

FLANDERS 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Stewardship in Action

Flanders protects over 2,400 acres in conserved open space. During 2022, Flanders carried out numerous stewardship activities thanks to dedicated members, volunteers and partner organizations.

Flanders Community Service Day: Earth Day

A group of volunteers gathered on Earth Day 2022, to remove invasive plants on Flanders' Manville Kettle Preserve. Volunteers hand pulled, dug out the plant or pulled it out with a Weed Wrench. We appreciate their very hard work to care for the land we love.

Taft Community Service Days

The Taft School in neighboring Watertown has long partnered with Flanders for their dedicated days of service. In 2022, Taft students came out to the Flanders several times. Students completed a variety of tasks on the Van Vleck Farm and Nature Sanctuary such as clearing brush, trail maintenance, splitting and stacking wood. We welcome the opportunity to help the students live the school motto, "not to be served, but to serve."

Westover School Community Service Days

Westover School located in Middlebury has for many years sent students to Flanders to perform community service projects. Westover students came out to Flanders several times during 2022. They helped collect sap during Maple season, completed trail maintenance, and even created props to using during Haunted Hikes. Thank you for your commitment to helping Flanders!

Eagle Scout Candidate—Brendan Shugrue

Brendan Shugrue, a life scout in troop 175 in Simsbury reached out to Flanders when he was looking to start his eagle project. He thought Flanders would be a great organization to help as he attended Flanders preschool program with Dianne Parmelee, and loved the idea of doing something to improve Flanders. Brendan led his troop in creating a boardwalk near the dam which greatly improved that section of trail!

Leavenworth Preserve Project

In April of 2022, a dedicated group of Flanders land management volunteers completed great work at the Leavenworth Preserve. A new bridge was constructed over an area that had become swampy and problematic. The team used dead cedar logs from the site as the main structure. Thanks to the work party! All hikers will appreciate keeping their feet dry!

Pomperaug Helping Hands

Helping Hands is a nonprofit, student run club at Pomperaug High School in Southbury. These helpful students completed many hours of service with Flanders throughout 2022. They volunteered at Pancake Breakfast in March, Farm Festival in May, Farm to Flanders in August, and at Haunted Hikes in October!

