

OPEN SPACES

STAMFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

SPRING 2013

KEEPING LAND FOREVER WILD

PROTECTING OPEN SPACE PROTECTS THE BOTTOM LINE, TOO

— Richard Chiaramonte —

A MYTH PERSISTS IN SOME CIRCLES THAT A CITY IN NEED OF TAX REVENUE (IS THERE ONE THAT ISN'T?) IS SURE TO GET IT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF LAND.

But that is not always the case. In many instances, development brings greater costs in city services such as schools, sewers and roads, and any gain in tax revenue is more than offset. Indeed, removing undeveloped land from the market can often help keep taxes from climbing.

It's in a city's best interest to preserve land in its natural state, both for the inherent benefits of recreation, water purification, habitat and the unspoiled beauty of natural settings, and for the savings to the city budget. Open space also renews the human spirit and makes the city a more desirable place to live. Since the economic downturn, the cost of developing single family homes in the Stamford area has

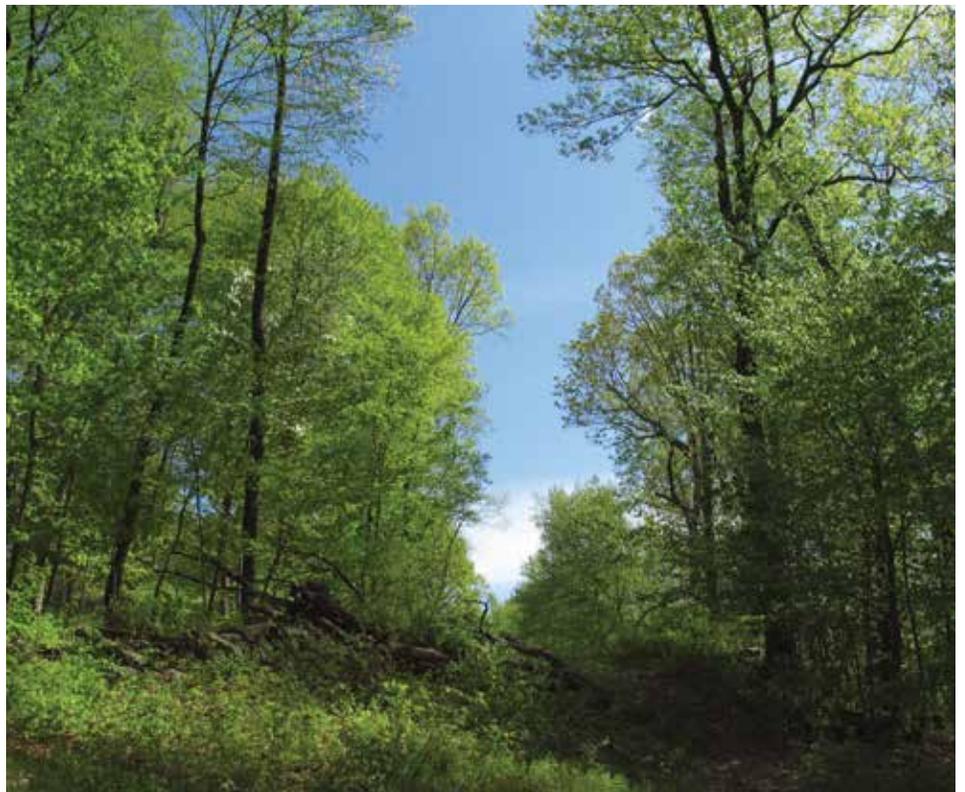


Photo by Sue Sweeney

often outweighed the gain. And developing part of a large piece of property can diminish the value of the retained parcel. That means that for landowners considering spinning

off one or two lots, donation can yield greater tax relief.

To understand the benefits of land donation, it is helpful to understand the idea of residual land.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

— Richard Chiaramonte —



I SPENT MY EARLY FORMATIVE YEARS IN THE

Riverbank Road area of North Stamford, walking in the woods by the lakes and along the streams, and scaring the life out of my parents when they couldn't find me until I came home for dinner. Never knew why they got so upset. Heck, I knew where I was.

Those years formed me. Everywhere I went, from college in Boston, to Big Sur and Lake Tahoe in

California, to the remotest part of Vancouver Island in British Columbia and now back in North Stamford (close by return, I guess), I've searched out the wooded places, the beautiful places, the places that provided me with solace and peace. And all along I've known I was not alone. Many have travelled with me and many have asked me where they might find those kinds of places. For a long time I thought a long trip was required. Now I know there are plenty of quiet, beautiful, peaceful spots right here in my hometown. They are called open spaces.

As a "walk in the woods" type of kid, I didn't know that all this inviting forest was called open space. And I certainly didn't know there was a chance it could disappear. Now my job is to help it hang on.

Its preservation requires money, yes, but even more important, it requires vision and commitment. When a landowner donates open space, it's not just a transaction, a transfer of land to the protection of a Land Trust, it is a gift to the environment, the community, and indeed, the world.

That may sound a bit grand, but when you think about it, that's exactly what it is. Those who donate open space (the patrons of open space) benefit not just from a deep sense of maintaining nature's bounty (not to mention significant tax breaks), but their generosity improves the quality of life in our community.

This issue of *Open Spaces* focuses on the many benefits of land donation. You'll find articles on the financial gains (even if YOU don't have 10 or 15 acres to protect, you might know someone who does); biodiversity, as witnessed firsthand by our Chief Steward Steve Danzer; plus articles on wildlife, and habitats by Sue Sweeney and Tara Gravel.

The great naturalist and early preservationist John Muir best described the greatest benefit of our wild spaces. It's that they renew the human spirit: "Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves." That's the feeling we hope to preserve, with your help, for generations to come.

KEEPING LAND FOREVER WILD (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

If you live in a two-acre zone and own three acres, you have one acre of residual land. It cannot be subdivided. In that case, two acres are taxed as prime at the current mill rate, and the third acre is taxed at 10% of prime. In another example, if you live in a two-acre zone and own four acres, but the extra two acres are not buildable due to wetlands, severe topography or odd shape, this is also considered residual land and is taxed at 10% of prime value.

A third example is the ownership of significantly more land than the minimum zoning requires. In this case, the acreage beyond the minimum requirement is evaluated according to its development potential.

The two most common ways to preserve open space are outright donation to a qualified tax-exempt organization, such as a Land Trust, or the creation of a Conservation Easement, which can also be given to such an organization.

Outright donation is the simplest, most direct and most efficient option for saving open space. It also provides the greatest tax benefits. The attorney for the donor contacts the attorney for the Land Trust, and the two lawyers draw up the papers for the transfer and file the new deed with the town clerk. The land transfers free of any burden to the owner, financial or physical. It becomes the responsibility of the Land Trust to see that the land is



Photo by Sue Sweeney

forever maintained as open space.

Subject to certain limitations, the donor is allowed, for tax purposes, to deduct from his or her income an amount equal to the fair market value (as determined by a qualified appraisal) of the donated land.

Tax benefits are significant for those who own highly appreciated property, the sale of which would result in large capital gains taxes. Tax relief is also available to those with real estate holdings who wish to reduce their estate tax burden. Every situation is unique, depending on the donor's circumstances. It is important that the donor consult his or her tax advisor.

Finally, an added benefit of outright donation is the relief from caring for a treasured piece of land, with the knowledge that it will be protected forever.

The second common option is giving land as an easement. A Conservation Easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and an established conservation organization. The agreement permanently limits a property's uses in order to protect its conservation values.

A Conservation Easement leaves the property in the ownership of the landowner, who may continue to live on it, sell it, or pass it on to heirs, but not develop it. Each Conservation Easement is unique, written to meet the particular needs of the landowner, and it remains in force if the land changes hands. It is an attractive option because it is flexible. However, the landowner (with the help of the Land Trust) is still responsible for protecting the land from encroachment.

A Conservation Easement can result in property tax savings and tax deduction advantages. The Conservation Easement reduces the fair market value of the parcel, which means lower property taxes and a tax deduction equal to the reduction in value, but again, subject to certain restrictions.

If you own land, would like to keep it "forever wild," and need to give your personal bottom line a break, consider Preservation (and tax relief) by Donation. It will help you. It will help Stamford. Indeed, preserving open space is one of the finest legacies a person can leave for future generations.

ROOM TO GROW

OUR OPEN SPACES ALLOW FOR A VARIETY OF LIFE TO FLOURISH

— Steven Danzer Ph.D. —

Photo by Sue Sweeney



BIODIVERSITY IS OFTEN ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS WE MENTION WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE.

But what exactly does biodiversity mean? The term, common in Conservation Biology, refers to the variety of life forms within a place, from bacteria to algae to fungi to plants and animals.

Biodiversity is an indicator of the health of a landscape. Landscapes with a high level of biodiversity repair quicker to environmental stresses such as pollution, invasive species, human disturbances, and powerful storms. Biodiverse landscapes also serve as an insurance policy for our future, by providing protection to both discovered and undiscovered species.

Preserved open spaces often offer excellent opportunities to provide biodiversity to the communities that are rapidly urbanizing. Here on our SLCT properties we are fortunate to have a variety of species and landscapes that provide a great degree of biodiversity. Some of our most interesting and intriguing landscapes include ravines, bedrock outcrops, wet meadows, vernal pools, red maple swamps, ponds, cliff sides, grassy hilltops, and wooded forests. We also

protect a small island in the Sound, which sometimes is a challenge to visit since it disappears at high tide.

An abundance of different types of plant life grow within the SLCT landscapes. Although many of the trees in our forests, such as Oaks, Hickories, Beech, Birches, Maples, and Pines, are typical for our geographic region, we also have a few other interesting trees that are locally uncommon. Two of my favorites are the Chestnut Oak, which is found only on dry hillsides, and the Black Gum, which is found in clusters in swampy areas. We even have two Black Gum swamps on our properties.

Age diversity is also a part of biodiversity. Our preserve forests (technically classified by biologists as “woodlands” since the tree canopy cover is not closed) are a mixture of young, medium, and mature trees. Our forest landscape is never static. It is “on the go”—constantly evolving and transforming.

Structural diversity is another important component of biodiversity. Our properties have a mixture of woodlands, meadows, bodies of water, and wetlands, all in close to proximity to each other. This increases the ecological value of our properties.

Biodiversity is also affected by the history of the landscape. Many of our properties have colorful histories and interesting areas of cultural and historical significance, such as

old carriage roads, well preserved networks of New England stone walls, former fields and fruit orchards. One of our properties used to be a private preserve for Llamas (and other exotic animals), and another of our vibrantly wooded properties not so long ago used to be a pig farm!

A healthy and biodiverse landscape also provides direct benefits to us humans, through an ample array of “ecological services.” These include water purification, air purification, and temperature moderation. On a hot summer day, there’s nothing better than a walk through a cool forest. Which leads to perhaps the best benefit of all: Open space boosts the psyche and spirit, providing solitude and respite to us busy humans.

Our biologically diverse SLCT properties provide many other ecological services to the City of Stamford as well, such as watershed protection, wildlife habitat, a refuge for seeds and pollinators, and climate moderation. Open space is not only important to the plants and critters that live there, but is also a great investment for the entire community.

Dr. Steven Danzer is the Chief Land Steward for the Stamford Land Conservation Trust. He is also a Soil Scientist and a Professional Wetland Scientist in private and municipal practice.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

YOU CALL IT A PRESERVE, ANIMALS CALL IT HOME

— Sue Sweeney —

MUCH OF OUR WILD SPACE HAS BEEN OPENED UP FOR HUMAN RECREATION. That's good because contact with nature lowers blood pressure, reduces stress, and encourages healthy exercise. However, many native animals need undisturbed wild areas in order to thrive and raise a family. Think of them as "quiet rooms" for the animals.

Further, since we tend to keep our yards and parks fairly neat, our developed spaces lack crucial wildlife habitat components. In plain English, the animals have no place to live, and, in many cases, not enough to eat. In wildlife-friendly spaces, we need to let nature take its course with plentiful dead standing trees (called "snags"), decaying logs and brush piles. Overgrown tangles of native shrubs, brambles and vines are good too. I know some eyes roll at what would be called an "eye-sore" in the back yard. However, open land geared to the needs of wildlife has plenty of room to allow the cheerfully messy natural cycle to occur.

When we respect the needs of the animals, the rewards for the on-trail observers can be awesome. Just the other day, I got to watch a huge pileated woodpecker no more than 60 feet from me, tear apart a dying catalpa tree for the ants. Since she can't see straight ahead, she had to turn her head to each side after

every peck or two to judge how her hole was coming. The holes she left will be used by other wildlife. To wildlife, good holes are prime real estate and don't stay vacant long.



Photo by Sue Sweeney

So which animals need open space? The list is long. In general, it's every species that doesn't nest in the local park. Here are some examples of Stamford residents who benefit from our open spaces:

- » Bluebirds need hollow tree nesting cavities (or human made boxes) near open meadows.
- » Eastern box turtles want moist forested areas with plenty of underbrush. (By the way, box turtles adore mayapple fruit—if you live on the edge of the Stamford woods, plant a patch of this deer-resistant wildflower and you may get visitors when the fruit's ripe.)
- » Wood ducks need hollow tree nesting cavities, preferably near water in an undisturbed area (they are very shy); water bodies with

fallen trees and emergent vegetation is the best foraging ground for the ducklings.

- » Snowy egrets, diamond-backed terrapins, and many other species, need undisturbed coastal wetland and shore.
 - » Wood frogs, spotted salamanders and the like need undisturbed vernal ponds—it is so easy to dislodge the eggs or destroy the underwater debris that the hatched young depend on to survive.
 - » Our seven woodpecker species need snags for nesting cavities and to forage for insects.
 - » Scarlet tanagers are sometimes glimpsed by lucky bird watchers in Stamford urban nature areas (Cove, Scalzi, etc.) on migration but they will only nest in large undisturbed forest tracks.
 - » Mink (yes, we have them in Stamford) want a cozy burrow along an undisturbed bank of a stream or pond with plentiful fish.
 - » Red admiral butterflies need stinging nettles for their young—not exactly a welcome yard plant. Many other butterflies depend on what we'd call noxious weeds in order to feed their children.
- So, let's engage in recreation to our hearts content in the sections of open space designated for human and dog use. However, let's make "quiet rooms" for wildlife, too. In the end, we're the ones who benefit most.

THE GENTLEST OF GEMS

NEW ENGLAND'S HERITAGE WILDFLOWERS

— Sue Sweeney —

IN NORTH STAMFORD, THE LAND MANAGER AND I SLIP OFF THE PATH, UNOBSERVED. We move slowly, stepping only on rocks and fallen branches, careful to not disturb vegetation or leaf litter. Soon we spot our quarry. Beneath the blueberries and clethra, in between the glacial moraine rocks keeping them safe from deer browsing, is a spreading patch of pink ladies slippers. To protect the site from poachers and foot traffic, only 2 or 3 people a year witness these treasures in bloom.

In a conservation area in Westchester County, I peer through a stout chainlink fence surrounding a large, long-established deer enclosure. The forest floor is a thick carpet of blueberry, ferns, rattlesnake orchids, partridgeberry, Canadian mayflower and—you guessed it—pink lady slippers. Those who inhabited this land 200 or 300 years ago would have considered this a common late spring sight. To me, it was awesome, unbelievable—like glimpsing the rarest treasure behind glass in a famous museum.

Native wildflowers are a significant part of our natural New England heritage. I could fill this entire article just with a list of all the wonderful species. Instead, let's look closely at a single species which depends on open space for its continued existence.

The pink ladies slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*, or moccasin

flower to the Native Americans) has long been the subject of poems and legends. Today, it is the symbol of the New England Wild Flower Society, but even they agree that it does better self-established in the woods than in the garden.



Photo by Marilyn Shapiro

All our native wildflowers are part of a co-evolved community of local plants and animals that has been in the making since the last Ice Age. Some can thrive on their own in a garden, and we are encouraged to plant the ones that can (purchased from reputable growers—not wild collected) for their own lovely sake and to help support native pollinators, leaf-eaters and seed eaters who depend on these wildflowers for their livelihood.

Like many of our wildflowers, however, the pink lady slipper is extremely finicky about location.

It prefers its proper undisturbed woodland or bog home. It needs exactly the right combination of moisture, soil acidity, light, freedom from competing plants, shelter from browsing deer, and the presence of its special, co-evolved companions. It also prefers the company of white pine, eastern hemlock, American beech, red maple, sassafras, or perhaps black oak or white oak. In the shelter of the orchid's leaves, you might find a spotted tiger beetle, an eastern forest snail or even an eastern worm snake.

To get started, this orchid is dependent on a symbiotic soil fungi (Genus *Rhizoctonia*, exact species not yet identified) to break open the tiny seeds and attach to them as life-long mates. The fungi provide the seeds with nutrients; the grown plants return the favor to the fungi.

After 5 years or more, the orchid will finally produce its lovely, pouched flower. Only large, strong bees, such as our native bumblebees, are able to muscle their way into the flower pouch, attracted by a sweet scent. However, once inside—surprise—no nectar. The disappointed bee then finds out it can't get out the way it came in and has to pass through the flower to exit, picking up pollen as it goes. Bees aren't all that stupid so they aren't going to fall for this trick more than a few times. What the lady slippers need for cross pollenization is for the bee to visit at least 2 or 3 plants

before it gives up. As a result, the pink lady slipper generally experiences a very low pollination rate (under 5%), which has been found in at least one scientific study to fall even further where the native bee population had been exposed to certain pesticides.

Lastly, while a happy pink lady slipper can live 20 years, it can't tolerate disturbance. If the flower is picked or broken off, the plant will not form a new flower; hence no seeds and no new generation. Further, the plant is shallow-rooted, making it vulnerable to breakage by digging or foot traffic. Broken root tips will not regenerate and the loss of 2 or 3 roots will slowly kill the

plant. Deer browsing of the leaves also kills the plants.

To save this part of our heritage, we need to reserve part of our open space for the wildflowers. Accordingly, please always stay on the

trails in conservation areas. Further, where possible, deer exclosures can be the "Noah's' Ark" saving the rare and even not so rare wildflowers for future generations. They are a good investment.

Should you want to try to establish a pink lady slipper colony, New England Wild Flower Society's Bill Cullina advises that "virtually all of the pink lady-slippers for sale in the Northeast were plucked from the woods." Buy only lab-grown. Two safe sources are:

1. The New England Wild Flower Society nursery in The Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701; (508) 877-7630; www.newenglandwildflower.org
2. Vermont Ladyslipper Company, 56 Leduc Road, New Haven, VT 05472; www.vtladyslipper.com.

CRITTER FILES

PILEATED WOODPECKER

— Tara Gravel —



Photo by Sue Sweeney

Even if you've never seen one, you've surely heard them. The pileated woodpecker, the largest of our seven native woodpecker species, is jackhammer loud. The damage from storms last fall and winter have given these interesting and charming birds—the inspiration for screwball cartoon character Woody Woodpecker—plenty of dead trees in

which to forage for food this season. When they peck away, wood chips spraying, they're looking for favorite insects (usually carpenter ants) and spiders. The males also drum in spring to call for a mate. Their pair bond can last a lifetime. When they nest, the female lays 3-5 white eggs in a cavity 15 to 70 feet above ground. After 15-16 days, the eggs hatch. Fledglings leave the nest after about 24 days, but stay with parents until the fall. They'll excavate oblong or rectangular holes for feeding, and round holes for nesting—holes that become very important to other creatures, such as owls, bats and even ducks. They're not just fun to watch, they're an important part of the ecosystem in Stamford's woods.

ALL ABOUT THE PILEATED WOODPECKER*

Scientific name: *Dryocopus pileatus*

Range: Eastern U.S. from Maine to Florida, west to part of Texas, and north to Minnesota, as well as parts of the Pacific Northwest, California and eastern and western Canada.

Territory: 150 to 200 acres

Size: 16 to 19 inches

Lifespan: 8 to 12 years

Favorite food: Carpenter ants

Predators: Raccoons, hawks, owls

Fun fact: Their long tongue is sticky and barbed to catch more insects.

**Info from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.*

Visit www.ct.gov/dep to learn more about Pileated Woodpeckers and other local critters.

WORD SEARCH

R Q A P Y I H M W K R F Q C V Z O Y V P
S Z R B N O S A E S H O R T S Q Z K Y M
C R E N V Q T G T R N D C E C O S R U H
S P A I Z E C N E I T A P K H I K E Y F
K T G L R U E I S O N H C I R T C Z A T
R E H Y U R J F W W G I H K H U A B N O
A R E M A C B Y I I T R E A S U R E D R
B K M P E L O I M S L F A D P E T W W P
V E K L A W P N M P A D D P B K O Q Y K
C R L Z G C I G I Z G G L P H O L E C T
P J E S O Q K G N B N V A I D Y T I J U
F S M H D W N L G I E T M S F E N V H Y
A D M H T I I A T L H T P U C E G S K V
A F S U N A M S T P T C I N C I P B B H
T X P N R E E S U N G L A S S E S O X Y
D I A T S R I F J O Q T W C E H T J H Q
T L C L E H F K V I S P K R O T O H P O
P E E T W H C J F I T H T E L E V A R T
A R N I X Z S C D Y H T S E N V G Z U N
M I Z K F F K G Q E B S Y N C U K T M O

LOOK FOR AND THEN CIRCLE THESE WORDS:

AREA
BARK
BINOCULARS
BLAZES
BOTTLE
CAMERA
DISTANCE
FEATHER
FIELD
FIRSTAID
GAMES
GEOCACHING
GEOGRAPHY
HAT
HEADLAMP
HIKE
HOLE
HUNT
INTERESTING

KIT
MAGNIFYING GLASS
MAP
NEST
OBJECTS
PACE
PACK
PARENTS
PATH
PATIENCE
PHOTO
PICNIC
PLANNING
PLAY
ROCK
SCENIC
SEASON
SHOES
SHORTS

SITE
SNACKS
STICK
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
SWIMMING
TENT
TRACKS
TRAIL
TRAVEL
TREASURE
TREE
WALK
WATER
WEATHER
WEB
WHISTLE
WILDLIFE
WOODS

SCAVENGER HUNT

Take pictures and keep a photo hiking journal. From birds to wildflowers, it's not always easy to immediately identify everything you see on the trail. So in addition to adding some nature shots to your family photo album, you'll be able to use the pictures to figure out the names of animals and plants using your field guides or the internet.

EVIDENCE OF NEXT SEASON COMING

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree bark | <input type="checkbox"/> Ladybug |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rotten wood | <input type="checkbox"/> Spider web |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Texture of various rocks | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds nest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly or moth | <input type="checkbox"/> Insects on a tree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snail | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer tracks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beetle | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal hole in the ground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feather | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lizard | <input type="checkbox"/> Frog Leaf with insect hole |

HIKING WITH PARENTS

— Marina De Luca —



HIKING IS AN EASY AND NATURAL WAY TO GET PARENTS MOVING AND BURNING CALORIES.

Get 'em off the couch! Look for parent-friendly trails in your area. Parents love a sense of accomplishment and by taking them on a trail that offers a reward—a view, a waterfall, a lake—you'll help keep them motivated. Get your parents involved. Start talking about where you're going to go and what they might see. To prevent fatigue and irritability, make sure your parents eat a satisfying and nutritious meal before heading out. Bring snacks that your parents really love, and plenty of water in fun, reusable bottles. Buy your parents daypacks and let them carry a few things (but don't weigh them down). Find something that is lightweight that an adult or older parent could carry, with straps across the chest for good support. It'll be a good place to store all the treasures your parents might find.

Set behavioral expectations before you start. Remind parents to stay on the middle of the path, stay with the group, and stay off their cell

phones. By hiking in the middle of the path, they are less likely to get lost, damage plants or cause erosion, or pick up ticks. Parents hate ticks and often make a big deal of them.

Find a good stick. It can be used for so many things: As a walking stick, for sword fighting, for poking at plants, for pointing at things.

Equip everyone with their own whistle, which can be heard from much farther away than a person's voice.

Bad weather is a matter of safety, can lead to a miserable day on the trail, and can make parents reluctant to try hiking again. So don't forget to check the forecast before you go.

Nothing will turn off your parents more than a hike that turns into a forced march. Every parent is different and you'll want to determine your parents' endurance and level of interest by first trying some shorter hikes. Be flexible enough to allow your parents to indulge their curiosity. Sure it's great to reach a goal but if things catch their attention and your parents repeatedly stop to explore, your parents will be stimulated and the hike will be more fun for everyone.

Let your parents set the pace on the trail and anticipate that there will be lots of breaks for snacks. Parents can get a bit pokey on the trail, especially as the "Are we there yet?" questions kick in. But you'll want to maintain your own enthusiasm and inspire them to push on rather than

admonishing them to keep going. If the going gets really ugly, be ready to bail. Whatever you do, don't tell them to keep hiking because they're so old that they need the exercise. (Ever see an angry bear? You will if you poke this one.)

Use games, songs, and activities to keep your parents from getting bored or tired. Relax, laugh, and show your parent how much you're enjoying yourself. It is the best way to help your parents do the same. Engage all their senses or at least the ones they still have. Bring along a magnifying glass so that your parents can get a close-up look at bugs, leaves, and rocks. Binoculars can enhance wildlife spotting and bring distant landmarks closer. Teach parents to be good observers by looking for signs of wildlife—feathers on the ground, claw scratches on tree trunks, animal tracks, bird holes in dead trees, fur along the trail, slugs, frogs in pond.

Adapted from

Washington Trails Association

www.wta.org

REI

www.rei.com

Hiking

www.about.com

Rhode Island Families

www.rifamiliesinnature.org/

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

MILL RIVER IS BLOOMING!

If you weren't able to attend the Mill River Park Grand Opening Celebration in early May, head down soon and take a look. The park is sure to be a gem in Stamford's crown with its wildflower meadows, more than 400 native trees and thousands of native shrubs. Construction of a carousel and event pavilion begins this year. See if you can find the SLCT tree and plaque while you're there!

JUNE 9 CLEAN UP

Join us on Sunday, June 9th for a Spring Cleanup on three of our properties. We'll meet at 9 a.m. on Woods End Road. (Take Janice Road off High Ridge to end, left onto Woods End. Park on the right.) Some parts of the properties are wet (that's North Stamford!), so gear up with waterproof boots, gloves and a trash poker if you can. See our Facebook page or stamfordland.org for details or e-mail us at stewardship@stamfordland.org.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Are you an agile and expert Tweeter and Facebook poster who knows how to generate a following? We're looking for a social-media-savvy volunteer to help with our Twitter and Facebook accounts, posting weekly updates, photos and news. Please contact us at social@stamfordland.org if this sounds like you!

"Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher."
—William Wordsworth—

STAMFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

P.O. BOX 3247 STAMFORD, CT 06905-0247 | WWW.STAMFORDLAND.ORG | 203.325.1850



Won't you join us?

Enclosed is my: Individual Membership \$25 Family Membership \$50 Sponsor \$100
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Name _____

Check this box if this is a new address

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

I would like to volunteer my services

Land Steward Land Donation Other _____

Please send all mail to: Stamford Land Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 3247, Stamford, CT 06905-0247

Contributions to the SLCT are tax deductible.



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CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.**

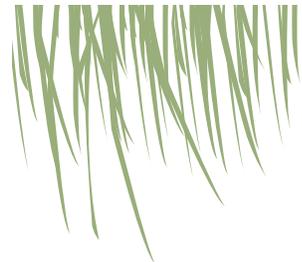
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Stamford Land Conservation Trust is to seek and accept land through donations or by purchase to hold in perpetuity as open space. The SLCT acts as steward over such lands. It assists governmental and non-governmental organizations to protect and preserve open space.

Photo by Sue Sweeney

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CONSERVATION TRUST**



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