



Survey Says...

February is planning season in the Steep Rock office. This “slower” time of the year allows us the opportunity to pause, lift our heads, reflect on our efforts, and make sure we are focused on our mission. It’s also an opportunity for SRA to reach out and seek your input on our work. As we approach our centennial celebration in 2025, **we want to learn more about your interests in the outdoors and Steep Rock Association and seek your constructive advice on our next steps.** SRA’s Community Engagement Committee has created a brief survey to gather your input on what we do well and where we may need to work a little harder in coming years. Your experiences in our preserves and programs are invaluable to us and your insights will help ensure that we stay focused on protecting what you love in Washington and the Litchfield Hills. We would be grateful if you could complete our survey at this [LINK](#). Thank you for your input and advice.

See you on our trails...

Brian Hagenbuch, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Speaker Series Focuses on Land Conservation

Thinking about conserving your land? Land Trusts such as Steep Rock offer several strategies for landowners interested in protecting their property. Join us on February 22 for a virtual webinar, "Land Conservation 101." The webinar features Rory Larson, Steep Rock's Director of Conservation, Connie Manes, [Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative](#), and landowners who've conserved their property. They will describe the environmental and economic benefits of conservation, emphasize the critical role landowners play, and outline the processes for conserving land. Interested in this insightful, free webinar? Register on our event page [\[more\]](#)

Summer Internships with Steep Rock Association

Steep Rock Association's paid summer internship program immerses college and high school students in all aspects of our organizational operations. Our interns make a difference in our community, gain real-world skills in land conservation, trail stewardship, and sustainable agriculture, and have fun in the process. Steep Rock's interns offer valuable support that helps our land trust meet important goals. [\[more\]](#)

A Year Protecting What I Love

Merlin Ennis, Steep Rock's Trails & Preserves Manager, looks back on one year of protecting what you love with Steep Rock Association, and reflects on the impact of 99 years of support. [\[more\]](#)

Top Hiking Spot in the 2024 Litchfield Magazine Reader's Choice!

Thank you for voting [Steep Rock Preserve](#) as your #1 Favorite Hiking Spot in the 2024 Reader's Choice! [Hidden Valley Preserve](#) snagged the #3 spot

for your Favorite Hiking Spot, and Steep Rock Association took 3rd place for your favorite nonprofit. Check out [Litchfield Magazine](#) for the [Readers Choice Results](#). Thank you for your support and for helping us protect what you love.

Tunnel Road Bridge Has Reopened!

The Tunnel Road Bridge in Steep Rock Preserve is OPEN to traffic with no restrictions! Please note that the project will not be completed until spring, so while the bridge is still "unfinished", one lane is open and you can now use the main entrance and parking area again. Happy hiking!

Upcoming Events

Thanks to our donors, we're able to offer all of these events at no cost!

- **Feb. 22 - [Virtual Speaker Series](#) - Land Conservation 101: The Why and How of Preserving Your Property**
Dive into the benefits of conserving your land in this engaging seminar.
- **March 19 - [Volunteer Opportunities with Steep Rock](#)**
Learn about the variety of ways you can volunteer with Steep Rock, contribute to our efforts, and support the land trust you love.
- **March 19 - [Volunteer Appreciation Firepit Event](#)**
Join us as we celebrate our wonderful volunteers around the firepit!
- **March 28 - [Virtual Speaker Series](#) - Bountiful Backyard Harvests: Mastering Sustainable & Organic Vegetable Gardening**
Discover the secrets of sustainable vegetable gardening in your own backyard.

