



Growing For Good

Fall 2025

BOOSTING OUR COMMUNITY GARDENS NETWORK

This season, three of SCLT's gardens received major upgrades to improve both functionality and gardener satisfaction, made possible by generous support through grants from Navigant Credit Union and the City of Providence. Brattle Street Garden received a complete rebuild with help from Building Futures and dedicated gardeners. The result is a garden that looks better than ever while giving each plot more space. At Potters Avenue Garden, SCLT installed a new fence to improve security and visual appearance. At Manton Bend Garden, we replaced rotting beds and added new amenities, including a table, signage, and benches.

Additional improvements included Down City Design's completion of a shade structure at Glenham Garden, with a roof and seating, while a USDA People's Garden grant enabled pathway regrading and new compost and beekeeping equipment at Galego Community Farm. These investments ensure SCLT's network continues supporting more than 350 gardeners and 1,600 family members with well-designed growing spaces.



FOOD HUB TAKES SHAPE AT URBAN EDGE FARM

After years of watching demand outstrip capacity, SCLT is set to break ground on a second game-changing food hub this one in Cranston.

The 4,000 square foot building at Urban Edge Farm will serve 155 farmers and partner organizations, and feature state-of-the-art processing facilities, walk-in coolers, and modern infrastructure that many small-scale producers could never afford individually, but will now share cooperatively.

This isn't just another farm building. In a state where agricultural land costs six times the national average and nearly 38% of all families face food insecurity, it represents a critical missing link in the local food chain.

SCLT's Cranston Food Hub is expected to be operational in 2027.



SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Dear SCLT FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

We imagine the question for most readers of this letter is, “How is SCLT doing given the changes in our country and the changes to the USDA?”

Most importantly, the gardens and farms are operating as they always have. They continue to provide common ground in neighborhoods, a quiet escape from daily challenges for individuals, economic opportunity for farmers and young people, and healthy food for the communities that host them.

Financially we are in the same position at the end of this year as we were at the beginning. In January 2025, we did the math and determined that the federal government supported about 40% of SCLT’s budget. We knew that support was going to erode and we would have to rely on our local community while also contracting operations and reaching out to new supporters.

Despite an extraordinary level of growth of local support over the past nine months, we have not yet been able to make up that 40% loss. And we are anticipating continued decreases in USDA support as multi-year contracts expire and are not renewed in the coming months and years.

Nonetheless, the important work of the 404 Broad Street Healthy Food Hub, our aggregation partnerships with local farmers, and our Veggie Rx and Free Farm Stand programs will continue. Because these programs serve so many people who don’t have adequate access to fresh, healthy and affordable food, our local funding community has found a way to support them. All of these important programs continue to forecast strong and meaningful futures. We also remain wholeheartedly committed to our community gardens and youth workforce development programs.

The bottom line here is that we still need your help. So please consider making a gift to our Annual Appeal today by returning the enclosed envelope or visiting our secure website, southsideclt.org/donate. Every gift will help us finish this year strong and move forward in 2026 with the best chance of success.

Thank you for so many years of friendship and support.



Rochelle
Rochelle Bates Lee
Board President



Margaret
Margaret DeVos
Executive Director

FARMERS MARKET SEASON IS HERE

Find SCLT farmers at these local outlets through late October



HOPE STREET

Providence
Saturdays 9am - 1pm



ARMORY PARK

Providence
Thursdays 3pm - 7pm



MARKET MOBILE

Monday & Thursday
Online Oder Days

BIOBLITZ SERIES REVEALS GARDEN'S HIDDEN WILDLIFE RESIDENTS

Peace and Plenty Community Garden's three-part BioBlitz has so far found 211 species living in the garden, from cuspidate earth moss and false turkey tail fungi to furry snake millipedes, red-bellied woodpeckers, and brown-bellied bumblebees. This citizen science initiative brought together environmentalists from the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, 15 Minute Field Trips, and the Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership, alongside gardeners, artists, musicians, and Wheeler School students. Made possible through a grant from Bloom Rhode Island, this species catalog helps gardeners better understand their wild neighbors while informing strategies to support threatened pollinator populations. Documented species contribute valuable data that will guide future conservation efforts and gardening practices while inspiring neighbors to support native species throughout Providence's Southside neighborhoods.

All are invited to participate in the third BioBlitz, taking place at Peace and Plenty Community Garden on October 11, 2025 at 9:00am.



YOU'RE INVITED: TAKING CARE OF COMMUNITY



**Taking
CARE OF
COMMUNITY**

September 20th, 2025
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Join us!

Let's stand united in lifting up
our community and
transforming lives through
collective support.

Free Admission

**393 BROAD STREET,
PROVIDENCE, RI 02907**

Free Farmers Market

- Storytelling
- Vendors
- Live Music
- Family Activities

Join Southside Community Land Trust and our friends for a day of community care, featuring storytelling, live music, vendors, and family activities. All are welcome, and it's free to attend.



FIND MORE EVENTS AT [SOUTHSIDECLT.ORG/EVENTS](https://southsideclt.org/events)

THANK YOU 2025 GROWING SEASON SPONSORS



WELLNESS AT RI'S LARGEST AFRICAN MARKET

West African Superstore, Rhode Island's largest African market, has officially enrolled in the state's innovative Eat Well Be Well program, bringing more opportunities for healthy eating to Providence's Southside community. Located in Southside Community Land Trust's Healthy Food Hub at 404 Broad Street, the superstore specializes in authentic West African ingredients, imports, and local produce. The Superstore will now offer SNAP recipients an offer SNAP recipients an additional 50 cents in benefits for every dollar spent on qualifying fruits and vegetables, up to \$25.

This enrollment program serves as a cultural bridge while honoring the food traditions of the families who rely on ingredients like fresh okra, leafy greens, and herbs that are staples in West African cuisine. The program ensures these nutritious foods become more accessible. Shoppers can maintain their traditional food practices while stretching their grocery budgets further, creating meaningful impact in a neighborhood where food security has long been a challenge.



READ MORE ON THESE STORIES: [SOUTHSIDECLT.ORG/NEWS](https://southsideclt.org/news)