

**STEWARDSHIP –VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
FOR THE LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST (LLCT) AND THE TOWN OF LYME (TOL)**

Contacts: (LLCT) Lyme Land Conservation Trust Environmental Director:

stewardship@lymelandtrust.org

(TOL) Town of Lyme Open Space Coordinator: openspace@townlyme.org

Trail Report Form: <http://www.lymelandtrust.org/trail-condition-form/>

We will train you for these different positions!

- **TRAIL VOLUNTEER**– help to maintain the trails on all the Lyme preserves.
- **PROPERTY MONITOR (LLCT)** – walk the perimeter or boundary of a Lyme Land Conservation Trust property once a year – more if possible - and file a report.
- **PRESERVE OR TRAIL STEWARD** – Adopt a LLCT or TOL preserve or trail and gain a thorough knowledge and appreciation, monitor regularly (more than once a year),and help with maintenance. LLCT property stewards file an annual report.
- **Chainsaw Brigade**– Sign up to be called to remove fallen trees and obstacles as needed in Lyme preserves.
- **Heavy Lifting Brigade**– Ability to perform heavy physical work for excavation or construction; and/or owns and uses power equipment, such as tractors, saws, mowers.

TRAIL VOLUNTEER – pitch in with basic trail and preserve maintenance

Send your email to stewardship@lymelandtrust.org or openspace@townlyme.org to be notified about upcoming work parties and/or check [lymelandtrust.org](http://www.lymelandtrust.org) for upcoming events posts.

1. Join a group of like-minded volunteers for a scheduled preserve work party. Training, education and guidance will be provided.

- Bring what the notice requires: such as heavy duty gloves, loppers and/or clippers, ear protection if there will be chain sawing, light weight weed whacker if you have one, other light weight tools, water to drink, bug protection, hat.

2. Pitch in with simple maintenance on your own as you hike. We'd love to hear what you have done to help. Fill out a trail report: <http://www.lymelandtrust.org/trail-condition-form/>

- Cut back overgrown vegetation on the trail as you hike.
 - Carry clippers or light weight loppers with you. You can keep them in your pocket.
 - Cut back branches and shrubs that are encroaching on the path- Try to cut saplings (baby trees) as low to the ground as you can, or cut sapling trunks above waist height. Don't leave pungi sticks (short thin trunks) for people to fall over or step on.
 - Remove branches that obstruct the view of blazes that mark the trail.
- Pick up (or kick away) branches and sticks that have fallen on the path.

- Remove invasive plants if possible. Cut them down to the ground so that there are no leaves left or pull out the roots. This is particularly important in areas that have few invasives to prevent them from spreading.
- Pick up trash. Bring a small trash bag with you.

3. Report trees that have fallen on the trail or other conditions that require attention. Describe the location as accurately as possible. An app such as Track-Kit can help with this. To report an issue, fill out a trail report: <http://www.lymelandtrust.org/trail-condition-form/>

PROPERTY MONITOR (LLCT)

The LLCT depends on volunteers to be our *eyes and ears* for the Land Trust easements and properties with trails.

- Carry on a yearly inspection of the perimeters of one or more of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust properties. Become familiar with the property, to ensure that the conservation values are protected.
- Contact stewardship@lymelandtrust.org to be assigned a property, to receive training, and to learn how to access Conservation Track.
- Act as a liaison between the LLCT and property owners, neighbors and the community to help build strong, positive relationships.
- File a simple report on Conservation Track <https://www.conservationtrack.net/llct/home> or follow the link to “Conservation Track” from lymelandtrust.org.

PRESERVE STEWARD (TOL and LLCT) – Adopt a preserve, monitor, and perform regular maintenance

Contact us for more information and to receive training.

- Contact the Town of Lyme Open Space Coordinator openspace@townlyme.org to confirm your Town preserve assignment.
- Contact stewardship@lymelandtrust.org to confirm your Lyme Land Conservation Trust preserve assignment.
- Like the Property Monitors, Preserve Stewards will be asked to file a simple report on Conservation Track <https://www.conservationtrack.net/llct/home> or follow the link to “Conservation Track” from lymelandtrust.org.
- Get to know a preserve intimately. Walk the preserve trails regularly and monitor their condition. Perform maintenance as needed and report problems. Replace trail markers as needed. Report or help remove fallen trees. Help organize work parties.

TRAIL STEWARD – Adopt a trail. Take care of a specific assigned trail.

Help us monitor and maintain your trail. Let us know what trail you would like to adopt.

- For LLCT properties, contact stewardship@lymelandtrust.org to confirm trail assignment and receive training. Report the condition of the trails and any maintenance you have done by filing a simple check-in report on Conservation Track.
- For TOL properties, contact openspace@townlyme.org to confirm trail assignment and receive training.

- Carry on the duties of the **trail volunteer** to regularly maintain your specific trail.
 - A power weed whacker is a helpful tool for managing soft vegetation, such as the fern, that is encroaching on the trail. If appropriate, use power pruner, a mower or a brush hog.

CHAIN SAW BRIGADE

The chain saw brigade is a list of people who are proficient in the use of chain saws, and have been placed on our list to be notified to remove fallen trees that are obstructing trails in the preserves. You will be given opportunities to attend chain saw workshops sponsored by the Land Trust.

Chainsaw Brigade Rules:

- Never work alone.
- Use safety equipment and follow common sense guidelines. Training is required for safety purposes.
- Report when you intend to remove the tree and tell us what trees you have removed.

HEAVY LIFTING BRIGADE

The Heavy lifting brigade is a list of people who can be called upon to do work requiring power equipment or heavy manual labor. Helpful skills and tools are:

- Able to plan and use power tools for lumber construction - posts, tables, benches, kiosks, gates
- Has a small tractor to use for preserve maintenance
- Has a power mower or brushhog- for path mowing and clearing of areas.
- Post hole digging/ excavation work.

Tools:

To get the best clippers: Florian Ratchet Pruner <https://www.floriantools.com/>