I had the pleasure of solving a mystery earlier this year. CLC received a note of gratitude from a Greenport Conservation Area visitor who was particularly pleased that several of the trees on a certain trail had been trimmed, making walking underneath them less anxiety-inducing. Public Conservation Area staff were happy to hear the kudos, but they were also puzzled, because this wasn’t a project they’d worked on! After some sleuthing, I learned that a group of dedicated volunteers had taken it upon themselves to adopt that trail. What a wonderful gift of service to receive.

In an age that feels defined by a need to optimize time, maximize return on investment, and monetize hobbies, it sounds contrarian to give your time away to a cause like volunteering.

But here’s a truth it’s taken me a long while to learn - deciding what we spend our time on isn’t a decision that has to be optimized, maximized, or justified. Doing what you love is its own reward. When you do something you care about - whether it’s planting a tree, taking a photo, or revving up the engine of a chainsaw - you might feel a sense of personal satisfaction, but you’re also making a difference for everyone who comes into contact with your efforts.
How will you get involved?

**Trail Tender**
Adopt a trail to care for by pruning vegetation, refilling brochures, and noting issues for staff.

Time commitment - One visit per month  
Skill level - Appropriate for anyone, though some trails are less accessible than others.

**Trail Grazer**
Routine mowing and line trimming along trails between May and September.

Time commitment - Monthly visit.  
Skill level - Involves use of equipment including a mower or line trimmer, and can include hiking distances of one to five miles on uneven terrain while carrying equipment.

**Trail Blazer**
Clearing fallen/hazardous trees and branches, tree pruning.

Time commitment - Variable, depending on trail and weather conditions.  
Skill level - advanced, chainsaw certification is required.

Don’t see something that meets your needs and interests here?  
Email volunteer@clctrust.org or visit clctrust.org!

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WHERE WILL YOU VOLUNTEER?