

Rattlesnake Gutter Trust Monitoring - RGT-Owned Property Form

1. Property Name: East Leverett Meadow **Year:** 2025

2. Date of Monitoring: December 11, 2025

Recommendations from last year's monitoring:

None concerning monitoring. There is an active "to-do" list for ELM from the ELM committee.

3. Monitors:

Mike Williams and Rocky Adriance

4. Describe the monitoring route briefly (also draw on map):

We walked around the Meadow in a counterclockwise loop, starting bfrom the ELM parking area. . After looping the Meadow, we returned along the access trail to the parking area on Cushman Rd.

5. Action Items requiring attention:

- 1) Need a load of stone for the parking area. Low place gets standing water.
- 2) We want to install an information sign describing the Meadow history and cutting strategy.
- 3) SOme brush cleared this fall needs to be removed... near the tral near the orchard.
- 4) Several posts marking the refugia at the east end of the meadow are missing... need to be replaced.
- 5) Low brush between the trail and the orchard should be cut back.
- 6) Rocky lost a blower during mowing; need to reimburse along with his normal reimbursement for mowing.

See attached list for on-going projects, Committee willl meet to prioritize 2026 UMass ECO projects.

6. List any problems with monitoring map or photos:

No problems.

7. Describe alterations. Draw on map, take photos.

Natural

Human Made

Rattlesnake Gutter Trust Monitoring - RGT-Owned Property Form

None Observed: ☒

None Observed: ☒

Mowing in 2025: Rocky mowed Meadow strips #1 (50' in each of the 8 150' strips). Strips #3 in each 150' strip were mowed in late October, 2024.

8. Monitoring recommendations for next year:

Normal monitoring. Note that the ELM access trail passes through part of the Kuzmeski CR.

Rocky and Mike will work with UMass ECO class for Meadow projects.

Stewardship Plan for Upcoming Year:

9. Last Year's Stewardship Plan / Goals / Accomplishments:

Curt Griffin took over for Kelly Klinger (faculty members in Environmental Science at UMass). Curt brought a class (split into two sections) on four separate days. The first two-day visit involved an introduction to ELM maintenance and then the class conducted an inventory of EM vegetation. The second two-day visit involved removing invasives and cutting brush along the edges of ELM. Rocky and Mike made an introductory presentation and then, worked with the class

10. Last Year's Actual Costs ~ \$900 for mowing

11. Goals, planned activities to meet those Stewardship goals and timeline for the coming year:

See attached. We will hold a meeting of the ELM committee in early spring to discuss and plan for 2025 activities. One major goal (carryover from last year) is to add an informative sign near the polinator garden about preserving the meadow, endangered species, and pollinators.

12. Anticipated costs (both on-going and for this next year):

~\$ 15000 for mowing, signs, pollinator purchase for S. Seaman polinator garden. Plus, reimburse Rocky for damaged blower for tractor.

Signed:

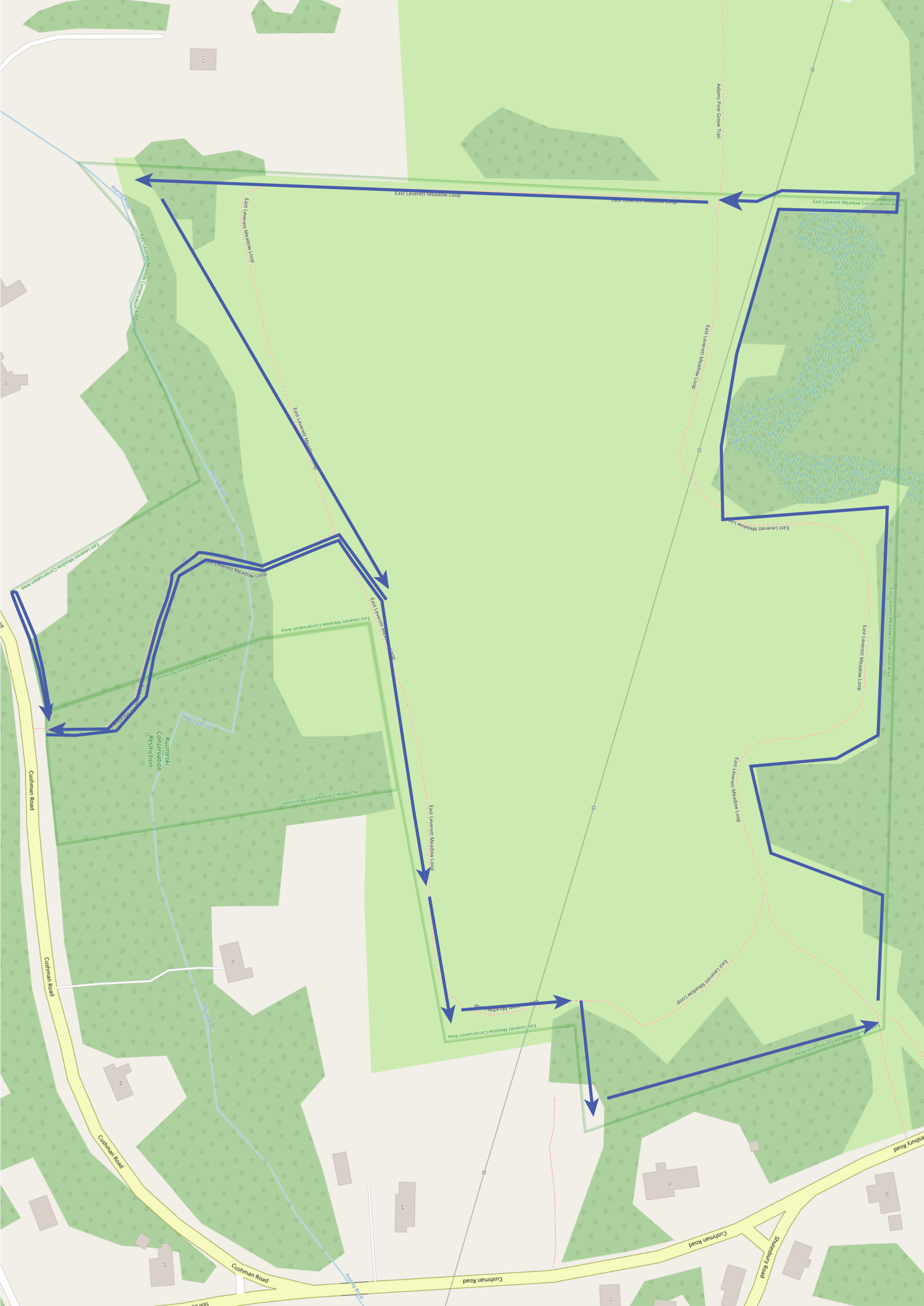
Michael L. Williams

Date Signed: 12/14/2025

Rattlesnake Gutter Trust Monitoring - RGT-Owned Property Form

Still to do:

- ☒ Ask to present this report at the next RGT Board Meeting
- ☒ Print out and sign 3 copies:
 - ☒ 1. Put one in the Green Field Notebook
 - ☒ 2. Give one to the person who puts the reports in the Blue Archive Notebook at the Leverett Family Museum.
 - ☒ 3. Mail (or give) a copy to the land owner(s)
- ☒ Send an electronic copy of this report to the person who puts it on the Board-only section of the RGT website.



ELM Stewardship Plan 2024

Goal	Purpose	Labor and Materials	Timeframe	Budget Allowance	Outcome
Bush-hog 1/3rd of the meadow once a year	consistent with turtle survival	Rocky bush hog	every November	\$900	mow 1/3 meadow once per year in 50' wide strips. Begun in 2016. Too wet to mow this year.
Maintain "refugia" areas	keep some areas free of activity, as control zones	none	Mow in Nov w/ the rest of the meadow	None	establish four 50' x 50' plots that will never be mowed, as control areas
Add more sets to the pollinator garden, clear the old tarp	establish more local flowering plants in the meadow	Purchase local pollinator sets from Nasami	Spring	\$250	George and Ingrid, with a work party. Nasami unable to fill our order this year.
Prune and maintain apple trees in NE	return this orchard to health, add beauty to the meadow	one or more mowing/bush hogging per year, misc pruning	already underway with Joe Sincuk's help	None	needs pruning this year . Keeping the orchard bush hogged.
Better signage at both entries to ELM	tell visitors what we're trying to do in ELM. Make kiosks attractive and updated. Add a bench?	Rocky and others to build these, Julie C to write and illustrate?	Sometime this summer	\$500	Needs a design
Move kestrel box to shady side of shagbark	It will stay cooler		When the ground thaws	None	
Two narrow bog bridges on the South foot path	Two spots are normally flooded	If these are narrow, the tractor can straddle them while mowing. Use 4x4's for bases	Spring work party	\$300	Done w/ Umass students
Interpretive signs at old distillery sites	Good story in unexpected place	TBD	TBD	TBD	Needs more research (Rocky)
Maintain benches along the footpath	all need repairs or new legs		Spring	\$50	Continuing
Clear woody invasives from main meadow	Keep them from spreading		Early Fall	None	

UMass potential projects 2025

(For Curt Griffin UMass ECO class projects)

- Open the trail from the Parking pull-off to the bridge.
- Open the path from the bench on the North side to the distillery.
- Remove 7' woody tree inside the path on the North side.
- Trim back heavy branches on a laurel growing over the path in the SW corner.
- Move 4 bog bridges aside so we can bush hog their undergrowth. Then move them back.
- Pull invasive multi flora along both sides of the South edge pathway.
- Pull or cut several sumacs growing inside the SE corner of the meadow.
- Pull multiflora growing inside the Pollinator Garden, next to the path to the footbridge.
- Hike the new Purple Trail, see the covered bridge and Hanging Tree, return on the green trail next to the beaver pond. (About 30-40 minutes)