



Growing For Good

Spring 2026

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THE FUTURE IS COMING INTO FOCUS

The roof is on. The windows are in. At Urban Edge Farm in Cranston, the first phase of **SCLT's second food hub is 75% complete**. The new building rising on the landscape is only part of our decades-long story at Urban Edge.

Next door, a renovated dairy barn is part of a longer-term vision for a full **farm infrastructure campus at Urban Edge**, where farmers can move seamlessly from harvest to processing to market. In future phases, the campus will offer kitchen, classroom, food processing, meeting, and shop space, where farmers can gather, learn, and build their operations. The campus will bring to life what our expanding network of farmers and long-time partners at the RI Department of Environmental Management have helped to envision: a complete, professional-grade infrastructure system designed around farmer needs.



Behind the scenes, our properties, farmer training, and food access teams are already deep in preparation mode, sourcing equipment, attending food safety trainings, and laying the groundwork for the rollout of a multilingual farmer training program. When the doors open at the new food hub this fall, **more than 150 agricultural producers across RI** will be ready to walk through them.



SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

DEAR FRIENDS,

SCLT's Annual Plant Sale is just around the corner, and we cannot wait. For three and a half decades, this event has brought together gardeners, farmers, families, neighbors and friends around a shared love of growing things. It is our biggest community gathering of the year, and it is a direct investment in everything we do. We hope to see you there, dirt under your fingernails and a flat of seedlings in your arms. For the collectors and new SCLT fans alike, we'll have a beautiful new t-shirt, designed by Youth & Education Programs Manager Chandelle Wilson, available exclusively at the Sale.

A year ago, we were doing difficult math. Federal funding had supported roughly 40% of SCLT's budget, and we knew that support was eroding. We made hard decisions, contracted some operations, and asked our local community to step up. You did. **Thank you.** Because of you, our work lives on and the local farmers, gardeners and food entrepreneurs we work with are still in operation with the strategies, resources and support they need to feed our communities.

We are not out of the woods. Federal funding continues to shrink, and we are asking you to stay with us in 2026. **Please use the enclosed envelope to make a gift, and make your mark on RI's food system.**

We are heading into this spring with a community that has proven, time and again, that it believes in our mission. Right now, across our gardens network, SCLT staff and garden leaders are joining gardeners for spring workdays, turning soil and readying beds for another growing season. It is one of our favorite times of year: the smell of earth waking up, the conversations that happen when people work side by side, the anticipation of everything that is about to grow. At Urban Edge Farm and Good Earth Farm, farmers are returning to their acreage, planning their seasons, and thinking about what they will bring to market.

What are your hopes, dreams and plans for 2026? How can a little soil, some new plants and a powerful community help? Let's stick together and stay in touch as we look forward to brighter days.

With hope and gratitude,



Rochelle
Rochelle Bates Lee
Board President



Margaret
Margaret DeVos
Executive Director



LET'S GROW!

EARTH DAY 2026

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM D'S SPOT

**APRIL 18, 2026
10AM - 1PM
404 BROAD STREET
PROVIDENCE, RI**

WORKSHOPS

DIVIDING PERENNIALS | BIOBLITZ
SOIL HEALTH | URBAN TREE WALK

RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL, FINANCIAL & SOCIAL
SERVICES COMMUNITY PARTNERS

& MORE!

GIVEAWAYS | MEMBERSHIP SIGN UP
COMPOST PICK UP | KIDS' ACTIVITIES



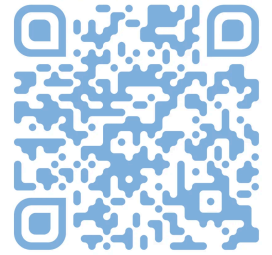
THE NEW & IMPROVED URBAN AGRICULTURE KICKOFF

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Spring is here and SCLT is teaming up with Northern RI Conservation District to host our new and improved Urban Agriculture Kick Off on **Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM** at 404 Broad Street in Providence. This free **Earth Day celebration** welcomes urban farmers, community gardeners, and growers of all experience levels for a morning of **skill-building and community connection**. Learn about dividing perennials, improving soil health, and caring for urban trees in hands-on workshops designed to help make this your most successful growing season yet. For those interested in documenting local biodiversity, join a BioBlitz at nearby Peace & Plenty Community Garden. Register: bit.ly/PPBioBlitz.

Community partners will be on-site offering **resources beyond gardening**, with giveaways and information to support health, financial wellness, and environmental stewardship. Bring your own containers and SCLT Members can load up on compost with help from staff. Attendees can become Members on-site. Raffles, interactive kids activities and food for purchase from D's Spot round out the day.

EVENT INFO



MEMBERSHIP: YOUR GROWING SEASON STARTS HERE

SCLT has been building a local food system rooted in equity for more than 45 years, and Members like you are a big part of what makes that possible. The farmers and gardeners at the heart of our work bring deep knowledge, resilience, and a vision for what a just food system can look like. **When you become a Member, you're investing directly in that leadership, the land, and that vision.**

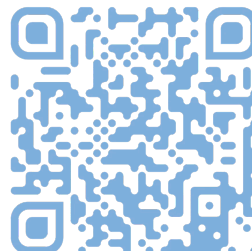
Membership connects you to that work and gives you real resources for your own growing season: **50 gallons of organic compost** (a \$110 value), free organic seeds, and **early access and a 10% discount at our annual Rare & Unusual Plant Sale.**

In a moment when funding for food systems work is increasingly under threat, **local support is everything.** Your membership sends a message: you believe in what we're building together.

southsideclt.org/join | members@southsideclt.org



MEMBERSHIP



RARE & UNUSUAL PLANT SALE RETURNS FOR 34TH SEASON

Last year, more than 1,200 people showed up on day one alone, and nearly 20,000 plants found new homes across Rhode Island. This May, we're doing it again! SCLT's 34th Annual Rare & Unusual Plant Sale returns to City Farm on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, from 10am to 2pm, rain or shine. Bring a friend, bring a neighbor, bring your whole block.

"The SCLT Plant Sale is such a special event because it allows people to gather around a common cause and celebrate the kick-off of the gardening season," says Plant Sale Committee Chair and Board Secretary Candace Cooney. "To me, it serves as a beacon of light in times when the world feels a little dark. This year, people can expect joyous energy, a sense of community, and of course, beautiful plants!"

Thousands of rare and unusual vegetable, herb, annual, and perennial plants will be available, with varieties you won't find at your typical garden center. SCLT members get a head start with exclusive early access on Saturday morning.

"The Plant Sale has been central to SCLT's mission for decades," says City Farm Steward Rich Pederson.

As SCLT's biggest fundraiser of the year, the Sale's reach extends well beyond the weekend: hundreds of remaining plants are donated to libraries, community centers, gardens, and social service organizations across RI.

Staff and volunteers speaking Spanish, French, Swahili, Kirundi, and Hmong will be on hand to welcome everyone. **Want to join the volunteer crew?** Sign up today!

Southside Community Land Trust's
34th Annual
Plant Sale
2026
City Farm Providence 168 West Clifford

May 16th & 17th
Saturday & Sunday
10am-2pm

members get in early & 10% discount!
rain or shine!

thousands of rare & unusual plants!

Live music!
Circle Of The Drum
Raffini Phil Edmonds
Chris Monti the mericans
Shira and Tabatha Rose
Community Music Works
Jake Haller 18 Wheeler
& other musical surprises!

EBT & SNAP benefits accepted

Become a member today! southsideclt.org

Design & illustration by Cathy G. Johnson

EVENT INFO



VOLUNTEER

