A future where fresh food and the land to grow it on are available to everyone. A future where food production and land stewardship are both ecologically sustainable and socially just.

SCLT turns that shared vision into reality by providing land, resources, and information to help people grow food. You make this possible by contributing your time, donations, and heart.

We take your commitment to our work seriously. That’s why we’re always improving and expanding our services. In 2015, we continued to:

- Get food to people who need it most. Food grown on SCLT land is affordable, healthy, and reflects Rhode Island’s culturally diverse tastes. It finds its way into our communities in so many ways—farmers markets, CSAs, stores, and restaurants.

- Create economic opportunity. We offer land, education, technical assistance, and marketing support so that people can grow food for themselves, their families and neighbors.

- Expand youth opportunities to learn and grow. Over the summer and after school our children’s and youth programs offer meaningful education and employment. Youth staff get hands-on training in growing food, planning a healthy diet, and advocating for food justice.

- Build community gardens. Last year all of our gardens had waiting lists. To keep up with the demand, we continually search for new sites, especially where need is greatest. In 2015 we set down roots in Pawtucket, where we made land available to both community gardeners and urban farmers.

None of this would have happened without your generous support. We at SCLT—gardeners, farmers, staff, board, and volunteers—thank you for giving us the means to improve lives and build healthier, stronger communities.

With Gratitude,

Louis Raymond    Margaret DeVos
Board President    Executive Director

Leadership

If you’re reading this annual report it’s because you share Southside Community Land Trust’s vision for a healthier future.

OUR 2015 TEAM

Board of Directors
Louis Raymond, President
Rochelle Lee, Vice President
Timothy Kearns, Secretary
Patrick Mattingly, Treasurer
Greg Dantas
Arildo Goncalves
Robert Groch
Brooke Havens
Russ Ricci
Manya Rubinstein
Debbie Schimberg
Terry Sullivan
Emmanuel Ventura-Urena
George Watson

Staff
Margaret DeVos, Executive Director
Jenny Boone, Grants & Outreach Manager
Rob Booz, Community Growers Director
Laura Bozzi, Food, Farms & Youth Director
Andrew Cook, Farm Network Associate
Nayeema Eusuf, Assistant Farm Steward
Ray Pang, Summer Associate
Rich Pederson, City Farm Steward
Shana Santow, Development Director
Becky Scheusner, Summer Associate
Michelle Walker, Operations & Development Associate
Pat Walker, City Farm Apprentice

Youth Staff
Zoraida Diaz
Dasia Feliciano
Noel Frias
U’nyece Hazard
Jamirah King
Dalia Medina
Sergio Perez
Johnny Ramos
Jahmell Rhu
Andy Salazar
Jarializ Taveras

FRONT AND BACK COVER PHOTOS: Shana Santow
INTERIOR PHOTOS: Lucas Foglia, Richard Howard & Shana Santow
DESIGN: bottlerocket design group
SCLT-owned or managed community gardens & farms

Providence Community Growers Network Gardens

Neighborhood hubs

Farmers Markets

COMMUNITY GARDENS & URBAN FARMS

SCLT has transformed nearly 8 acres of urban land into 52 community gardens and urban farms since 1981. This includes 21 parcels we own or directly manage, plus those we help to manage in partnerships with schools, affordable housing organizations, religious and community groups. Four community gardens serve as neighborhood hubs where we distribute resources and offer free workshops through the Providence Community Growers Network.

In all, these gardens and farms enable roughly 1,200 people, including backyard and container gardeners, to grow their own healthy and affordable food.

CITY FARM is a ¾-acre sustainable demonstration farm, a thriving center of biodiversity, and a living classroom for people of all ages who want to learn about environmentally sustainable farming practices. City Farm is also the site of our annual Rare & Unusual Plant Sale. Over two days each May more than 1,500 people come to choose among 20,000 organic vegetable starts for their own gardens. Throughout the season produce grown at City Farm is sold at three Providence farmers markets and to some of the area’s most renowned restaurants.

URBAN EDGE FARM is a 50-acre farm in Cranston, RI. While the RI Department of Environmental Management owns the land, SCLT maintains it and offers affordable leases to seven sustainable farmers. Their bounty helps fuel the local food system (and the economy) by stocking our farmers markets, restaurants and CSAs with tasty, fresh and exciting local food.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS strengthen the local economy while giving countless individuals access to land and the opportunity to become stewards of our environment. We develop gardens and farms in partnership with organizations such as Davey Lopes Recreation Center, DownCity Design, the Nature Conservancy, the State of RI Division of Agriculture, the City of Providence, Dorcas International Institute of RI, Genesis Center, the Met School, Pawtucket Housing Authority, Providence After School Alliance, South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, West Elmwood Housing Development Corp., and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Youth Program

For years City Farm has offered meaningful summer internships for neighborhood youth, all of whom went on to graduate from high school and either continue their studies in college or find employment. In 2015 we increased and formalized our youth program by offering part-time, paid positions throughout the year. In 2015 a dozen youth staff undertook a variety of projects: working at City Farm; helping to maintain community gardens; visiting policymakers at the State house, assisting with our children’s summer programs; and conducting a door-to-door awareness campaign about neighborhood farmers markets.

“This program isn’t simply about learning how to grow crops… It affects our personal life, the community, and the coming generation.”

2015 youth staff member
Our Community
BY THE NUMBERS

Our Families

25+
LANGUAGES
ARE SPOKEN IN
OUR GARDENS

Arabic, Bassa, Burmese, Chin, Creole, English, French, Haitian, Hmong, Karen, Khmer, Kikongo, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Kpelle, Kru, Kunama, Lao, Lingala, Nepali, Persian, Spanish, Somali, Tigrinya, Vai

85%
OF OUR GARDENERS FALL BELOW
THE POVERTY LINE

Farm to Market
Food grown on SCLT land is available:

AT 13 MARKETS
Armory Park Farmers Market
Atleboro Farmers Market
Broad Street Farmers Market
Brown University Farmers Market
Coastal Growers Market
Fertile Underground
Hope Street Farmers Market
Market Mobile
Pawtucket Wintertime Market
Pawtuget Village Farmers Market
Sankofa World Market
West Warwick Farmers Market
Woonsocket Wintertime Market

TO ROUGHLY
100 LOCAL RESTAURANTS
& FOOD BUSINESSES

FARMS offer Community Supported Agriculture Shares (CSAs)

6
• Big Train
• Blue Skys
• Pak Express
• Scratch
• Front Step
• Zephyr

SCLT AT A GLANCE

52
GARDENS
in SCLT network

5
URBAN FARMS
• City Farm
• Front Step
• Manton Bend
• Sky Hill
• Wilson

7
GROWERS
at Urban
Edge Farm

SCLT enables small-scale urban farmers to bring their produce to market through three collaboratives: Little City Growers, Sankofa and the Providence Community Market Growers Collaborative.

8
ACRES OF URBAN LAND

3
SCLT-supported market collaboratives
nearly

8
FARMS
full or
part time
FARMERS MARKET GROWERS
on SCLT land

25

25%
OF OUR GARDENERS FALL BELOW
THE POVERTY LINE

85%
Market Growers Support

In 2015 we strengthened and expanded our support for refugee and immigrant growers new to farming in the United States. In January and February we led a market growers class for these farmers, all of whom were growing on SCLT land. In the summer we invited them to participate in a collaborative market stand at the Sankofa World Market in the West End. By aggregating their produce, these individual growers had enough to sell at a market stand every week. In addition, SCLT staff mentored the growers in marketing and customer relations skills needed for a successful farmers market operation. All of the farmers plan to be part of the collaborative booth at Sankofa in 2016.

Community Gardens

We bought a 10,000 sq. ft. plot at the corner of Somerset and Hayward Streets where our Youth Enterprise Farm and a market grower plot will soon be located. SCLT and youth staff led a community planning meeting to gather input about how the site can best meet the needs of the surrounding community. SCLT staff also built a new garden at Dexter Street with support from the US Department of Agriculture, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This garden hosts nine community gardeners and two market growers. SCLT and youth staff also rebuilt 10 community garden beds at the Davey Lopes Recreation Center.

Galego Court

We entered into an agreement with the Pawtucket Housing Authority to manage the 1½-acre farm and community garden at Galego Court. The site includes three geodesic dome greenhouses, a classroom building and ample space for a community garden, market grower plots and a demonstration/production farm. We were busy at Galego in 2015, running a children’s garden program, clearing weeds and trash, testing the soil, preparing garden beds and recruiting a new market grower.

Composting

In partnership with EcoRI, White Electric Coffee, New Harvest Coffee and the Providence Parks Department, we continued to collect and compost food scraps and other organic material at City Farm, which enriched the farm’s soil for the current growing season. In 2015 we brought in over 12 tons of organic matter, making City Farm the second largest food scrap handler in Rhode Island.

Farmland Access

We moved a farmer who had been growing on scattered garden beds throughout Providence onto Urban Edge Farm, bringing the number of farmers now operating there to seven. They are crucial to our work, sharing education, tools, and technical assistance with each other and with new SCLT growers. We also cleared Field 3 at Urban Edge, which will open up 4 new acres of farmland by the end of 2016.

Better Health & Gardens

We continued our Better Health & Gardens program, a practical nutrition education and healthy cooking course for adults receiving WIC benefits. In 2015 we also implemented a new program through Lifespan clinics to educate children at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes about healthy nutritional choices.
Southside Community Land Trust is deeply grateful to hundreds of contributors who generously support our work each year. For a current list of donors, please go to www.southsideclt.org.
Our Mission

Southside Community Land Trust provides access to land, education and other resources so people in Rhode Island can grow food in environmentally sustainable ways and create community food systems where locally produced, affordable, and healthy food is available to all.