her team, including James Smith Jr., Richard Strickland Sr., Vince Brown and Joseph McKinney Jr. has been hard at work this year in all types of weather clearing more than 250,000 square feet of graffiti from vandalized properties in the City of St. Louis.

NOTICE GRAFFITI IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Simply dial 311 on your mobile phone to report graffiti to the Citizens' Service Bureau. Thanks to Brightside's Graffiti Eradication team, our City looks cleaner!



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Brightside volunteers have gone above and beyond this year! More than 7,000 volunteers dedicated their time and energy to clean up city neighborhoods, sow flower seeds, plant and care for Blitz Blooms and Neighbors Naturescaping native perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees. Thanks to Brightside volunteers, nearly 12,000 bags of trash were collected from city streets, alleys and vacant lots.

Thank you to the volunteers who help maintain the Brightside Demonstration Garden. Every year, volunteers spend hundreds of hours planting, weeding and mulching to maintain this beautiful, educational space.



Thank you Brightside volunteers for all you do to help clean and beautify St. Louis!

Looking for a volunteer opportunity for your group? Brightside can team you up with an organization that cares for public spaces or community gardens in your area. For more information, call us at **314-772-4646** or email info@brightsidestl.org.

BEAUTIFY A GREENSPACE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Take advantage of Brightside's Neighbors Naturescaping program to improve public and nonprofit greenspaces. This small grant program awards up to \$1,500 worth of native plants and tools for garden maintenance for community groups.

To apply for Neighbors Naturescaping, potential applicants must develop a plan, recruit a committed group of volunteers and participate in educational opportunities. Applications are available yearly from mid-May to mid-June and selected projects are announced in September.

Interested in learning more about Neighbors Naturescaping? Visit: BrightsideSTL.org/neighbors-naturescaping

This year's applicants and other interested individuals had the opportunity to attend Brightside's annual St. Louis Urban Gardening Symposium and Native Plant Garden Bus Tour to learn about designing and maintaining a native plant garden from experts and previous Neighbors Naturescaping awardees.

Stay up-to-date on all things Brightside with our monthly email newsletter: BrightsideSTL.org/get-involved/email-newsletter-signup/

ST. LOUIS URBAN GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

Thank you to all of the speakers and experts who made Brightside's 2026 St. Louis Urban Gardening Symposium (SLUGS) possible! Special thanks to our partner the **Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)**.

More than 90 people registered for SLUGS 2026! Speakers Evan Parker, Miranda Wilkinson and Amanda Wood from MDC and local native plant experts Susie Van de Riet and Sean Gunsten presented on a variety of topics centered around the importance of native plants and how they benefit both people and pollinators.



Evan Parker, Missouri Department of Conservation, presenting to SLUGS attendees about how to work with the soil they have.

Thanks also to Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, STL Neighborhood Foresters and St. Louis Master Gardeners for providing expert advice.

If you were unable to attend SLUGS, you can get more information here: BrightsideSTL.org/slugs2026/

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN BUS TOUR

This year Brightside offered its Second Annual Native Plant Garden Bus Tour.

The tour showcased a variety of native plant gardens across St. Louis City that have benefited from a Neighbors Naturescaping grant. Attendees had the opportunity to walk through these beautiful native plant gardens to get ideas for their community greenspace and talk with the gardeners for expert advice. Thank you to all of the presenters!



Cammie Lewis-Holiday speaking about the Forest Park Southeast Neighborhood Association's Neighbors Naturescaping project at Chouteau Park.

THANK YOU DONORS!

Special thanks to these individuals, companies, organizations, foundations and governmental agencies. It is through your generosity and grants that Brightside is able to enhance the quality of life in St. Louis neighborhoods. Your support is making St. Louis better for everyone.

GOLD

City of St. Louis & Community Development Administration

Missouri Department of Conservation

St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Wast Management District

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

SILVER

Cornelsen Charitable Foundation

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Maureen & Dave Cunningham

Sandy Colvin

The activities of Brightside St. Louis are financed in part through an allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds from the **Department of Housing and Urban Development** and the **City of St. Louis' Community Development Administration**.



USE DROP-OFF RECYCLING LOCATIONS

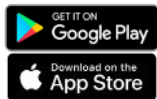
In August 2025, the City shifted from alley dumpster recycling to drop-off recycling locations due to high levels of contamination. This change has led to the collection of much cleaner recyclables.

Thank you for recycling responsibly and using one of the City's 46 residential drop-off recycling locations: STLCityRecycles.com/dropoff



BEFORE YOU TRASH IT, CHECK RECYCLE COACH!

Download the free Recycle Coach app or use the "What Goes Where?" feature on STLCityRecycles.com/#recyclecoach to find answers to your recycling questions. Simply snap a photo or search for any item to discover if it can be recycled.



Explore the "Drop-Off Locations" feature to find spots for item reuse and recycling beyond the Blue Bin. Engage with the app through fun quizzes and stay informed with in-app service notifications.

FREE IN-HOME RECYCLING BINS

In-home recycling bins are a great way to keep your recyclables **LOOSE, CLEAN** and **DRY**. City residents may pick up a **FREE** bin at the Brightside office, 4646 Shenandoah Ave 63110. Open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



RECYCLING TASK FORCE

A Recycling Task Force was appointed by Mayor Cara Spencer to provide recommendations for sustainable, equitable and economical waste management policies to improve recycling outcomes in the City of St. Louis.

The Recycling Task Force wants your feedback on City waste services. Please take a moment to fill out this survey. Scan the QR code, follow the link or call our office at (314) 772-4646 to complete the survey. tinyurl.com/stl-recycling-survey



HAZARDOUS WASTE IN YOUR HOME?

Household hazardous waste can include unwanted items like batteries, paint, fuel and more. It is important to keep these items out of all bins.

Make a **FREE** appointment online at hhwstl.com to safely dispose of your unwanted items.



HELP KEEP ELECTRONICS OUT OF THE LANDFILL

STL City Recycles partnered with the Midwest Recycling Center to host two electronic recycling events this past year. A combined 57,507 pounds of electronic waste and shredded documents were diverted from the landfill.

The Fall 2026 event will be October 24 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 1640 S Kingshighway. Sign up for our newsletter to stay informed: STLCityRecycles.com/e-newsletter-signup.

Project funded in part by the **St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District** and the **MO Department of Natural Resources**.



RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY

Keep items clean, dry, & loose
(no plastic bags)

STICK WITH THE 6



PAPER



FLATTENED
CARDBOARD



PLASTIC BOTTLES
AND CONTAINERS



GLASS BOTTLES
AND JARS



METAL FOOD AND
BEVERAGE CANS



FOOD AND
BEVERAGE CARTONS

NO PLASTIC BAGS IN YOUR RECYCLING



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@STLCityRecycles



Please consider a donation to Brightside to support our cleaning and greening initiatives which help make St. Louis more thriving and vibrant. It's easiest to donate through our website BrightsideSTL.org. Donating online is safe and easy with PayPal **even without a PayPal account**. Just click on the Donate tab on our home page, select your donation amount and add it to your cart. You may also donate by credit card by calling the Brightside office at 314-772-4646 or mail a check using this form and the enclosed envelope.

Your generous gift can help Brightside continue to make a difference in our community.

☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$30 ☐ Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ My check, made payable to **Brightside St. Louis**, is enclosed.

☐ My company's matching gift form is enclosed

Credit card payments will be accepted over the phone by calling the Brightside office at **314-772-4646**, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm.

Or, place your order online at BrightsideSTL.org/online-store. All credit card payments are processed by PayPal. No PayPal account is needed.

This gift is in honor of _____

-OR- In memory of _____

PLEASE SEND AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THIS TRIBUTE GIFT TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

YOUR GIFT TO BRIGHTSIDE MAKES A DIFFERENCE...

\$2,500 Sponsors an educational workshop in our Demonstration Garden.

\$1,000 Buys 20 gallons of graffiti remover for brick and concrete.

\$500 Provides paint to cover 5,000 square feet of graffiti.

\$250 Supplies educational materials for a community event.

\$100 Equips volunteers with 450 trash bags for neighborhood cleanups.

\$50 Provides seven native plants for a community greenspace.

\$30 Buys one tool for Blitz cleanups.



brightside
ST. LOUIS



Thank You!

Blooming Soon! Order Form

Our premium bulbs, direct from Holland, are comparable to wholesale prices and make the perfect gift for family, friends, schools and other organizations!

___ Lot(s) Midwest Mix Daffodil Collection @ \$18/lot _____
Lot = 30 Bulbs

___ Lot(s) Yellow Carlton Daffodils @ \$18/lot _____
Lot = 30 Bulbs

___ Lot(s) "Brightside Red" Hybrid Darwin Tulips @ \$18/lot _____
Lot = 30 Bulbs

___ Lot(s) Pink Impression Tulips @ \$18/lot _____
Lot = 30 Bulbs

Order Total _____

___ **Donation to Brightside St. Louis** _____

SHIPPING INFORMATION

If you choose to have your order shipped please add shipping charges to order total

Shipping charges based on order total:

Up to \$30 – add \$9 _____

\$31-40 – add \$14 _____

\$41-60 – add \$16 _____

Over \$60 – add \$18 _____

Total Bulbs & Plants _____

Shipping Charge _____

Donation _____

Total Amount Due _____

Brightside St. Louis requests that all orders be received by September 25, 2026.

All prepaid orders will be available for pick up at the Greenhouse in beautiful Forest Park, October 9 and 10.

Friday,
October 9 - 11am - 4pm

Saturday,
October 10 - 9am - 12pm

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ My check, made payable to Brightside St. Louis, is enclosed.

For security purposes, credit card payments will be accepted over the phone by calling the Brightside office at **314-772-4646**, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm.

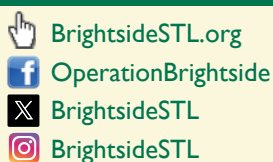
Or, place your order online: BrightsideSTL.org/online-store. All credit card payments are processed by PayPal. No PayPal account is needed.



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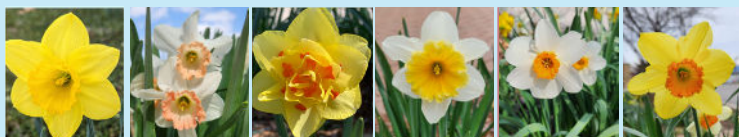
BLOOMING SOON!

ORDER TODAY FOR YOUR GARDENS PLUS GET
SOME FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS – BRIGHTSIDE
FLOWERS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!!

GET YOUR BRIGHTSIDE EXCLUSIVES!

You can order securely online: BrightsideSTL.org and pay through PayPal
using your credit card or call Brightside at **(314) 772-4646** or mail in a check
payment with the order form on the reverse side.

ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE FOREST PARK GREENHOUSE ON FRIDAY, OCT. 9 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. & SATURDAY, OCT. 10 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.



CARLTON

PINK CHARM

TAHITI

SLIM

WHITMAN

BARRETT

BROWNING

SUADA

Bulb size: **14-16 cm.** Bloom: **March-April** Lot: **30 bulbs only \$18**

Brightside's exclusive "Midwest Mix" collection of six varieties of fine daffodils includes five bulbs from each of these exceptional daffodil varieties: **Carlton**, an outstanding and sweetly fragrant, all-yellow cup; **Pink Charm**, an ivory-white, pink-rimmed large cup; **Tahiti**, a showy, yellow and orange heat-resistant double; **Slim Whitman**, a flamboyant white and golden-orange, pinwheeled large cup; **Barrett Browning**, a white and glowing tangerine small cup; and **Suada**, a brilliant yellow and exuberant orange-ruffled large cup.

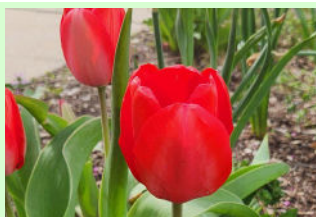


CARLTON DAFFODILS

Fragrant, yellow large cup heralds the return of Springtime in St. Louis. Our daffodils are particularly striking when planted in abundance.

Will grow 16-20" tall.
Plant 6-8" deep and 6-8" apart in full sun or light shade.

Bulb size: 14-16 cm.
Bloom: March-April
Lot: 30 bulbs only \$18

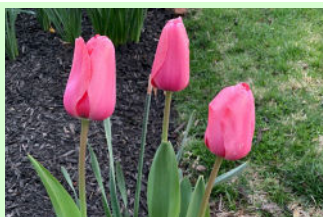


BRIGHTSIDE RED TULIPS

Rave reviews for the "Brightside Red" Hybrid Darwin tulip. Exclusively through Brightside, this very large, vibrant red tulip will add awesome color to your spring garden.

Will grow 22-24" tall
Plant 6-8" deep and 6-8" apart in full sun or light shade.

Bulb size: 12/+ cm.
Bloom: April
Lot: 30 bulbs only \$18



PINK IMPRESSION TULIPS

The Hybrid Darwin Pink Impression is both beautiful and strong. Sturdy, long stems help these vibrant tulips withstand spring weather.

Will grow 20-24" tall
Plant 6-8" deep and 6-8" apart in full sun or light shade.

Bulb size: 12/+ cm.
Bloom: April
Lot: 30 bulbs only \$18



ORDER TODAY!

SEE INSIDE
BACK COVER

You may order online at BrightsideSTL.org,
call (314) 772-4646 or mail in an order form
along with payment to:

Brightside St. Louis
4646 Shenandoah Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110-3424

**DON'T WANT
TO PICK UP
YOUR BULBS?**

**REQUEST TO HAVE THEM SHIPPED
WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR ORDER.**