Management Plan
Margett's Fields & Woods

The Margett's property is located along Blue Mill Road. The property was acquired in 1992 and is approximately 54.97 acres. The property consists of three distinct sections. A wooded area extends from Featherbed Lane to Van Buren along Blue Mill Road (the "Woods"). To the east of the wooded area, a large hayfield extends from Blue Mill up to Colgate Terrace (the "Blue Mill Hayfield"). The final section of the property is the hayfield along Featherbed Lane (the "Featherbed Hayfield"). This latter hayfield tends to be extremely wet and generally can only be mowed once a year in late summer or early fall. Public access to Margett's Field is from Blue Mill Road at the intersection of Blue Mill and Featherbed or along Blue Mill where parking is available on the property.

Goals

Goal 1. The Blue Mill Hayfield is an iconic gateway streetscape reflecting the agricultural heritage of the Township and will be maintained as a hayfield.

Goal 2. The section of the Margett's property along Featherbed will be maintained as a hayfield.

Goal 3. The section of the Margett's property which is wooded will be maintained as wooded property.

Goal 4. Invasive plants in the wooded property along the bridle trail and between the bridle trail and Blue Mill will be controlled and the vines will be removed from the trees in this area.

Method to Achieve Goals

Goal 1. The hayfield along Blue Mill will be mowed annually after July 15th to permit fledglings to develop before the first cutting. Mowing will be done to control invasive plants and to enhance the hay crop. The farmer mowing the property will be encouraged to bale the hay and remove the bales of hay from the property promptly. At the discretion of the farmer mowing the field, the field may be mowed a 2nd time if the hay is baled and removed promptly. At the discretion of the Township Committee, funds may be provided for fertilizer and herbicides to enhance the streetscape along this gateway property. The property will be walked annually to assure that no dumping occurs on the property, particularly on the southern and western borders where private residences back up to the property. No other maintenance on this property is contemplated.

Goal 2. The Featherbed Hayfield will be mowed at least annually by the DPW. Mowing will occur in late summer or early fall when the property is dry enough to mow. The property will be walked annually. No other maintenance on this property is contemplated.

Goal 3. The Woods will be walked annually. Trees along the bridle trail that pose a safety hazard will be removed. Trees in the interior of the property that pose a safety hazard will be cut and left on the forest floor as habitat for wildlife. A forestry study will be conducted to evaluate the Woods and to determine whether planting of hardwoods in open areas of the Woods resulting from prior storms would enhance the property and could cost effectively be protected until maturity.

Goal 4. Through herbicide application and mechanical means the growth between Blue Mill Road and the bridle trail and along the bridle trail will be cleared to improve the viewscape.

If Japanese knotweed is identified on the property eradication efforts will be undertaken including using herbicide and mechanical means of control.