

# 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*

SUMMER 2011



## Creating Sustainable Cities: The Need for Green

Dr. Steven A. Cohen

One of the most urgent challenges of our time is how to make cities—the hub of human social and economic life—sustainable, energy efficient and environmentally sound. As the world's population continues to rise, resources and space in urban areas are coming under increasing pressure. Until 2007 most people lived outside of urban centers. Today, the world's population is almost evenly split between rural areas and cities. In fact, projections indicate that by 2050 around 70 percent of us will reside in urban areas. Here in the United States, our major cities continue to expand. New York City is expected to be home to over 9 million residents by 2030, while Stamford's population, now at about 120,000, is projected to swell to about 140,000. The concentration of human life around our cities has significant consequences for our natural environment, and also for the health and

well being of our communities. In a recent report by the American Lung Association, State of the Air 2010, these consequences were made abundantly clear: between 2006 and 2008 around 50 percent of Americans suffered pollution levels considered hazardous to their health.

As daunting as this problem may seem, much is being done all around the world—including in our own backyards—to develop more sustainable urban ecosystems. Building a sustainable city requires a partnership between community and government. The challenges are many, and without leadership and skillful sustainability management, change will not come fast enough. Sustainability management is becoming a key feature of local government and community-led development in urban spaces. It is even happening here in Stamford.

*(continued on page 4)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

Creating Sustainable Cities

President's Letter

The Greenest Guy I Know

Sustainability in Stamford

Critter Files

Climate Conversation

SLCT Kids' Page

New & Noteworthy



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## President's Letter

Richard Chiaramonte



When we first considered an *Open Spaces* issue on Sustainability, I wondered how we could say much about such a large topic in such a small journal. I decided to go right to the top. According to the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, otherwise known as the Brundtland Report, "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own

needs." That very concise statement of a very broad ideal conceals a scatter-shot of components and details, just about none of them easy to accomplish. We hear a lot about global warming and the control of greenhouse gases, but that's just one piece of the puzzle. To create a sustainable world we also need to pay full attention to energy, food, water, solid municipal waste, sewage and population density. Also, we are about to confront a world population of over 7 billion. That will affect all of us, and we're going to have to deal with it. And in addition to what we do for ourselves, we want to leave a sustainable, thriving world to our children and grandchildren without mortgaging their future.

A few interesting thoughts:

- » If you have one pound of solid waste in your garbage (or in your recycling), 32 pounds of waste was created in the production of the products that became your pound. Even if you responsibly recycle your pound, the system is still left with the other 32.
- » It costs Stamford \$75 per ton to send our municipal waste to out-of-state landfills. Total last year? About \$3.2 million.
- » Arcata, California, for example, a city of about 17,000, has created a man-made wetland that serves as a sewage purification system while doubling as a wildlife sanctuary along the Pacific Flyway. It has become a popular spot for bird watching, cycling and jogging.

So where do we start? We start with awareness. Awareness of the possibility we may one day be living in an unsustainable world, and its counterpart, the awareness that we can do something about it.

One very easy place to start is by reading Dr. Steven Cohen's excellent article outlining the problems we face and the solutions we must find. Then back that up with a look at our own Erin McKenna's piece about what's going on right here in Stamford. We are more progressive than you might think.

And as a closing thought, a bit of a blast from the past, from President Dwight D. Eisenhower's farewell address in 1961: "As we peer into society's future, we—you and I, and our government—must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering, for our own ease and convenience, the precious resources of tomorrow." At the time, none of us knew how correct he was.

# The Greenest Guy I Know

Remarkably Close to a True Tale

Norman Schaffer

My friend Jack is the greenest guy I know. At 46, despite his ox-like strength and formidable size of 6'-5" and 250 lbs. he leaves the tiniest of carbon footprints. How does he do it? For starters, he doesn't drive. He has a license for ID, but he always walks--to work, the grocery store, the barber, even a nearby Home Depot. In New York City, which he travels to using public transportation, he walks. I've walked with him from NYU to 72nd and Broadway. I've walked with him in the rain, the heat, the cold, the snow. Even when I offer to pay for the subway, he walks. Jack lives in a basement apartment, which holds heat in winter and cool air in summer. And he is spare with his lights: one in the bathroom, one in the kitchen and one by his reading chair. It's rare to find two of them on at once. His energy bill is miniscule.

Jack recycles everything his town allows and composts his organic waste. He built a compost bin from used lumber a carpenter friend was about to take to the incinerator.

He doesn't travel out of state much. He once went to Las Vegas to a friend's wedding, then got on the first plane home without going to a casino. When he told me this, I figured he was kidding. He wasn't.

Jack does take showers (he's very clean) and washes his

clothes in a washing machine, drying them on a line when weather permits. He also washes his dishes...by hand.

I have to say, Jack is among the nicest, most honest, most reliable and conscientious guys I know.

**BUT WHO CAN LIVE LIKE THIS?!!!**

Mostly nobody. Here in Stamford, living without a car is next to impossible, especially anywhere north of Bull's Head. Our schedules are too crammed to let us walk where we need to go. Our houses require heat and AC. And I don't know about you, but I love to travel and there's no way I get out of Vegas without a casino visit.

So we can't live like Jack. But knowing him has made me think. My friend contributes to a sustainable world by what he *doesn't* do.

He's not an ascetic. He doesn't

deny himself a bit of TV drama or settling in with a good book. His example is what he leaves on the shelf, what he doesn't use from our generously supplied lives. Maybe it's an accident or happenstance that Jack's life turned out this way. Or maybe it's an odd type of enlightened self-interest smack dab in the middle of our consumer culture. Whatever it is, since I've gotten to know Jack, I've begun to take a much harder look at my life's shopping list. And recently I've noticed, some things get crossed off before I even get to the store.

*I have to say, Jack is among the nicest, most honest, most reliable and conscientious guys I know.*



*The Greenest Guy in action.*



Parks, green spaces and green infrastructure help improve air quality and water drainage and reduce a city's temperature. Green infrastructure offers solutions to some of the most urgent environmental problems facing cities world wide, particularly that of wastewater management. It uses natural materials and resources to perform the same tasks as traditional grey infrastructure, but at a far lower financial and environmental cost. Plans include increasing the number of green roofs, trees, and green medians, as well as the wider use of rain barrels and permeable surfaces in streets and parking lots.

Each initiative considered in isolation is modest and relatively inexpensive. However, such innovation can have huge impacts on the health of our local ecosystem. Green infrastructure reduces sewerage flows faster than grey. In fact, together with the ongoing use of grey infrastructure, these planned innovations could reduce sewer overflows into America's waterways by 40% by 2030. In terms of cost-effectiveness, green infrastructure is far superior—planting greenery and using rain barrels is cheaper and more efficient, for example, than designing, building and maintaining a holding tank. One challenge is, of course, the potential gap between innovative green design and identifying construction managers and builders with the necessary skills or experience in sustainable construction. However, the availability of these skills is expanding rapidly as it becomes clearer that green infrastructure is the way of the future—and in many places is already part of the present.



*Open space in an urban environment allows for a more balanced life.*

Over the past several decades, we have seen an expansion of community gardens throughout the U.S. In urban areas, for example, rooftop gardens are beginning to pop up everywhere. Residents come together to work on neighborhood gardens, and local restaurants donate organic waste to provide nutrients for the soil without the use of artificial fertilizers. Garden users, local business, and farmer's market customers consume produce from these gardens.

One of the reasons urban gardens have been such a success is that people are beginning to think more about where their food comes from and the environmental consequences of importing produce from around the country (or world) rather than growing it locally. Efforts to reduce our carbon footprint take many forms these days, and starting a local vegetable patch is one of the easiest ways to make a difference. However, while these gardens play an important role, they can't produce enough to feed everyone. So at least in terms of producing food these community initiatives should only be seen as a small part of the total picture.

Beyond the production of food, community gardens are an integral part of creating a sustainable city. Plants absorb rainwater, preventing overflows into the city's sewage system. If rainwater, not tap water, is used for the gardens, there is also no added pressure on the city's water system. Another benefit that many people aren't aware of is that having a garden covering the surface of a roof actually offers another layer of insulation, reducing the need to use fossil fuels at home. The challenge, of course, is finding the space. Gaining the political support to devote precious real estate to gardens will always be an uphill battle in crowded cities.

## PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

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Overall, more green and less grey means a healthier environment and a healthier community. We need parks, gardens, and open spaces to help city residents find peace and balance so they can continue to face the demands of their fast-paced urban lifestyles. Parks are necessary for recreation and also land preservation. For most city residents, parks provide their main access to outdoor spaces; they are everyone's backyard. Without the trees, ponds and open grass, there would be no respite from the daily grind. And it goes without saying that more trees, green roofs and open parks have tangible environmental benefits as well, absorbing pollution and producing cleaner air. We know how much these spaces mean to people

living in cities like Stamford because of the large numbers of community-based organizations that raise funds and volunteer their time to maintaining and enhancing local parks.

When budgets are tight, it can be hard for officials to justify investing in public parks because they are considered recreational rather than essential services. However, the number and quality of parks and open spaces is key for maintaining a city's edge in attracting new businesses and residents. Public spaces are critical resources that raise the value of nearby property and make the city a healthier and happier place to live. The many visitors to Cove Island Park, and the time and money invested into the Mill River Park, are examples of how people value green spaces, and how much a park can add to a city's value and appeal.



*The more green the better! Here, a Stamford rooftop sports foliage.*

### SUSTAINABILITY MANAGERS

These days, competent managers know that considering the environmental consequences of their industry or organization is not only smart for the health of our planet, it is smart financially. The transition from reliance on grey infrastructure to the combined use of green and grey technologies reflects greater attention to the principles of sustainability management. The example of rooftop gardens also demonstrates the resourcefulness of people acting at the grassroots level.

Medium-sized cities like Stamford continue to expand, and their economies need to keep attracting mobile consumers—people in research and finance, tourists, and families. A city's sustainability, its clean water, green open spaces, and energy efficiency, broaden its appeal. More and more we are seeing that urban planners and community leaders can develop creative, cost-effective ways in which to manage our growing economy while improving the sustainability of our ecosphere. These developments give hope that we may be witnessing the start of an important trend, in which sustainability becomes an integrated part of managing communities, industries and organizations worldwide.

(I am grateful for the research and editorial assistance of Columbia University Graduate student Eve Warburton in compiling this article.)

*Dr. Cohen is the Executive Director of the Earth Institute of Columbia University, a professor in the Practice of Public Affairs, and founder and director of the Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy Program at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. He is also the author of a number of books on Sustainability and Sustainability Management.*

### Top 10 Things You Can Do for Sustainability

1. Turn out the lights you don't need
2. Install a low flow toilet
3. Use both sides of a piece of paper
4. Consider "no mow" native ground covers, especially next to waterways
5. Use mass transportation, carpool, bike, or walk
6. Use cloth bags for shopping
7. Drink tap water instead of bottled water
8. Buy Energy Star rated appliances
9. Turn down your heat and air conditioning
10. Eat organic and local produce

# Sustainability in Stamford

Erin McKenna

“Sustainability” has become a word like “environment,” supercharged with variable meanings and connotations. I define sustainability as maintaining a healthy economy without depleting natural resources or contributing to global climate change. Some Stamford residents may look around, consider that everything is pretty much the way it has been, and say, what is the fuss?

They don’t realize that City officials are planning now for inevitable landscape changes that will occur along the Stamford coastline in coming decades. In December 2010, the Planning Board approved a sustainability amendment to the Stamford Master Plan 2002 outlining strategies for coping with sea level rise. That is something to fuss about!

Local sustainability is not a new concern, and in fact Stamford has been savvy about these issues for a while. We are one of the few U.S. cities with a dedicated “Energy/Utility Manager,” responsible for energy, fuel efficiency, and emissions reductions. Nancy Pipicelli has held this position since 1998 and her projects have included energy performance contracts and lighting retrofits with schools, solar energy systems on municipal buildings, LED traffic lights, and streetlight retrofits. The City has saved 14,492,299 kilowatt hours between 1998 and 2010 – as well as \$3,788,292 for Stamford taxpayers. And with the support of federal Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant money, nearly \$1 million is designated for projects that will significantly complement these savings in the near future.

*Stamford is one of the few U.S. cities with an Energy/Utility Manager ... Since 1998, Nancy Pipicelli has helped save 14,492,299 kilowatt hours and \$3,788,292 for Stamford taxpayers.*

Recent changes to the City’s recycling program have also saved significant resources and money. In 2008, the recycling rate was 9.7 percent, and the City paid \$150,000 to have recyclables hauled away. Then the City turned to single stream recycling, with all recyclables going in one bin, and by 2010 the recycling rate increased to 20 percent and the City generated \$100,000 in revenues by selling the recyclables. So many more items are now recyclable that if you compost your food waste and recycle everything eligible, you may generate no solid waste at all.

The City has also had a strong focus on transit-oriented development. You’ve probably noticed many new buildings and construction projects around the train station, continuing into the nearby South End in the Harbor Point project. The theory is that putting commercial, residential, and retail space in walking proximity to a transportation center decreases auto emissions and promotes other energy efficiencies. Stamford was an early pioneer of this kind of development. The City’s 1970s Master Plan restricted commercial growth in the downtown core, and a 1984 Master Plan amendment sought to create a vibrant downtown with commercial and residential development in close proximity to the Transportation Center. As a result, during the last 30-plus years, most large-scale development in Stamford has been clustered within a 15-20 minute walking distance from mass transportation.

## DEFINITION: KILOWATT HOUR\*

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a standard metric unit of measurement for electricity:

- One kilowatt-hour (kW) is equal to 1,000 watt-hours (Wh).
- A watt-hour is the amount of energy delivered at a rate of one watt (W) for a period of one hour.
- One watt is the amount of power rate of one joule of work per second of time.
- Example: A 100 watt light bulb in use for 10 hours uses 1000 watt-hours, or 1 kilowatt of electricity. (100 watts x 10 hours = 1000 watt-hours = 1 kWh)

Still confused? Go turn off some lights. You’ll feel better.

\*source EPA.org.



Private businesses in Stamford have also greatly contributed to greenhouse gas reductions by building near the Transportation Center, using LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified projects, revitalizing brownfields, and taking initiatives to reduce energy usage and encourage carpooling and public transportation. It has become profitable and marketable to be sustainable, and Stamford's corporations are active in building or retrofitting their buildings to save money and energy.

There are many other City sustainability projects in motion. Hopefully, you are convinced that it is worthwhile to make your own contribution. For the best ways to aid sustainability in Stamford, see our sidebar on page 5 on the Top 10 Things You Can Do.

*McKenna is an Associate Planner with the City of Stamford Land Use Bureau, as well as a Stamford Land Conservation Trust board member.*

## HOT AIR

What exactly is a greenhouse gas? Any gas that absorbs and emits heat qualifies, including water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. They're not all bad; without these gasses, the Earth's average temperature would be much cooler—by up to 59 degrees Fahrenheit. Greenhouse gasses have become a hot point (no pun intended) because, since the Industrial Revolution, the burning of fossil fuels has greatly increased the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, altering the natural balance and contributing to global warming.

The City of Stamford actually tracks greenhouse gas emissions. The latest study revealed that the residential sector contributes the most with 33 percent of total emissions, while the commercial and transportation sectors closely tracked at 27 percent for each. In 2005 Stamford developed the Local Action Plan: Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions, which provides a strategy for the City to reduce its emissions by 20 percent by 2018. To monitor progress toward the goal, the City will monitor greenhouse gas again this spring.

## DEFINITION: LEED

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized certification system for buildings, developed by the not-for-profit U.S. Green Building Council. The system awards points on a 1-100 scale for energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts. To learn more visit [usgbc.org](http://usgbc.org).

## WHAT'S A BROWNFIELD?

According to the EPA, a Brownfield is "property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties protects the environment, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off greenspaces and working lands."

## Critter Files

### Casper the Fox

Tara Gravel

When a bright white animal streaks across your yard at dusk, on a crisp spring evening, your mind scrolls through the obvious: Neighbor's dog? Nope. Cat? Nope. Just the Chardonnay talking? Nope, it's still there, ducking through the bushes, its long, fluffy tail finally giving it away: A fox.

A little checking around in the neighborhood revealed that others had spotted her, too. She'd set up a den and was raising four kits in a backyard on West Trail in North Stamford, between two land trust preserves. She was clearly benefitting from the open space provided by the two trusts.

Foxes are common in the suburbs because they have plenty to eat (squirrels, chipmunks, mice), but they're elusive, their red coats blending with the scenery. Not our neighborhood fox. She may as well be wearing a neon sign saying, "Don't hate me because I have a nicer coat than you do!"

"She doesn't have red eyes, so we don't think she is truly albino," says Cathie Kovacs, President of the Wildlife Center of Fairfield County ([fairfieldcountywildlife.org](http://fairfieldcountywildlife.org)). "She is a color variation. You usually don't see



*They're clever, cunning and armed with canine hearing, so it's been tough to snap a clear photo of the white fox. In mid-May our own board member Heather Bernatchez captured her in her backyard.*

white animals because they lack camouflage and don't live long, so it's impressive she's made it to breeding age."

We've seen her twice since, once crossing the backyard, and once pouncing off a log on the Fishing Trail preserve in pursuit of chipmunks, which she probably carried back to her kits. Lucky for them, they're red, and have an even better chance of living to breeding age than their mom.

## Fox Facts

**Scientific name:**  
Vulpes vulpes

**Range:**  
Practically the entire Northern hemisphere. They are the most common carnivorous mammal in North America.

**Size:**  
11 to 13 lbs, 1.5 to 3 feet long.

**Color:**  
There's plenty of color variation in the red fox, from tan to silver to black. White, however is rare.



*Paul J. Fusco/CT DEP-Wildlife*

**Life span:**  
2-4 years

**Diet:**  
Mostly small mammals such as squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks and mice.

**Bet you didn't know:**  
Both males and females raise the young, a rarity in canine species.

# Climate Conversation

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Y. Parco

*The Citizen, The Scientist and The Explainer sit down over lunch to discuss climate change. Here's how it goes.*

**THE CITIZEN:** Could someone please explain what's going on? The weather's all over the place. It's cold, it's hot, there are floods, there are droughts. What the heck's happening?

**THE SCIENTIST:** Well, first you have to understand feedbacks, carbon budgets and long- and short-wave radiation. I'll start with feedbacks...

**THE EXPLAINER:** No, you won't. Don't worry about that stuff. Here it is. First, weather and climate are not the same. Weather is what you dress for. Climate is what you build your house for.

**TC:** Oh, I get it.

**TS:** That's too simple.

**TE:** No, it's not. The next thing to understand is that all energy comes from the sun.

**TC:** I thought we got energy from oil and gas and coal.

**TE:** That's like saying wood comes from lumberyards. Think about it. Where did the oil, gas and coal come from?

**TC:** Oh, right.

**TE:** See, it's easy. We're lucky here on Earth. We are just the right distance from the sun and just the right things happened 4 billion years ago to allow this particular rock in space to develop an atmosphere that supports life.

**TS:** Life as we know it evolved in accordance with the environment. In a different environment life could be different.

**TC:** Like on Star Trek.

**TE:** I think that's what he means.

**TS:** Well, when are you going to talk about energy balance?

**TE:** That's next.

**TS:** Can't wait to hear this.

**TC:** What?

**TE:** Life on Earth depends on energy balance. All the energy coming in also has to go out.

**TS:** It has to be equal, eventually.

**TE:** Yes, and if it isn't, the atmosphere warms up too much.

**TC:** Is that global warming?

**TE:** Yes, it is. The energy exchange is a natural process that makes the Earth livable.

**TC:** So what's the problem?

**TE:** The problem is that burning fossil fuels and reducing forest cover around the world is putting a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The carbon dioxide hooks up with water vapor in the air and acts as a blockade to energy escaping back into space.

**TS:** That's an oversimplification.

**TE:** Is it wrong?

**TS:** Well, no.

**TC:** So the energy coming in is more than the energy going out and the atmosphere warms up?

**TE:** Yup. It's basic. There's a whole lot of complicated science behind it, but that's what's going on.

**TS:** You're not as anti-science as I thought.

**TE:** I'm not anti-science at all. I'm just pro- explaining it so regular people can get their heads around it.

**TC:** I'm for that.

**TS:** But you still have to explain albedo and feedbacks and...

**TE:** Whoa! Hold on, cowboy. That discussion is for next time.

**TS:** But...

**TC:** I'm for that, too.

# SLCT Kids' Page

Marina De Luca

## Word Search Fun: Sustainability

LOOK FOR AND THEN CIRCLE THESE WORDS:

architecture	green technologies
bearable	housing
efficiency	land use
endure	management
ecology	productive
carrying capacity	renewable energy
consequences	resources
consumption	social
diverse	sustainable cities
economics	transportation
eco villages	urban planning
equitable	viable
food system	water security

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

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## Craft Corner

### *Summer Flower Fabric*

You can turn summer's beautiful flowers into artwork in a few simple steps.

#### **What you need:**

Fresh flowers and leaves (impatiens, pansies, and other flat flowers work best)

Wax paper

Masking tape

White, 100% cotton fabric (muslin, a white tee shirt, pillow case etc.)

Mallet or hammer

Cover a hard surface outside, like a cement walkway, with wax paper, taped down with masking tape. Arrange your flowers and leaves on the wax paper as you would like them to appear on your fabric. Lay your fabric on top of the flowers and hammer until the flowers' colors come through. You can use your fabric to make just about anything, but if it needs to be washed, hand wash with gentle detergent.

## New & Noteworthy

### New recyclable!

If you're indulging in a guilty pleasure—deep frying food at home—you don't have to feel guilty anymore about what happens to your used cooking oil. The Katrina Mygatt recycling center now allows Stamford residents to recycle it. Biopur, a vegetable oil processing company, has provided the center with a 150 gallon enclosed container. The used oil will be cleaned in a safe and eco-friendly process and turned into a clean-burning alternative fuel. The environment will thank you, even if your arteries don't.

**When:** Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Where:** Katrina Mygatt recycling center, 130 Magee Avenue (south of I-95 near Shippan)

**More info:** [cityofstamford.org](http://cityofstamford.org)

### Stewardship: What *you* can do

Quite possibly the most important responsibility shouldered by the Stamford Land Conservation Trust is the stewardship of the more than 50 pieces of land in Stamford entrusted to us.

Simply put, stewardship is the job of watching over the land. We check for encroachment, dumping, various forms of illegal use, proper signage, etc. Often, we also take photographs for our archive (a beautiful autumnal day is great for this).

If you are interested in helping with stewardship, whether you live near one of our parcels or not, please e-mail us at [info@stamfordland.org](mailto:info@stamfordland.org), with the word "stewardship" in the subject line. We have plenty to do.

### Keeping it Green

If you'd prefer to receive this Amazing Newsletter electronically (as in a PDF sent via e-mail) rather than the colorful and tactile paper version, please let us know—e-mail [news@stamfordland.org](mailto:news@stamfordland.org)

### *Won't you join us?*

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

*Contributions to the SLCT are tax deductible.*



**Stamford Land  
Conservation Trust, Inc.**

**Mission Statement**

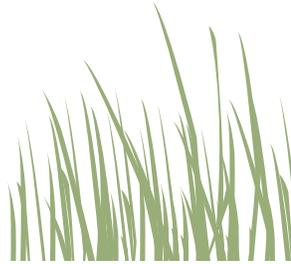
The mission of the Stamford Land Conservation Trust is to seek and accept land through donations or by purchase to hold in perpetuity as open space. The SLCT acts as steward over such lands. It assists governmental and non-governmental organizations to protect and preserve open space.

*Seen emerging as a tadpole in spring, this spring peeper is now a mosquito-eating machine.*

*Photo by Chris Evers*

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