

RGT Stewardship Plan

1. Property and Year

East Leverett Meadow 2015

2. Last Year

a. Goals Last Year (2013 stewardship plan and monitoring report) and Accomplishments

- Conduct routine management.
 - Conducted regular walks of the property to identify management needs.
 - Arranged for maintenance of walking path around the meadow.
 - Arranged for late fall mowing and thatch removal.
- Enhance habitat to support present plant and animal use and encourage additional species.
 - Engaged Molly Hale to conduct yearly bobolink study.
- Encourage use/enjoyment by the public.
 - The walking path around the meadow was mowed and maintained.
- Make ELM a benefit rather than a drain on RGT resources (e.g., financial, volunteer).
 - Thanks to volunteer help, the cost of mowing the walking path around the meadow was reduced.
 - Efforts continued to find the most cost-effective way of conducting the annual mowing of the meadow.

b. Anticipated Budget Last Year and Actual Costs:

- anticipated \$1,000
- spent \$250: \$100 for mowing trail and \$150 for Bobolink Survey. Mowing not done.

3. Goals for this year, activities planned to meet those goals, and a proposed timeline of activities.

a. Locate pins/establish boundary markers at the four corners of the property.

- Establish approximate locations of property corners using hand-held GPS units.
- Put plastic or metal pipes at each of the four corners with the tops painted a highly visible color.
- Timeline: April-June, 2015

b. Create a monthly/quarterly maintenance and management calendar.

- List all regular maintenance and management tasks.
- Determine time period in which maintenance and management tasks need to be undertaken.
- Create timeline and post on RGT website.
- Timeline: January-February, 2015

c. Improve signage regarding the prohibition of recreational motorized vehicles.

- Determine suitability of existing signage.
- Price and order new signage as needed.

- Install new signage.
 - Timeline: January-April, 2015
- d. Reverse the expansion of goldenrod in the meadow proper.
- Conduct research to determine best methods to control goldenrod.
 - Determine pilot projects to control and reverse goldenrod expansion.
 - Conduct pilot activities.
 - Record results of pilot projects.
 - Timeline: March-September, 2015
- e. Determine the status of the wood turtle population.
- Secure recommendations from Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife for most efficient survey methodology.
 - Identify and recruit expert individual to conduct the survey
 - Seek grant funding for the survey.
 - Conduct the survey.
 - Analyze survey results.
 - Timeline: January-June, 2015
- f. Establish a protocol for maintaining an abutting landowner's view of the meadow.
- Determine regular cutting needed to maintain landowner's view.
 - Add maintenance schedule to general maintenance/management calendar.
 - Conduct designated cutting activities as needed.
 - Timeline: January-March, 2015 to establish protocols; TBD to conduct maintenance activities
- g. Make the existing bird boxes more accessible to various species.
- Clean out, repair, and re-site bluebird boxes as needed.
 - Clean out and repair kestrel box as needed.
 - Explore putting up wood duck boxes in wetland area along northern boundary.
 - Create mowed area in front of each of the bluebird boxes.
 - Timeline: March-May, 2015
- h. Document the plant species in the meadow and edge habitats.
- Identify botanist with whom to collaborate in identification of plant species.
 - Take and collect photographs of plant species.
 - Create brochure listing the plant species in the meadow and edge habitats.
 - Timeline: January-November, 2015
- i. Determine status and needs of edge habitats.
- Engage environmental consultant to identify edge habitat needs.
 - Create plan for edge habitat management
 - Conduct activities to meet edge habitat management goals.
 - Timeline: April-November, 2015
- j. Control invasive species in the meadow and edge habitats
- Identify botanist able to identify type and distribution of invasive species.
 - Create plan for invasive control and eradication.
 - Conduct control and eradication activities.
 - Timeline: January-October, 2015

4. Anticipated costs for 2015

Annual mowing and thatch removal:	\$3,300.00
Maintenance of walking path:	150.00
Annual bobolink survey and report:	250.00
Total:	\$3,700.00

5. Plan completed by

Steve Weiss

Signed

Date signed

I have asked to present this report at the next RGT Board Meeting

I have printed out a copy of this report and put in the green Field Notebook.

I have sent a copy to the person who puts reports in the RGT blue Archive Notebook.

I have sent an electronic copy to the person who puts reports on the Board-only section of the RGT website.