Jewel Box in Forest Park

The Jewel Box is open after a $3.5 million renovation and it "glows" again. The glass panes have been repaired and cleaned so the Jewel Box is once again the "Jewel" of Forest Park.

And the jewel is bright with hundreds of flowers. The permanent floral displays are supplemented with seasonal flowers from the city's greenhouses grown and planted by the Flora Conservancy of Forest Park, the volunteer gardening group, and the Horticulture Section of the Parks Division.

The Jewel Box is open: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is $1, but it is free from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday and Tuesday.

The renovation included removing all of the old plants and trees and reconfiguring the planting areas to the sides of the building, leaving the interior free.

Gone are the trees that climbed to the top of the building, obscuring the light. Now the Jewel Box is flooded with sunlight that pours in through the top tiers of glass and illuminates the plants below.

The interior area includes a large fountain and water feature that can be removed for weddings and other events. Large pots line both sides of the pond and baskets of plants hang from the ceiling.

The renovation of the Jewel Box included replacing the mechanical systems, improving the floral display area and adding a catering area so the building can be rented for wedding receptions, corporate meetings and parties. There is a new heating and air conditioning system so it will be comfortable inside in the coldest and hottest weather.

The Jewel Box, located on a 17-acre site in Forest Park, was built by the City of St. Louis in 1936 and is operated by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

It is listed on the National Historic Register. The designation was given by the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The application was submitted by the Landmarks Association of St. Louis on behalf of the City of St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

The Jewel Box was given the designation on the National Register because it is, "locally significant in the area of architecture. The Art Deco building is an outstanding example of greenhouse design."

The Jewel Box has special flower shows at Christmas, early spring, Easter, Mother's Day, a summer show and the chrysanthemum show in the fall. It has tropical trees, foliage plants, flowers, a new water feature and fountain year round.

The main display room is 50 feet high, 55 feet wide and 144 feet long, containing about 7,500 square feet of floor space.

The Jewel Box was dedicated Nov. 14, 1936 and cost about $117,000, with about 45 percent coming from Public Works Administration (WPA) funds. It was designed by city engineer William C. E. Becker and Robert Paulus Construction Co. was the contractor.

With its unconventional, cantilevered, vertical glass walls rising majestically 50 feet high, the Jewel Box opened in 1936 to national acclaim. The Post-Dispatch called the Art Deco-style structure, "the latest word in display greenhouses."

Today it is an aged St. Louis treasure that has been restored to its former glory. The Jewel Box is at the intersection of Wells and McKinley drives in Forest Park.

The Jewel Box in Forest Park is one of the most beautiful sites in St. Louis for wedding ceremonies. It also is one of the most popular.

The Jewel Box has opened after a $3.5 million renovation, which makes it an even better site for weddings. The 11-month renovation included replacing the mechanical systems and adding air conditioning so it will be comfortable in the summer months.

A catering area, large bride’s room and new restrooms have been built so the building can be rented for wedding ceremonies, wedding receptions and rehearsal dinners.

The floral display area has been changed to include a large fountain and water feature that can be removed for weddings and receptions. The permanent floral displays will be supplemented with seasonal flowers from the city’s greenhouses grown and planted by the Flora Conservancy of Forest Park.

The Jewel Box is available for wedding ceremonies in 1½ hour increments from:

Saturday
12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday
3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Regular booking for the Jewel Box for a wedding ceremony is $1000 and reservations can be made up to two years prior to the date being requested.

Regular booking must be made in person (at the Parks Dept. office) and the rental fee is due the same day as the reservation.

Discounted booking, less than one year from the date being requested, is $600.

Discounted bookings can be made over the telephone, however, you will need to come in to the Park Department office in Forest Park within five working days after the reservation is made to sign a contract and pay the rental fee.

Maximum capacity for the Jewel Box for a wedding ceremony is 250 people.

The rental fee includes up to 250 chairs, which will be setup by Jewel Box staff. This is the only equipment provided by the Jewel Box. Any other equipment needed such as microphones, extension cords, podiums, sound systems, music equipment, etc., should be rented from a private source.

All activity (decorating, pictures, ceremony, etc.) must take place within the contracted time slot. Guests and/or the bridal party will not be allowed to enter the Jewel Box before the contracted rental time begins. Keep this in mind when deciding times to put on your invitations.

Candles are allowed if the flames are enclosed in a glass rose bowl, hurricane lamp or the like.

The use of nails, screws, tape, tacks, etc. to fasten decorations or other materials to walls, doors or from the ceiling is strictly prohibited.

Storage of any equipment or other accessory items belonging to the users is not permitted. The Jewel Box is not responsible for any equipment or other items left behind.

Smoking is not permitted in any part of the Jewel Box at any time. Sand ash bins are placed outside the main entrance.

To check the availability or make a reservation for the Jewel Box:
call 314 289-5389. The Jewel Box phone is 314 531-0080.
Availability cannot be checked online.

To make arrangements in person, come to the Parks Department:
5600 Clayton Avenue
In Forest Park
(Directions: Take I-64 (Highway 40) to the Hampton Avenue exit. Make a right turn into the park. Follow the road to the right until you get to a stop sign. Go straight and the Parks Department office is on the left.)

If you have made a reservation by telephone, an appointment to sign the contract and pay the rental fee is required to insure that someone is available to assist you.

When you call or come in to make your reservation you will need to know the following information:

- spouse one's name, address, home/work phone number, place of work
- spouse two's name, address, home/work phone number, place of work
- date and time of wedding
- number in wedding party
- number of guests and number of chairs.

The Jewel Box is not just for flower shows anymore.

A catering area, large wedding dressing room and new restrooms have been built so the building can be used for wedding ceremonies, wedding receptions and rehearsal dinners.

The floral display area has a large fountain and water feature that can be removed for weddings and receptions. The permanent floral displays are supplemented with seasonal flowers from the city's greenhouses grown and planted by the Flora Conservancy of Forest Park.

The Jewel Box can accommodate 140 people for a seated dinner or 250 people for a reception.

The floor plan for the Jewel Box can be changed to accommodate a variety of events.

The rental fee and time slots available include the following:

Sunday – Thursday
5 to 10 p.m.
Cost: $1,650
Friday and Saturday 6 p.m. to Midnight Cost: $3,100
SPECIAL DISCOUNT:
If a reception time slot at the Jewel Box has not been booked and the date is three months or less away, the rental fee will be discounted as follows:
Fridays & Saturdays (6 p.m. to Midnight) - From $3,100 to $1,900
Sundays Through Thursdays (5 p.m. to 10 p.m.) - From $1,650 to $950
Contact 289-5389 to check availability. It cannot be checked online.

Tables and chairs are included in the rental fee. Jewel Box staff will provide access to 20 round tables and 140 chairs.

All events at the Jewel Box must be catered by a company from our authorized caterer's list.

The caterer or other representative is responsible for the setup and placement of tables and chairs. All equipment must be set out and taken down within the rental time. Any other equipment needed such as microphones, extension cords, podiums, sound systems, etc., should be rented from a private source. Table clothes, linens, silverware, etc., are not provided.

In addition to the rental fee, a $500 security deposit is required. The security deposit will be forfeited in the event of damage to park property, missing or damaged park equipment, failure to leave the Jewel Box in a clean condition, and/or failure to comply with the rules and conditions stated in this contract.

An insurance certificate of property damage in the amount of $50,000 and personal liability insurance in the amount of not less than $100,000 for injury to one person and not less than $300,000 to two or more persons in each accident is required. The certificate must be an original copy and must be received by the Parks Department six months prior to the event.

Rental fees for use of the Jewel Box are not refundable. Regular bookings must be made in person at the time the reservation is made and the full rental fee will be due at this time. The contract for discounted bookings must be signed and the rental fee paid for within 5 working days after a reservation has been made or the date will be released.

Cleanup is required immediately following the event within the rental period. All trash is to be bagged and placed in the dumpster behind the Jewel Box. The sinks in the catering area should be wiped clean with no food particles left behind and any trash generated by the caterer is to be disposed of and removed from the Jewel Box. It will be the rental party/caterer's responsibility to clean the tables and chairs and return them to the storage area. Floors are to be swept clean and mopped.

All activity related to your event must occur within your selected rental time including any setup of equipment. Keep this in mind when deciding times to put on your invitations.

Candles are allowed if the flames are enclosed in a glass rose bowl, hurricane lamp or the like.

The storage of any equipment or other accessory items belonging to the users is not permitted. The Jewel Box is not responsible for any equipment or other items left behind.

Smoking is not permitted in any part of the Jewel Box at any time. Sand ash bins are placed outside the main entrance.

The Jewel Box & World's Fair Pavilion

in Forest Park

Authorized Caterer's List

Butler's Pantry
1414 Park Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63104
Phone: (314) 664-7680
Fax: (314) 664-9866
butlerspantry.com

Catering by The Christy / Picnic People
5856 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116
Phone: (314) 353-4700
Fax: (314) 352-4890
thechristy.com

Ces & Judy's Catering
10405 Clayton Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63131
Phone: (314) 991-6700
Fax: (314) 991-8977
cesandjudys.com

Orlando's Catering
4300 Hoffmeister Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63125
Phone: (314) 638-6660
Fax: (314) 968-6513
orlandogardens.com

Patty Long Catering
1804 S. 9th St.
St. Louis, MO 63104
Phone: (314) 621-9598
Fax: (314) 621-6329
pattylongcatering.com

Russo's Catering
9904 Page Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63132
Phone: (314) 427-6771 ext. 105
Fax: (314) 427-5911
russosgourmet.com

The Pasta House Co.
2200 59th St.
St. Louis, MO 63110
Phone: (314) 644-1400
Fax: (314) 644-1413
pastahouse.com

Westwood Catering
190 N. Sappington Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122
Phone: (314) 965-7428
Fax: (314) 965-1622
westwoodcateringstl.com