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The Word on Molbak's

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Molbak's Garden + Home in Woodinville, Washington, is closing. In short, the closure is due to the collapse of a redevelopment initiative that would have made the 67-year-old garden center the centerpiece of a "city in a garden" project.

"The project was our plan for the future and our opportunity to remain in Woodinville for many years to come," said Molbak's CEO Julie Kouhia. "To be forced out of our long-time home and not be able to realize that vision is devastating. It is heartbreaking for our employees and their families, our loyal customers and

vendors, and many others throughout the Northwest who love Molbak's."

Pictured: Molbak's, circa 2018 during a garden center tour.

Molbak's initially planned to close down in December 2023. With an outpouring of the community and loyal customers, the decision to close was pushed back to January 28. A going-out-of-business sale began January 5 and continued while supplies lasted.

"Our goal over the next few weeks is to close down with integrity and in a manner that honors our employees, vendors and customers. We also want to find a way to celebrate the history, impact and joy of Molbak's along the way," said Julie at the time.

My friend and buZZ! contributor Richard Criley wrote to me after the announcement of Molbak's closing with fond memories and specifically called out their houseplant department as exceptional (high praise from a Hawaiian!). **GP**