



GREENWICH LAND TRUST

GLT's Volunteer Steward Program

Since the mid-1990s, Greenwich Land Trust has relied on a dedicated group of volunteer stewards to help monitor over 80 preserves. Stewards are assigned one or more properties, which they often retain year after year, getting to know each one of them. Stewards help by actively inspecting properties, helping to protect the natural communities found on these valued open-space parcels. Each year, in the spring, winter or fall, when properties are less grown in and more accessible, the Steward will walk the boundaries, monitoring the following:

- Stewards will seek out the boundary markers, which may be metal stakes, GLT signage, stone walls, etc. (Please refer to the property's Management Plan for specific details)
- Stewards will note whether there have been any encroachments or other human impact from outside the boundary lines, such as organic dumping, installation of fencing, hunting (including but not limited to structures), pipes, drainage from other properties, vehicle tracks or trash. Stewards will report any encroachments to GLT Staff who will work to resolve the issue.
- Stewards will also note any changes or improvements to GLT structures, such as beehives, fences, walls, birdhouses, culverts, stone walls, etc.
- Stewards will note the presence of significant plants, whether these are invasive plants or native plants that are uncommon and or endangered. (Photos may be taken and emailed to GLT Staff for identification where the Steward is unfamiliar with the vegetation).
- Stewards will look for any significant natural damage, such as downed trees, erosion or wetland issues.

Upon completing a field visit, stewards submit a written GLT Property Inspection Report to GLT staff, where it will be reviewed and filed.

For more information about Volunteer Steward Program, contact Chris Aldrich.