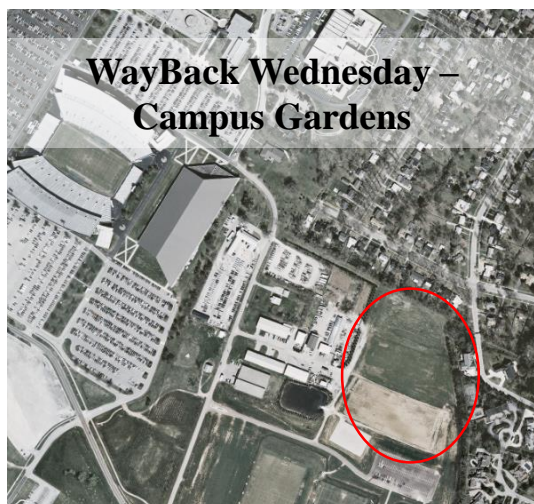


*The Covid-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on our campus and community. The people of UK Facilities Management remain the “boots on the ground” for UK, providing the essential services needed to keep our campus safe, secure, and positioned to respond to the evolving crisis. The strength each 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.

Last week, I asked if anyone had information about a community garden that used to be on the south side of campus and the response was immediate. Many thanks to everyone who stopped by with info and special thanks to David Tyler and Gretchen Tucker for finding the aerial photo, to Eva Fornash for sharing a KY Kernel article from her files, and to Ramona Stofer for stopping by for an interview about her role in managing the garden. Here is the story we were able to piece together:



**WayBack Wednesday –
Campus Gardens**

The garden project launched in 1975 on the old UK Experiment Farm, southeast of Commonwealth Stadium (pictured in 1998 at left). Plots were available to staff, faculty, students, and retirees. **Ramona Stofer**, who began her career at UK about the same time the garden was getting started, coordinated the program for the more than 20 years that it was in operation. In a 1981 Kentucky Kernel article, Ramona was quoted as saying that the garden was “originally set up to battle inflation” and the article went on to highlight that many folks who did not have land to garden on were very grateful for the plots. . Response from the campus was very strong, especially in the early years. In 1981, more than 700 people signed up for a chance at one of the 300 plots. The Physical Plant was very involved with the project. Engineering mapped the layout each year, the cabinet shop made the stakes that marked the 25 ft x 50 ft plots, grounds plowed the ground, and Ramona and team managed the lottery process and plot assignment. No irrigation was provided and Eva Fornash remembered that carrying water to the plots in buckets and jugs was hot work. The plots were free at first, but eventually a plot fee was charged to help offset some of the costs. The garden lasted until the late 90s when demand for the plots was in decline and demand for the land was increasing. The area where the gardens were is now used by UK’s rugby club. As noted in Monday’s newsletter, UK has a community garden for graduate students near Shawneetown and Facilities provides support as needed to that effort. While there aren’t currently plots available for staff, UK Health and Wellness is offering financial assistance in the form of \$100 or \$200 vouchers to support the purchase of Community Supported Agriculture shares. More info below.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE?



CSA farmers offer a limited number of their produce shares for anyone in their local area to purchase in advance. When you purchase a share from a farm, you become a CSA member of that farm. A CSA membership through UK includes a box of local and organic vegetables (and occasionally fruits and other farm products) delivered weekly to a convenient pickup location. UK HR Health and Wellness offers \$100 or \$200 vouchers toward the cost of a share. **Deadline to participate: May 7th at 5pm. More info:**
<https://www.uky.edu/hr/community-supported-agriculture-csa>

PHOTO FRIDAY: STUDENT SALUTE!



Finals week starts next Monday with Commencement ceremonies scheduled over the weekend of 5/14-5/16. Let’s give a big shout out to the students working in Facilities Management starting with Photo Friday this week. Please send pictures of students on your teams to shane.tedder@uky.edu by Thursday at midnight. Include name, major, and graduation year. Thanks!