



TOWN OF CHESHIRE  
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## Casertano Property Factsheet

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In January 1998, the Town of Cheshire purchased approximately 128 acres from the Casertano family. The property consists of two distinct lots: the 39-acre agricultural lot to the east of Marion Road, and the 89-acre forested lot to the west of Marion Road. The original parcel of land was known to the local farmers as the “Elliot Doolittle Farm” and was historically surrounded by agricultural properties.

Due to its relatively flat topography and fertile land, the parcel east of Marion Road has been cultivated almost continuously since 1900. In the past century, there have been at least five individuals that have cultivated a large variety of crops including vegetables, hay and corn for silage. Currently, the Town of Cheshire leases this parcel to a local farmer.

The upland portion of the property, where you are standing, is heavily forested, with elevation ranging from 135 to 480 feet above sea level. Aerial photographs prior to 1965 indicate that northeastern and central portions of the property may have been clear cut or possibly cultivated. During the 1930s and the 1940s a large amount of sand and gravel was removed from this area. The history of land disturbance has contributed to the establishment of non-native invasive plant species such as barberry, autumn olive, bittersweet and multi-floral rose, threatening the health of the forest. The town has embarked on species management practices in an attempt to prevent additional damage.

The property gains steeply in elevation; for a hearty workout take the **orange** trail ascending directly uphill, or for a more gentle uphill experience take the **blue** trail using switchbacks to gain elevation. Both the **orange** and **blue** trails lead to the gas line clearing, allowing views of the Hanging Hills in Meriden.