

*The Covid-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on our campus and community. The people of UK Facilities Management remain the “boots on the ground” for UK, providing the essential services needed to keep our campus safe, secure, and positioned to respond to the evolving crisis. The strength each of you demonstrate daily is inspiring and represents such courage and compassion. We are in this together and we will get through it together. **Thank you for everything you do.** – Mary Vosevich, Vice President for Facilities Management*

## OUR PEOPLE. ————— OUR STORIES.



**Project Update – Cooper Tunnel Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Research Collaboration.** In Issue 99 ([August 12](#)), we introduced a project that **UK Grounds** had launched in collaboration with campus and community partners to improve maintenance conditions by establishing no-mow pollinator habitat on the steep slopes leading to the tunnel under Cooper Drive. This project also involves a research program to document the effectiveness of three treatments to remove the seedbank on the slopes in preparation for planting: steam, torch, and herbicide. Our grounds team, lead by **Josh Borgemenke**, has completed the treatments making it clear that some innovative work is underway (left). Signage is being develop to communicate the goals of this project to curious pedestrians traveling through this area. Using our campus as a living lab enriches teaching and learning and enhances our operations. **GREAT WORK GROUNDS.**



UK Sustainability [created a video](#) to help promote the REUSABLE to-go option from UK Dining. These green to-go containers have been available for several years, but are more important than ever given the switch to disposable to-go ware as a result of the pandemic. UK Dining has also added an exchange card option which allows you to return the container right after you finish your meal instead of keeping up with the container until the next time you eat on campus. The short video features FM graduate assistants Sophie Beavin and Carlie Martindale demonstrating how easy this waste reduction option is to adopt.



Self-care, maintaining and improving our mental and physical health, should always be a priority but it is especially important in these trying times. UK Human Resources, through their **Work-Life Connections Program**, provides a wide array of resources available to all UK Employees. We encourage you to take time this week to do two things. First, learn about the warning signs that commonly indicate that stress and circumstances are negatively impacting your mental health. Second, familiarize yourself with the resources that UK provides to help you regain balance and focus. More info:

<https://www.uky.edu/hr/work-life/counseling/worklife-connections-counseling>



## Photo Friday – Observing Labor Day by celebrating our work

Labor Day, the US holiday to celebrate the social and economic accomplishments of American workers, is typically a University Holiday. However, due to the pandemic-shortened semester, UK will be open on Labor Day this year. We will mark this unusual circumstance with two newsletters (Friday and Monday) that feature pictures of our team at work. Submit your photos of friends and colleagues doing their jobs to [shane.tedder@uky.edu](mailto:shane.tedder@uky.edu) by midnight on Thursday. At left, **Jack Clopein**, from Area 2, changes out a faulty flush valve in the Jacob’s Science Building.