Connecting with Farmers

Before leaving the DJ Hub, Knowles adds, “I will plug the Kent State Farmers’ Market that’s being held in the DJ Hub this semester. You should definitely check it out.”

Kent State University has partnered with Haymaker Farmers’ Market to provide students with opportunities to learn about local farmers, select fresh produce and connect with the broader Kent community. In addition to food, the market includes crafts, educational workshops related to food, and performances (music, dance, theater).

Relocating Trees to Maintain the Tree Canopy

Pausing at the Crawford Hall construction site, Knowles acknowledges that the view has dramatically changed with the removal of Terrace Hall. “But don’t worry, 28 trees in that area were relocated around the campus,” she says. “Kent State has been designated a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation every year the designation has existed (since 2000). Our Tree Advisory Board, which includes people on campus and off, is always looking at how to maintain and expand our tree canopy.

“Moving trees is a big part of that because we don’t want to stop progress. But if you cut down a mature tree and plant a tiny tree, the canopy takes a big hit. So it’s important to us that we maintain the existing trees as much as we can.

“The company we work with, Busy Bee Services in Noverly, Ohio, uses a special tool called an air spade that uses high pressured air to remove soil from around the roots without damaging root tissue. That allows the tree to keep its tiny roots, which helps trees have more success when they’re transplanted elsewhere.”

Knowles heads behind Dunbar Hall to show the group two of the transplanted trees. “The one closest to me is an Amur maackia, which is a member of the pea family and has white flowers for pollinators and appealing bronze bark that adds winter interest,” she says. “The one further away is a dawn redwood, a deciduous conifer that’s part of a Planting Partnership memorial for a residential services staff member—and we take special care of the trees that are part of that program.”

The Planning Partnership is a tree sponsorship program offered by University Facilities Management that gives donors the opportunity to dedicate a tree as a gift or memorial. They can choose from a wide variety of trees and ornaments that have been selected according to guidelines of the Kent Campus Landscape Master Plan. A $2,500 donation pays for the cost of purchasing, planting and maintaining the tree—as well as replacing it if it should die.

Planning for the Future

Looping around Manchester Field and returning to where we started, Knowles says, “There’s always so much more to talk about than we have time for.” And she reminds the group that in January Kent State embarked on its first comprehensive campus sustainability plan. “There have been a couple opportunities for the general campus community to provide feedback, but there will be more,” she says. “So please keep an eye out; I’m trying to make sure they’re always around. We have a great advisory group of experts on campus contributing to that effort as well.

“Thanks again everyone for coming out and walking with me. Have a great day!”

Learn more about Kent State’s sustainability initiatives at www.kent.edu/sustainability/initiatives.

Learn about upcoming “Wellness Walk and Talk” tours at www.kent.edu/hp/wellness/current-wellness-offerings.