**Kent Land Trust 2018 Exploration Challenge Clues**

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Interpret the following clues to find markers that reveal 18 Reasons for conserving land.

The properties you seek are shown on your *KLT 2018 Exploration Challenge Map*.

For further guidance, you may wish to purchase *Kent Trails: A Hiker’s Guide*, produced by the Kent Conservation Commission, and to peruse the [*Places*](https://www.kentlandtrust.org/klt-places) page on the KLT website.

Happy exploring!

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Note: The difficulty ratings relate to the terrain (not the clue) and the time estimates assume a nearly direct path to/from.

1. Go west to a place where angels, undocumented aliens, birds and wild animals might seek refuge. Climb steadily through forested acres, passing several cryptic charcoal mounds. Spur on at roughly 1000-foot elevation.

Then log on to catch your breath. Look eastward to find the first marker.

*Difficulty*: Challenging *Time*: 1.25 hours out and back

1. In your search for Reason 2, a fertile mind is both an asset and a clue.At this preserve you can find an abandoned heron rookery and portions of the Womenshenuk wetlands. Once on site, seek shelter to find your marker.

*Difficulty*: Easy *Time*: 5 minutes out and back

1. Trace Route 341 east of town to the place once called Bromica and the site of Kent’s earliest forge and water-driven saw mill. From the kiosk, be prepared to scamper up and down a short, briefly-steep trail.

Search for Reason 3 near what was once a tidy beach.

*Difficulty*: Easy/Moderate *Time*: 20 minutes out and back

1. Venture forth to a mountain named after one of Kent’s oldest founding families. Drive up a dirt road to the KLT kiosk that marks the entry to this recently expanded property. Pass the twins, thread the needle, and hike nearly a mile in, noting all around you the worn-down remnants of some of the state’s oldest rock formations.

Reason 4 is posted near the panorama.

*Difficulty*: Moderate *Time*: 1.5 hours out and back

1. Reason 5 resides where the retreat of ancient glaciers laid down a broad flood plain. Read about the part this land’s preservation played in establishing the Kent Land Trust more than 25 years ago and how it has become a place for picnics, performances, and patriotic celebrations. Light up when you find this marker!

*Difficulty*: Easy *Time*: 5 minutes out and back

1. Seek Reason 6 in a place where three towns meet. Drive along the 19th century-built Purple Rim Road, stopping at the head of the new yellow-blazed Stone Wall Trail. Find an open patch framed by fieldstones, the handiwork perhaps of Irish immigrant Patrick Dugan. Once here, *Betul* find *a* marker.

*Difficulty*: Moderate (one stream crossing) *Time*: 40 minutes out and back

1. Found Reason 6? Don’t hem and haw. Continue along Purple Rim Road to near Old Man Dugan’s homestead. Follow the orange loop to find a place that is lovely, dark, and deep, and still free of woolly adelgid blight.

Now look for a sign and the Reason 7 marker.

*Difficulty*: Challenging *Time*: 1.25 hours out and back

1. Soak up some nature, befriend a frog, sight a salamander, and watch a warbler as you travel a short distance along the blue-blazed Woodcock Trail, the recently extended entry to this 250-acre conservation complex. Marvel at the area's bird diversity, but don't forget about the beavers. Follow a short, often squishy side trail to find Reason 8.

*Difficulty*: Easy *Time*: 10 minutes out and back

1. Next, take your Skiff across the pond or continue on the Woodcock Trail. Then saunter south along a twice-blazed old milk road. Bear right (seriously, there could be one) on red, then flip a coin to choose your route at the meadow. Ramble on! The Reason 9 marker flanks the trail’s farthest and lowest reaches.

*Difficulty*: Moderate *Time*: 2 hours out and back

1. All this exploring making you peckish? Feast your eyes, fill your basket, say hi to Megan, and Sign Up for a share!

*Difficulty*: Easy *Time*: Not much

1. Step lively past a silty backwater, a greengrower’s haunt, and a tangle of sun-seeking seedlings, and set out on a leisurely walk to the River “Beyond the Mountain Place.” This short trail honors one of the Founders of the Kent Land Trust. Sick-a more clues? Just look about to find Reason 11.

*Difficulty*: Easy *Time*: 20 minutes out and back

1. The preserve hiding Reason 12 sounds empty but is full of life. Admire the towering colonial housing complex and the low down nest boxes that serve as summer retreats for at least two avian species. Scores of dark blue neo-tropical swallows like the high life; mating pairs of lighter-blue thrushes prefer the single-family dwellings below. Find your marker somewhere in the mix.

*Difficulty*: Easy *Time*: 10 minutes out and back

1. Park your car, saddle up your dromedary, and head south on a road running high above a sprightly stream – one of the purest in all of Connecticut. Before the first fork, take a short, steep side trail down to the right to locate Reason 13. From this point, finding the marker falls on you.

*Difficulty:* Moderate/briefly Challenging *Time:* 30 minutes out and back

1. Still feeling courageous and strong? Decamp from Reason 13 and continue farther south to seek one of KLT’s core purposes. Burst out of the woods and cast an eye across a scattering of grasses and wildflowers.

If you made it this far your quest for Reason 14 is bound to bear fruit.

*Difficulty:* Moderate *Time:* 1 hour out and back

1. To find this small but special preserve, take yourself to the Flanders District. Go up a country road whose name reminds us of the tight-knit clan of fine artists who once lived and worked in this neighborhood. Park at the kiosk at the very top. Test your metal during a steady, often steep climb up old roads and newer paths. Look for Reason 15 after the first long descent, at which point the evidence of Kent’s early iron industry will be mounding. Hike back to the start, or, for a longer adventure, continue through to Cobble Vista.

*Difficulty:* Most Challenging *Time:* 1.25 hours out and back (or 2+ hours for the long route)

1. Need a break before the final two? Grab a seat on our bench, live in the moment, and take in the view. You’ll see the Housy, a hoop house, and a Reservation, too. And you’ll be close to the KLT crew.

Look below for Reason 16 and something for you.

*Difficulty:* Easy *Time:* 2 minutes up and down

1. A favorite of Moon Gazers and strolling explorers today, this meadowish preserve and associated riverbank were slated more than a century ago to become the site of a hydroelectric plant powering New Britain industry. Thanks to forward-thinking conservationists, the land is now part of the viewshed for a national trail, a habitat for ground-nesting birds, a place to cross-country ski, and a fine spot for picnics. No trails today, but who knows…

Cross the front meadow and look about for marker 17. Note: Access road may be closed on summer weekends.

*Difficulty:* Easy *Time:* 10 minutes out and back

1. In the shadows of an old tobacco barn, at Kent’s own Garden of Eden, find Reason 18. Here your green-thumbed neighbors tend bountiful organic garden plots, providing healthful food not only for their own tables but also for the Kent Food Bank. Out of respect to the tillers, please stay outside the fence to find marker 18 and bring your Exploration Challenge to a satisfying end.

*Difficulty:* Very Easy *Time:* 2 minutes out and back