



## We're the Birthday!

Dear friend,

Happy 250th! I hope you participate this weekend, wherever you stay. The Town of Kent is going all out to mark this point in the history of our nation ([schedule here](#)).



Meanwhile - is July 4th really summer's mid-point? Our weather this week surely feels peak (dare we hope). But one aspect of summer in Kent is only just getting started: juicy, local-grown fruits and vegetables! Connecticut's northwest corner is blessed with a relative abundance of farmers serving the community. And when field-grown tomatoes arrive one just might hear cheers resounding across the hills.

Few stop to think about why this celebration is possible. And how it could turn out very differently.

Connecticut's farm soils have been decimated and continue to be threatened by development, due in part to the comparative ease of building on flat, already-cleared, percable soils. Over the 30 year period from 1985 to 2015 Connecticut lost approximately 45,000 acres of agricultural fields. Current USDA data indicates that only a smidge over 372K farmland acres remain, which nonetheless generate considerable economic activity: CT farms provide 31,000 jobs and \$751M annually in market value.

Given expected climate impacts on our current food systems, preserving the option to grow locally seems wise. The Kent Land Trust and our CT peers include farmland conservation within our missions. Farmland soil, even while fallow or filled in with shrubs and trees, remains viable whereas development negates this possibility.

But most land trusts go further: encouraging and even underwriting active farming on conserved land (so-called "working lands") as a significant public benefit. KLT's lease of our Route 7 farm to Sarah Lang's [Conundrum Farm](#) fits that model. Conserved land sustainably operated supports the local economy through Sarah's robust farmstand and restaurant supply business (we're not mad, either, that everything coming out of those fields is vibrantly, highly delicious). Stop into the farmstand during staffed or self-serve hours and join Sarah's email list by contacting her at [conundrumfarmct@gmail.com](mailto:conundrumfarmct@gmail.com).



For more information Contact:  
Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 713-2503  
<http://www.ctgrown.gov>



CROP	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Apples									
Asparagus									
Beans									
Beets									
Blueberries									
Broccoli									
Cabbage									
Cantaloupe									
Carrots									
Cauliflower									
Cherries									
Cucumbers									
Eggplant									
Garlic									
Greens									
Herbs									
Leeks									
Lettuce									

CROP	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mushrooms (year round)									
Nectarines									
Onions									
Peaches									
Pears									
Peppers									
Plums									
Potatoes									
Raspberries									
Spinach									
Strawberries									
Summer Squash									
Sweet Corn									
Tomatoes									
Greenhouse Tomatoes									
Turritips									
Watermelon									
Winter Squash									

Connecticut supports a wonderful variety of crops!

Click on this chart to see when your favorites are available.

Challenge yourself to see how many you can find at local markets and farms!

More info about locations and products can be found through the State [on this webpage](#) and through [CT Grown!](#)

To triple the bottom line, for the past six years KLT has partnered with Conundrum and its predecessor Marble Valley Farm to grow designated crops picked fresh for Kent's Food Bank. According to nonprofit [Feeding America](#), the number of U.S. residents experiencing food insecurity increased by 40% since 2020, and Connecticut has the highest rate of food insecurity in New England. Key drivers of this disparity are increasing food prices, inadequate state spending, and severely reduced federal support. Fully one in seven people in Connecticut are food insecure.

KLT is proud to join many Kent nonprofits and countless individuals supporting those in need in our community. All funds raised when we table at the Chamber of Commerce's Friday Farmers Market and host community concerts with the Town's Park and Recreation Department are designated to support our [Food Security Initiative](#). If you are interested in contributing or getting involved let us know at [info@kentlandtrust.org](mailto:info@kentlandtrust.org). If you are experiencing food insecurity, reach out to Kent's [Department of Social Services](#) to access the Food Bank and other assistance.

## Food Insecurity is Real

Help us Be Part of the Solution

Conundrum Farm, with support from the Kent Community Fund, Kent Lions, Kent Social Services, and Kent Land Trust, provides weekly produce deliveries to the Kent Food Bank as well as shopping cards for use on-site at the Farmstand

Because all of us deserve to eat fresh, healthy, safe, and ecologically raised food - grown right here at home



Donate to help reach our goal of \$15,000 for the growing season



Thanks so much for your support!

# What's Growing at Kent's Community Garden?



As an aspect of farmland preservation KLT hosts Kent's Community Garden, for growers who don't have private land to work or just love the social aspect of gardening with others.



Well into its second decade the Kent Community Garden continues to grow—both within its fertile beds and through the connection it creates throughout our community. This season, more than 25 gardeners are growing fresh produce, many giving back by donating harvests to the Kent Food Bank.

The garden is a true example of sustainability in action. Gardeners use a three-part composting system to enrich the soil and reduce waste, while rain barrels capture and conserve water. Thanks to the generous support of Kent Greenhouse and Gardens, water run from their nearby location provides most of what's needed to keep the garden thriving throughout the season.

Just outside the Community Garden, two purple martin nesting complexes provide another opportunity for community members to connect with nature. If you haven't encountered purple martins before, know that they are a very social species, expert at aerial acrobatics, and carrying on a cheerful chatter that provides a delightful backdrop while weeding and watering. Their "condos" are maintained by [Marvelwood School's](#) "Avian Ambassadors" and community volunteers under the guidance of Laurie Doss, a dedicated Kent Land Trust board member and Chair of Marvelwood's Science Department. Together, they support local bird conservation while creating a unique educational opportunity for students and the broader community. Similar structures maintained by this collaborative group pepper Kent including atop Skiff Mountain and in Kent Hollow including at [Lake Waramaug Country Club](#).

From seedlings to harvest, and from gardens to bird habitats, the Kent Community Garden reflects the spirit of stewardship at the heart of Kent Land Trust—bringing people together, supporting local food security, and caring for the land we all share. To support the garden, get involved with purple martins, or share your interest in growing in the 2027 season, get in touch with us at 860.592.0011 or [info@kentlandtust.org](mailto:info@kentlandtust.org)!



## Volunteer Workday

Join Stewardship Associate Zach Orluk at our Tobin Preserve for a volunteer workday focused on caring for the history and ecology of this landscape. We'd like your help to clear invasive vines off historic stone walls, and restore the trails in the meadow.

**Audrey and Robert Tobin Preserve**

**Saturday, July 18th  
9:00 AM**

All are welcome, your help is so important to us!  
Registration is required to communicate weather-related changes.

**<https://bit.ly/KLTactivities>**

**[info@kentlandtrust.org](mailto:info@kentlandtrust.org) or 860-592-0011**

This activity is for ages 10 and up.

REGISTER HERE



Directions to KLT's Tobin Preserve.  
Take Route 7 North to Carter Rd., take the first left onto Dugan Rd. Drive slowly to the top of Dugan Road, turn right, and proceed to the parking at the end of the Preserve's access road.

The preserve map can be found at:  
<https://www.kentlandtrust.org/anchor-page-for-tobin-preserve>

Please wear sturdy footwear, bring loppers, clippers, and a water bottle.  
We will provide light refreshments.



# Reflection on Skiff Mountain

Take a slow and intentional walk with us in nature where attention is gently anchored to breath, body, and surroundings to cultivate calm, presence, and connection.

Saturday, July 25th  
9:00 AM

<https://bit.ly/KLTactivities>

Registration is required to communicate weather-related changes.

[info@kentlandtrust.org](mailto:info@kentlandtrust.org) or 860-592-0011

## KLT's Skiff Mountain South

Follow Skiff Mountain Road to the top of the hill just before the Marvelwood School soccer fields.

The preserve map can be found at:  
<https://www.kentlandtrust.org/anchor-page-for-skiff-mountain-south>

REGISTRATION LINK



At just under 3 miles roundtrip, the Skiff Mountain South trail is an easy to moderate hike with a view. Please wear sturdy footwear and layered clothing. Bring a water bottle and carry an open mind ready to slow down and take in the experience!

There are many ways to get involved in enjoying and caring for Kent's amazing environment - find us at the Farmers Market, on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), out on the trails, and here [at this email](#) whenever you have questions, feedback, or ideas.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday weekend!  
*Connie Manes, Executive Director*



[Visit our website to donate online](#)



Try email marketing for free today!