Green City Works is a University City District (UCD) subsidiary that provides high quality design-build-maintenance landscaping services while transforming the way the industry trains, advances and supports its workforce. Not only do clients receive superior, competitively priced landscaping services, but they also benefit from contracting with a homegrown social enterprise run by UCD, a 20-year-old partnership of world-renowned anchor institutions, business leaders and residents that is devoted to improving the community.

From universities and health systems to REITs and commercial developments, Green City Works already maintains nearly 1 million square feet of green space for University City’s largest institutions and businesses. Green City Works guarantees high quality, reliable, competitive landscaping services while creating local economic opportunity.
Green City Works integrates two areas in which UCD has a national reputation for excellence:

1. The development and stewardship of vibrant green spaces
2. Employer-driven job training and job advancement.

UCD has twenty years of experience creating and maintaining the public realm across University City, from The Porch at 30th Street, to pedestrian plazas, to the future Trolley Portal Gardens. Green City Works also builds on the platform of UCD’s West Philadelphia Skills Initiative, which ensures that our employees are expertly trained, highly motivated and robustly supported in their work.
Green City Works provides a wide range of landscaping services for institutions and businesses. As a design-build-maintenance firm, our primary focus areas include:

- Designing and installing sustainable landscapes throughout West Philadelphia
- Performing seasonal plant change-outs for herbaceous and woody plants
- Maintaining public green spaces through cleaning, weeding, watering, edging, trimming, pruning, mowing and replanting as necessary
- Stormwater management
- Street tree installation
- Winterization of planting areas
- Snow removal
Green City Works has a robust client and project list, including:

- Amtrak
- Brandywine Realty Trust
- Drexel University
- Indego Bike Share
- International House
- National Board of Medical Examiners
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pennsylvania Health System
- Philadelphia Water Department
- Schuylkill River Trail
- Science Center
- University of the Sciences
- Wexford Science & Technology
- Wistar Institute
- UCD’s large and growing public space portfolio
Rain Garden at USciences

Green City Works transformed an unused lawn into a vibrant garden that features more than 2,000 native perennials, attracting butterflies and birds.
Green City Works maintains NBME's private courtyard and planting beds along Market Street, providing general landscape maintenance, seasonal plantings and irrigation system services.
Green City Works runs landscaping at Wistar Institute, providing general landscape maintenance, seasonal plantings and irrigation system services.

Green City Works will assume responsibility for landscaping and maintenance at Brandywine Realty Trust’s Cira Center this year.
IRS Building

Green City Works installed plants in beds lining Market Street, outside of Brandywine Realty Trust’s IRS Building.

Philadelphia Water Department

Green City Works conducts green stormwater infrastructure maintenance across the district.
Green City Works installed and maintains all plants in 30th Street Station, including an eye-catching column planter designed to beautify the station before the 2016 DNC.
The Porch at 30th Street Station

Green City Works is responsible for keeping UCD’s flagship public space green and lush.
Green City Works maintains the plants and structures that comprise UCD’s Market Street Bridge pedestrian improvements.

GCW installs and maintains the structures and plantings for UCD’s Parklets, which are out every year from April through November.
“[USciences has] a high level of expectation regarding the partners we bring in to complete projects. And everyone at Green City Works from the landscape architect to the general manager to the crew – it’s been professional, on-time, and the end product is beautiful. To partner with Green City Works and be a valued partner has enabled us to show how committed the university is to improving our community together – not just on our campus, but also to help the people in our community strive to become better and gain employment and make our campus and our community more beautiful.”

— Dan Severino
Director, Facilities Services, University of the Sciences
Green City Works is adaptable and reliable. They’re willing to work with us on what we need to accomplish, and they’re very responsive. It’s very easy to work with them. We get excellent maintenance services and we know that Philadelphians are doing the work.

— Megan Malloy
Environmental Scientist, Green Storm Infrastructure Maintenance Team, Philadelphia Water Department

We’re really happy and [Green City Works is] really filling a need for us that we were having difficulty filling. We give Green City Works free reign, asking ‘What do you think would grow well, and what would look good,’ and they’ve done a great job. I had a lot of confidence that Green City Works was going to do what they said they were going do, and they very much did.

— Jim Zaleski
Director of Facilities, Wistar Institute

[Green City Works] has been very responsive and very thorough in understanding what our needs are. The crew has been doing a great job and we really had very positive things to say about them – their thoroughness, their professionalism while they’re on the job. It’s exciting to know that we’re getting services from a business that is committed to hiring locally. I had high expectations and they’ve met those expectations.

— Jeff Wicklund
Executive Vice President, The Enterprise Center
As a social venture focused on providing employment opportunities for local residents, Green City Works is dedicated to serving as an exemplary employer. We are committed to good wages and benefits; full-time, year-round positions; and advancement opportunities.

As a result, we have built a dedicated team with nearly non-existent turnover. With a local workforce, Green City Works is able to provide dependable, timely and flexible service. Employees receive ongoing professional development and training in order to grow their expertise and provide the highest level of service. Given this dynamic team, Green City Works is uniquely positioned to harness University City’s accelerating economic growth for the benefit of the broader community.
Green City Works Leadership:

Green City Works is supported by an in-house landscape architect, and managed by a landscaping professional with over 20 years of experience working in the industry.

Brian English
General Manager

Brian English joined UCD in 2016 as the General Manager of Green City Works. Brian has worked in the landscaping industry for over 20 years. His experiences range from managing start-up and established design-build landscape firms, to serving as Director of Property Management for a land trust. At the land trust, Brian was responsible for enacting environmentally focused initiatives on sites owned by the land trust, in addition to assisting regional land owners with productive and sustainable land management strategies.

Nathan Hommel
Director of Planning and Design

Nate joined UCD in 2012 and uses his urban design expertise to further enhance urban quality of life issues throughout University City. Nate was instrumental in launching Green City Works, UCD’s new landscaping social venture, and serves as a quality and design consultant for all the venture’s projects. Prior to UCD, Nate worked as a landscape architect/urban designer for two firms in Philadelphia, and from 2010-2015, he served as an adjunct professor of landscape architecture at Philadelphia University. Nate holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY.
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University City District (UCD) was founded in 1997 by a partnership of world-renowned anchor institutions, small businesses and residents to improve economic vitality and quality of life in Philadelphia's University City. Our primary mission is community revitalization. We work within a place-based, data-driven framework to invest in world-class public spaces, address crime and public safety, bring life to commercial corridors, connect low-income residents to careers, and promote job growth and innovation.

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