

STEWARDSHIP –VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR LYME LAND TRUST (LLT) AND TOWN OF LYME (TOL) PRESERVES

[Submit this form to be sign up for volunteer opportunities.](#)

Anyone can pitch in with simple trail maintenance on your own 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 – about 2- 3 feet from the trail. (Vegetation grows back fast). Cut saplings (baby trees) low to the ground, or cut trunks above waist height. Don't leave punji sticks (short thin trunks) for people to fall over and on to.
 - Cut back 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.
- Learn to recognize invasive plants. Remove them wherever you see them. 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.
- Report trees that have fallen on the trail or other conditions that require attention. Describe the location as accurately as possible. [A smart phone app such as Track-Kit can help with this.](#)
- Let us know what you have done.

We will train you for the following positions! Always check with us before doing anything beyond simple trail maintenance.

TRAIL VOLUNTEER – pitch in with basic trail and preserve maintenance

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

- Bring heavy duty gloves, loppers and/or clippers, ear protection if there will be chain sawing, water to drink, bug protection and hat, besides specific tools for the job.

2. Perform trail maintenance and monitoring on your own.

PROPERTY MONITOR (LLT)

The LLT 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. File a simple report. Become familiar with the property, to ensure that the conservation values are protected, and good community relations are maintained.
- Contact sue.cope@lymelandtrust.org to be assigned a property, to receive training.

PRESERVE OR TRAIL STEWARD (TOL and LLT) –monitor, and perform regular maintenance

Contact us to sign up and to receive training.

- Get to know a trail or preserve intimately. Walk the preserve trails regularly and monitor their condition, perform maintenance as needed, and report problems. Help organize work parties.

CHAIN SAW BRIGADE (TOL and LLT)

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:

Always check with us first before performing chainsaw work.

Never work alone.

Use safety equipment and follow common sense guidelines. Training is required for safety purposes.

Report back about the trees you have removed.

Minimum age: 18 years old.

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.

Contacts: Lyme Land Conservation Trust Environmental Director: sue.cope@lymelandtrust.org,

LLT Stewardship Chair: stewardchair@lymelandtrust.org

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

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