Keney Park Sustainability Project (KPSP) is a local nonprofit organization that has engaged the community in a variety of areas including: health, education, waste stream reduction, forest management, and urban agriculture. These programs have a primary focus in the North Hartford Promise Zone, one of 20 opportunity areas in the country. KPSP’s main goals are: to support the sustainable development of community-based food systems, to protect and preserve urban forest by providing individuals employable forest management skills, and to educate families about the impact of the environment on mental, physical and spiritual health. With a strong presence in the community, coupled with previous success in environmental education and site management, KPSP has the experience and expertise to organize and mobilize its partners and the local community. KPSP’s work involved improving environmental conditions and increasing community access to nature, which in turn decreases local residents’ potential risk of harm from possible environmental hazards. Moreover, these participants gain hands-on experience working in habitat reforestation, increasing environmental stewardship, and improving appreciation and awareness for sustainable efforts. KPSP has a history of successful collaboration with its partners. KPSP is represented on the Climate Stewardship Council by its director, Herb Virgo. In this position, Herb and KPSP provided invaluable input in the Climate Action Plan (CAP), and its work has been featured as a model for success in the CAP. In order to implement CAP goals, KPSP works with the Office of Sustainability on various food, landscape, water, and waste strategies, and this project is expected to further efforts in several of these areas. KPSP also works closely with the Department of Public Works, which leads public green space operations and maintenance across Hartford.

- In 2019 KPSP focused on expanding its Animal Husbandry Program at the Keney Park Urban Agriculture Education Site. KPSP also upgraded it’s aquaponics system and implements a mushroom production room. These projects were funded by the Cigna Service Operations Department.

- Similarly, KPSP is excited to announce a new relationship with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. As a result, KPSP has been able to increase vegetable production and distribution; increased vegetable production has paved the way for KPSP to develop a long term relationship with the Hartford School System and their Food and Nutrition Program. As a result of this successful relationship, the program was featured on CT NBC. Additionally, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care was a major sponsor for the KPSP inaugural fundraiser.

- Another highlight of 2019 was the partnership with the City of Hartford Office of Sustainability and the Mayor’s Youth Service Corps. Together, we distributed over 300 rain barrels, dozens of composters and planted over 100 trees as part part of the National Fish and Wildlife Fund's Long Island Sound Future Fund Grant.

- Representatives from KPSP and DEEP Forestry Division traveled to Baltimore to attend the The Urban Wood Academy. The Academy focused on urban wood utilization strategies that will be implemented as part of the Keney Park Urban Wood Utilization pilot project.

- Additionally, KPSP was invited to participate in the live working group as a part of Hartford 400; the Conservation and Development Plan for the City of Hartford. KPSP was able to contribute to goals in the areas of food insecurity, health, and forestry. KPSP looks forward to continuing these relationships in addition to the roll out the long-awaited KPSP mobile teaching kitchen. Grow with is in 2020 and be a part of the movement to reconnect people to the healing power of nature.
Cigna has been KPSP’s largest funder for the past three years providing financial support in addition bi-monthly volunteer groups. The current year’s funding provided for a mushroom cultivation room, expansion of the invasive species/goat program and chickens to support KPSP’s current composting program. The relationship with Cigna has allowed KPSP to grow tremendously in addition to expanding KPSP’s ability to support other community based organization and community gardens. Funding allowed for the UConn Engineering students to upgrade the KPSP aquaponics system. 2019 funding has created additional income streams and increased vegetable production.

During the implementation phase, the part-time project coordinator will be KPSP, who will oversee the education of students and youth, the community workshops, and the distribution event. For the proposed project, members of the Corps will assist KPSP in the management of volunteers and community members in the distribution of green infrastructure materials. Corps members will be supervised by KPSP who will train them in green infrastructure and urban forestry. This training will provide field experience and will also offer the opportunity to develop transferrable skills that can be utilized in other industries.

The awarded funding will be used to support teaching community members how to prepare healthy meals, featuring produce from the KPSP gardens including vegetables not traditionally offered at neighborhood markets. KPSP efforts intend to increase awareness of the health benefits of different types of fresh foods and the knowledge of how to prepare them. There are several cooking courses offered throughout the community but are underutilized due to access, timing and daycare. The KPSP mobile teaching kitchen plans to address these barriers by creating versatile programming that makes it easier for community members to participate at various location and times.

The purpose of funding from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEEP) to the Keney Park Sustainability Program (KPSP) is so that KPSP can undertake a pilot project on the use of a portable sawmill to produce marketable lumber and other wood products from trees harvested in and around Hartford. The focus will be on trees from Keney Park and other nearby locations. The sawyer shall work with the KPSP employee until the KPSP employee has demonstrated sufficient competence in the use of the sawmill to be able to set up and run the sawmill safely and effectively on his or her own. This training shall also include training in sawmill and lumberyard management, to include such facets as proper wood storage, lumberyard safety and equipment maintenance.
At KPSP we continue to learn and grow each year. We strengthen the areas of our program that have the greatest community impact while shifting from those areas or activities that do not. As a result, our focus in 2019 has been to increase produce grown for the Hartford School System and the overall development and restoration of our urban forest. The KPSP Urban Agriculture Education and Wood Materials Management sites in addition to the volunteer work force will continue to serve as our anchor activities as we continue to accomplish our mission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Produce grown Overall (pounds)</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce to Hartford Food Systems (pounds)</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce to Hartford Public Schools (pounds)</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrup produced (gallons)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey harvested (gallons)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logs averted from the landfill</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails maintained (miles)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees planted</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden beds built or repaired</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signs made</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture built (benches/picnic tables)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certifications

**CT Tree Warden**
The tree warden's responsibilities include approving the planting, pruning or removal of trees under his or her authority. Public safety is among the chief concerns of the tree warden.

**Certified Supervising Forest Products Harvester**
According to the Forest Practices Act, a certified supervising forest products harvester may: solicit the purchase of commercial forest products. Execute oral or written contracts and agreements for the purchase of commercial forest products.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers engaged</td>
<td>889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Groups engaged</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tours Provided</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools engaged</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners engaged</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition Demonstrations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking engagements</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Videos produced</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV/Radio engagements</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARTNERSHIPS

Saint Joseph University
UConn MBA Net Impact
University of Hartford “Helping Hawks”
Avon Old Farms School
Pomfret High School
Travelers Insurance
University of Vermont Upward Bound
UConn Department of Public Policy Students
UConn Law School
UConn G.I.V.E.S.
Cigna Service Operations
Robinson & Cole
Aetna Insurance Company
Cigna TECDP
Cigna Actuarial Internship Program

Community Valley Baptist Church
UConn Medical First Year Students
CREC Impact Academy
Trinity College "Do It Day"
Pratt & Whitney
Compass Youth Builders
Deloitte Professional Services
United Technologies
United Way "Day of Caring"
ESPN / Disney
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
The Hartford Project
Hartford Yard Goats
Hands on Hartford Dash for a Difference
Prudential Insurance

UConn Engineering -- Clock Tower Project
UConn Engineering -- Aquaponics System Upgrade
UConn Engineering -- Solar Thermal Water Heating System
UConn Engineering -- Clock Tower Lighting Project
UConn MBA -- Organization Data Analytics
UConn Digital Media & Design -- History Harvest, A New Keney Park House, Keney Park History
UConn Sustainable Community Food Systems Minor -- Educational Signage for KPSP, Experiential Learning Interface
UConn Urban and Community Studies -- Keney Park Survey and Initial Assessment of Usability
UConn Spring Valley Student Farm -- Sharing of food sustainability models and bee workshops
UConn Graduate Student -- Bee Research and Workshop Design and Implementation
UConn MBA -- Business Strategy Hakathon
UConn Psychological Sciences -- National Science Foundation Grant Submission re: Conflict Resolution
UConn CCEI -- Marketing, Data Entry & Graphic Design
UConn Political Science (Crime and Justice Class) -- Community Policing Study
Husky Nutrition -- Mobile Teaching Kitchen Support & Nutrition Demonstrations
UConn Sociology -- Opposing Viewpoints Bench work
UConn G.I.V.E.S -- Volunteering & Service Learning
UConn Medical School -- Volunteering & Service Learning
UConn Law School -- Volunteering & Service Learning
Net Impact/UConn Grad -- Volunteering & Service Learning
UConn GAPPS -- Volunteering & Service Learning
(Graduate Association for Public Policy Students)