



KELLY ALISHA TOBIN INTERNSHIP SUMMER 2026

About the Kent Land Trust

The Kent Land Trust (KLT) is a small environmental nonprofit organization in the hills of Northwest Connecticut. We are dedicated to preserving natural resources through land protection, stewardship, public outreach and education, and research. KLT is volunteer-led by Kent residents who serve on its board, committees, and as volunteers. Our staff include an Executive Director, Land Manager, Program Manager, Stewardship Manager and Office Manager. Our focus on community service leads us to partner with many local and regional nonprofits and local government.

Internship Description

Each summer, the Kent Land Trust offers a paid college internship honoring Kelly Alisha Tobin. This conservation-focused program fosters personal and professional growth through hands-on experience not typically available in an academic setting. KLT has been fortunate to work with interns whose work has had a meaningful impact, both on their own growth and on KLT's mission. Several of KLT's interns have gone on to further study and work in the conservation field.



The Summer 2026 Kelly Alisha Tobin Internship will run for 8-10 weeks, 25 hours per week, from approximately mid-May through early August. Pay is \$18 per hour.

Past Intern Spotlight - Alison Robey: Alison completed her internship in summer 2017. She helped design and build trails on two KLT preserves, banded purple martins as part of KLT's ongoing participation in global research studying this bird species, and reimagined how trail kiosks can function by adding QR code-activated links. She also partnered with AmeriCorps volunteers on local conservation projects. Alison is now pursuing a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale University, where she researches using ecological theory to better predict the risk that climate change poses to different communities.

In the past few years, interns conducted research on birds, insects, native plants, planned and hosted public programs and volunteer workdays, created outreach materials, and attended regional conservation gatherings including with other interns working in the area. They attended a board meeting, learned about nonprofit governance, and gained insight into legal aspects of land protection.

Duties and Expectations: Depending on your project (see below), duties will vary. Since we are a small staff, flexibility is required. We meet weekly as a team to share updates, coordinate projects, and brainstorm about newly identified needs and opportunities. Training in areas related to the job responsibilities (e.g., basic mapping applications, plant identification and ecosystems studies) may be available if desired. The ability to work occasional weekends or evenings is helpful.

All interns must:

- Have a valid driver's license and their own vehicle
- Be able to work independently and as part of a team
- Be able to perform moderately strenuous manual labor
- Be comfortable working outside and walking on uneven ground
- Be proficient on a computer.

Internship Projects:

Interns are encouraged to pursue a special project as part of their work at KLT. If you have an idea for a project that will fit our mission and advance your professional development, pitch it to us, we like creativity!

Some possible project topics could include:

- Pollinator pathways -- Expand our current pollinator pathways project initially implemented by a past summer intern. This could include fieldwork on habitat restoration, expanding current pollinator gardens, community outreach, and educational programming.
- Inventory tree species across KLT preserved properties with a focus on identifying notable trees, including large, old, rare, or ecologically significant specimens. Documenting these trees would help build a baseline record of forest composition and biodiversity.
- Data collection – Deploy trail cameras on KLT preserved properties to passively collect wildlife images over the course of the summer. The resulting data could be used to monitor species presence, seasonal activity patterns, and habitat use to inform long-term stewardship and conservation planning.
- Equity in public access -- We are in the process of acquiring a new property near a pond with great potential. We would love for an intern to help us research and design an all-access trail on this property with signage of what wildlife is observed on this property.
- Land conservation and affordable housing -- Explore the opportunities and challenges associated with bringing together the land conservation and affordable housing movements.
- Stewardship, trailbuilding and invasive plant removal.

How to Apply:

To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Melissa Cherniske, Program Manager at kltmelissac@gmail.com.

In your cover letter, be sure to introduce yourself, explain your academic and professional goals, and propose one or more projects that will support your growth and KLT's mission. We look forward to hearing from you!

