



OLLT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Stewardship Program relies on a team of generous volunteers to maintain our hiking trails on 14 preserves of the Old Lyme Land Trust. One or more stewards are assigned to a specific property. They are expected to work in coordination, monitoring and tending to the upkeep of the trails and parking areas. The goal is to maintain a natural setting for a safe and enjoyable hiking experience.

We also arrange Work Parties to address bigger projects. Anyone can join to help out. These are a fun and productive way to clear out invasive plants, widen severely overgrown paths, install bridges, build benches, etc. Typically, Work Parties are advertised via our email distribution list and website.

STEWARD CHECKLIST

- Visit monthly to check for fallen limbs, trees, and trail overgrowth. More frequent visits are encouraged, and all trails of your preserve should be inspected.
 - Trails need to be kept up to 4' wide to allow hikers to safely pass through the woods without brushing against vegetation harboring ticks.
 - If there are downed trees or large branches across a trail or threatening to fall on it, notify the Chief Steward so removal with a chain saw or trail rerouting can be arranged.
 - Consider improvements: new signage, trails, lookouts, benches, etc. Make recommendations to the Chief Steward.
 - If there are encroaching invasive plants that you think could be removed, notify the Chief Steward so a Work Party can be arranged.
- Make sure trailhead signs and maps are visible, not overgrown with vines and trees.
- Keep trail markers visible:
 - Cut back any overgrowth obscuring them.
 - Check that markers can be seen by hikers from both directions, and note any missing markers that need replacement.
 - Ask the Chief Steward for an extra marker kit and install the blazes as directed.
- Some preserves have additional maintenance needs:
 - Bridges across streams may need attention. Check with the Chief Steward on best practices before beginning any work, as OLLT may need to secure permits first.
 - Some preserves are heavily used and/or have road frontage, and can be marred by trash and debris. Refuse should be picked up and disposed of.
 - Report indications of neighbors encroaching into the preserve, e.g. dumping debris or brush, to the Chief Steward who may provide boundary markers to install.
 - Notify the Chief Steward of evidence of prohibited activities (ATVs, fires, hunting, etc.).

TRAIL MAINTENANCE TOOLS

Hand clippers & loppers Folding hand saw Sturdy rake Hammer for trail markers

Thank you for all you do!