An aerial photograph of the Keney Park Sustainability Project. The image shows a large, rectangular, white, translucent greenhouse structure in the center. To its left is a smaller, similar structure. In front of the main greenhouse is a large, rectangular garden bed divided into many smaller sections, some of which are planted with green plants. To the right of the greenhouse is a paved area with a white car parked. Further right is a building with a dark roof and a small outdoor seating area with blue chairs and tables. The entire area is surrounded by lush green trees and grass. A dark blue banner with white text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

# KENEY PARK SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Hartford  
Foundation  
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

Together for good.®

## Major Sponsors



Harvard Pilgrim  
HealthCare Foundation



Cigna®





2019

## WHERE WE ARE NOW

*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.*

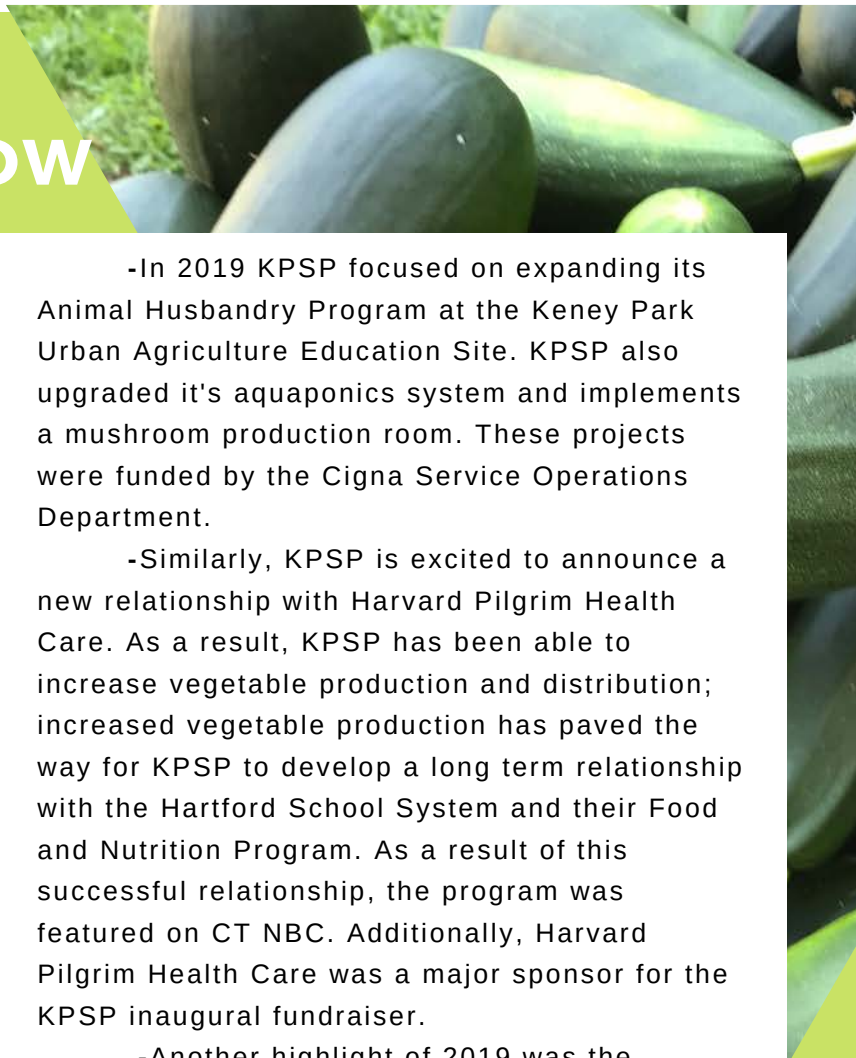
-In 2019 KPSP focused on expanding its Animal Husbandry Program at the Keney Park Urban Agriculture Education Site. KPSP also upgraded its aquaponics system and implements a mushroom production room. These projects were funded by the Cigna Service Operations Department.

-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 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.





# 2019 FUNDED PROJECTS



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 transferable skills that can be utilized in other industries.

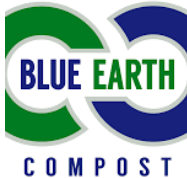


The awarded funding will be used to support teaching community members how to prepare healthy meals, featuring produce from the KPSP gardens including vegetables not traditionally offered at neighborhood markets. KPSP efforts intend to increase awareness of the health benefits of different types of fresh 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.

## Valued Supporters



Konover Coppola Family

Macy Painter Family



Robinson+Cole



# 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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.



## 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.



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

Volunteers engaged	889
Volunteer Groups engaged	4
Tours Provided	23
Schools engaged	8
Partners engaged	18
Workshops	6
Nutrition Demonstrations	6
Speaking engagements	4
Videos produced	6
TV/Radio engagements	4





2019

## 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)

# UConn



