

CENTER FOR ECOLOGY & NATURAL RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY



SITE 5

Urban

Franklin Township
Portage County, OH

*Report Written By: Stephanie Deibel
Date of Site Visit: 11 July 2012
Date Finalized: 05 September 2012*

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SECTION 1: NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Introduction

Stephanie Deibel, conservation undergraduate student, and Jonathan Kirk, geography graduate student, visited the Urban property to establish a baseline documentation report of the property. During the visit, we walked the entire property and took photos at the property corners and at other significant locations.

Surrounding Land Use

The Urban property is approximately 18 acres and is located north of 261 in Franklin Township in Portage County, OH. The property is within the Cuyahoga watershed. The property is bordered by residential land use on the northern property line and the western property line. Campus Center Dr. runs through the property just west of the middle. 261 borders the southern property line. KSU baseball fields are located along the northern property line on the right or eastern side.

Land Cover and Habitats

Mixed Hardwood Forest

Approximately 18 acres of mixed hardwood forests can be found throughout the site. Old growth forest can be found near the more western part of the property, west of Campus Center Dr, with some Mid-Successional aged trees throughout. The understory is open with little growth with no defined walking trail. This area is sectioned by an open area with large shrub and small tree growth. Common hardwood species can be found in this area including Red Oak, White Oak, Black Cherry, and Black Oak. The remaining hardwood forested areas are Mid-Successional forest. East of Campus Center Dr., just west of the baseball fields, some past evidence of logging or management can be seen. There are numerous v-trees which suggest a past cutting. The same species mentioned above can be found throughout the entire hardwood forested areas.

Creek

A creek, approximately 204.5meters long, runs along the northern border of the property, east of Campus Center Dr. and just south of the open area part of the Ravenna Housing property.

Land Cover Summary

Land Cover Type	Description
Mixed Hardwood Forest	18 acres
Creek	204.4 meters

Note: The above descriptions are estimated values calculated from an aerial map of the area. The values are in no way exact measures of these land cover types.

Summary of Conservation Values

The Urban property has significant educational and natural conservation values. The diverse tree species type makes this area interesting and significant to forest management and education. These habitats offer food and shelter for birds and various sized mammals.

Site History

3 Parcels:

04-006-00-00-009-001

45-005-00-00-010-000

45-005-00-00-023-002

Transaction:

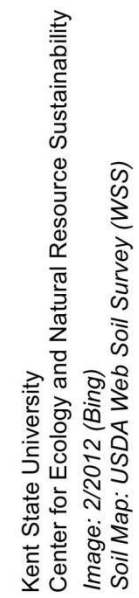
Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Price
2/4/1994	Unknown	Kent State University	\$0.00
5/21/2009	Kent State University Foundation Inc	Kent State University Board of Trustees	\$0.00

SECTION 2: SOILS INFORMATION

MAP UNIT	SOIL SERIES	SOIL TEXTURE	DRAINAGE CLASS	EROSION RATING	SLOPE
BgA	<i>Bogart</i>	<i>Silt Loam</i>	<i>Moderately Well</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>0-2%</i>
CnB	<i>Chili</i>	<i>Loam</i>	<i>Well Drained</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>2-6%</i>
CpB	<i>Chili</i>	<i>Silt Loam</i>	<i>Well Drained</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>2-6%</i>
CtD	<i>Chili-Oshtemo</i>	<i>Complex</i>	<i>Well Drained</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>12-18%</i>
Da	<i>Damascus</i>	<i>Loam</i>	<i>Poorly Drained</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>0-2%</i>
JtA	<i>Jimtown</i>	<i>Loam</i>	<i>Somewhat Poorly</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>0-2%</i>
Od	<i>Olmsted</i>	<i>Loam</i>	<i>Very Poor</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>0-2%</i>
WuC	<i>Wooster</i>	<i>Silt Loam</i>	<i>Well Drained</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>6-12%</i>

This information was gathered from the Web Soil Survey, provided by the USDA NRCS and the Soil Survey of Portage County, provided by the USDA SCS in cooperation with NRCS.

SECTION 3: SOILS MAP



SECTION 4: PROPERTY INVENTORY

4.1 Structures, Improvements, and/or Noted Features

- A small creek, mentioned in the Ravenna Housing report, extends into the wooded area approximately 145ft East of Campus Center Dr.
- A Transition Zone – Photo Point S5-01 – with shrub dominant growth with some young trees sits between wooded areas. The area to the East of this point has uneven aged large trees with DBH > 16” with a few young trees and some DBH exceeding 36”. The understory is open and very easy to walk through. Photo Point S5-02 marks the transition back to a wooded area with uneven aged trees dominated by 15” DBH. Some trees have DBH > 40” and the understory is very open with no significant growth. Deer tracks were seen in this wooded area. A portion of the fence running along the Southern border has been broken through.
- A Dried Creek – Photo Point S5-03 – seems to have passed through the property at this location. Poorly defined banks were observed, however, the leaf litter in the area had soil residue.
- A Wet Area- Photo Point S5-07 – had no standing water at time of visit, however, the soil residue was present on leaf litter and the trunk of trees in the area show water mark/line.
- City Ordinance Sign – Photo Point S5-08 – seems to mark the Northern property boundary.
- The Forested Area – Photo Point S5-10 – East of Campus Center Dr. consists of uneven aged trees mostly Mid-successional with some Mature trees throughout. The understory is open and diverse with shrub and sapling growth. Grapevine is present in this area and could possibly have been logged at one time; v-trees are present.
- Five Cherry Trees – Photo Point S5-12 – are marked with the letter C in white spray paint. Another tree, just East of this grouping, is marked with the number 30.
- A Change in Woody Vegetation – Photo Point S5-13 – is marked by this point. The understory shrub growth is much thicker and more fallen trees are in the area making it harder to navigate through.
- A Possible Wetland Area – Photo Point S5-14 – has cattail growth and the leaves were covered in soil residue.
- KSU Adventure Center – Photo Point S5-15 – has a workout course about 630ft from the eastern property line.
- A Trail – Photo Point S5-16 – takes you to a valley with little tree growth on the Southern side. If you continue to walk on the trail, headed East, you will find yourself at a local park, photo point S5-17, which is not a part of KSU property. The park has an old baseball field and a playground. The trees in the forested area near the park are Mature. Grapevine is present.

4.2 Access Roads and Trails/Parking

- West of Campus Center Dr. can be accessed through an opening in the forest that has recently been created by KSU officials.
- A gravel walking trail, mentioned in the Ravenna Housing report, extends into the Urban property allowing easy access to the area located by and below the baseball fields.
- A dirt walking trail becomes visible near photo point S5-12 and is useable to navigate through the rest of the eastern portion of the site.

- Parking at Allerton Sports Complex would allow access to all areas of the site. One could possibly park in the open area just north of this property, part of the Ravenna Housing property, to better access the western portion of the property.

4.3 Dumps, Disturbances, or Environmental Hazards

- Organic Dump Pile – Photo Point S5-09 – has been created by a neighboring resident. A small grassed path can be seen leading away from the pile towards a house.
- Red Dirt Mound – Photo Point S5-11 – What looks to be dirt from the baseball fields have been dumped into small piles in the wooded area.

4.4 Encroachments/Trespassing

- A Shed – Photo Point S5-04 – has been placed on KSU property. This area is just north of the open area that sections the old growth forested area. There are few cut trees west of the shed.
- Although not certain – Photo Point S5-05 – could represent another encroachment on the property. According to the property polygon, they are not on KSU property. However, the tree line suggests that KSU may own up to edge of the forest.

SECTION 5: LIST OF PHOTO POINTS

S5-01: *Open Area with Shrub Growth*

S5-02: *Old Growth Area*

S5-03: *Possible Road Ditch*

S5-04: *Shed*

S5-05: *SW point of polygon, property corner*

S5-06: *NW point on polygon, property corner*

S5-07: *Wet Area*

S5-08: *City Ordinance Sign*

S5-09: *Organic Dump Pile*

S5-10: *Forested Area*

S5-11: *Red Dirt Mound*

S5-12: *“C” trees*

S5-13: *Understory Transition*

S5-14: *Possible Wetland*

S5-15: *KSU Adventure Center, ropes course*

S5-16: *Valley*

S5-17: *Park off of trail*

SECTION 6: MAP OF PHOTO POINTS



SECTION 7: PHOTO POINT COORDINATES

Coordinate System: UTM UPS, NAD83, (meters)

GPS Points taken on July 11, 2012; using a Garmin eTrex Legend HCx GPS

Point Number	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)	Elevation (ft)
S5-01	41 08.099	81 20.858	1107
S5-02	41 08.100	81 20.907	1095
S5-03	41 08.093	81 20.953	1128
S5-04	41 08.121	81 20.952	1091
S5-05	41 08.098	81 21.005	1120
S5-06	41 08.121	81 21.015	1123
S5-07	41 08.113	81 20.946	1053
S5-08	41 08.124	81 20.927	1044
S5-09	41 08.115	81 20.787	1096
S5-10	41 08.098	81 20.619	1118
S5-11	41 08.098	81 20.581	1140
S5-12	41 08.105	81 20.532	1141
S5-13	41 08.107	81 20.491	1141
S5-14	41 08.115	81 20.411	1132
S5-15	41 08.105	81 20.396	1130
S5-16	41 08.115	81 20.274	1150
S5-17	41 08.123	81 20.184	1129

Note: The longitude and latitude values were determined by a GPS unit. It should be noted that there is a small amount of error inherent with GPS readings.

SECTION 8: PHOTO POINT PHOTOS

S5-01: *Open Area with Shrub Growth*



S5-02: *Old Growth Area*



S5-03: *Possible Road Ditch*



S5-04: *Shed*



S5-05: *SW point of polygon, property corner*



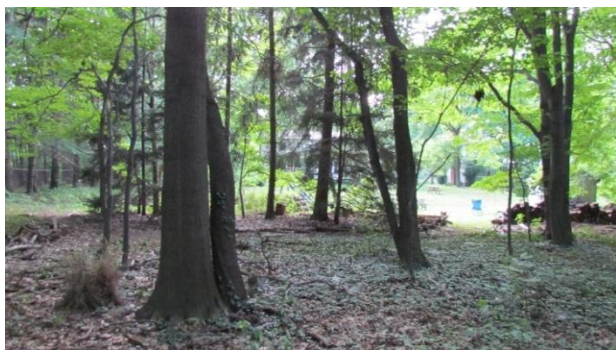
N- Trees/Road



E- Trees towards shed



S- 261 fence



W- Houses

S5-06: *NW point on polygon, property corner*



N- Small wooden fence with wire



E- Woods



S- 261

W- House

S5-07: *Wet Area*



S5-08: *City Ordinance Sign*



S5-09: *Organic Dump Pile*



S5-10: *Forested Area*

S5-11: *Red Dirt Mound*

S5-12: *“C” trees*



S5-13: *Understory Transition*

S5-14: *Possible Wetland*



S5-15: *KSU Adventure Center, ropes course*



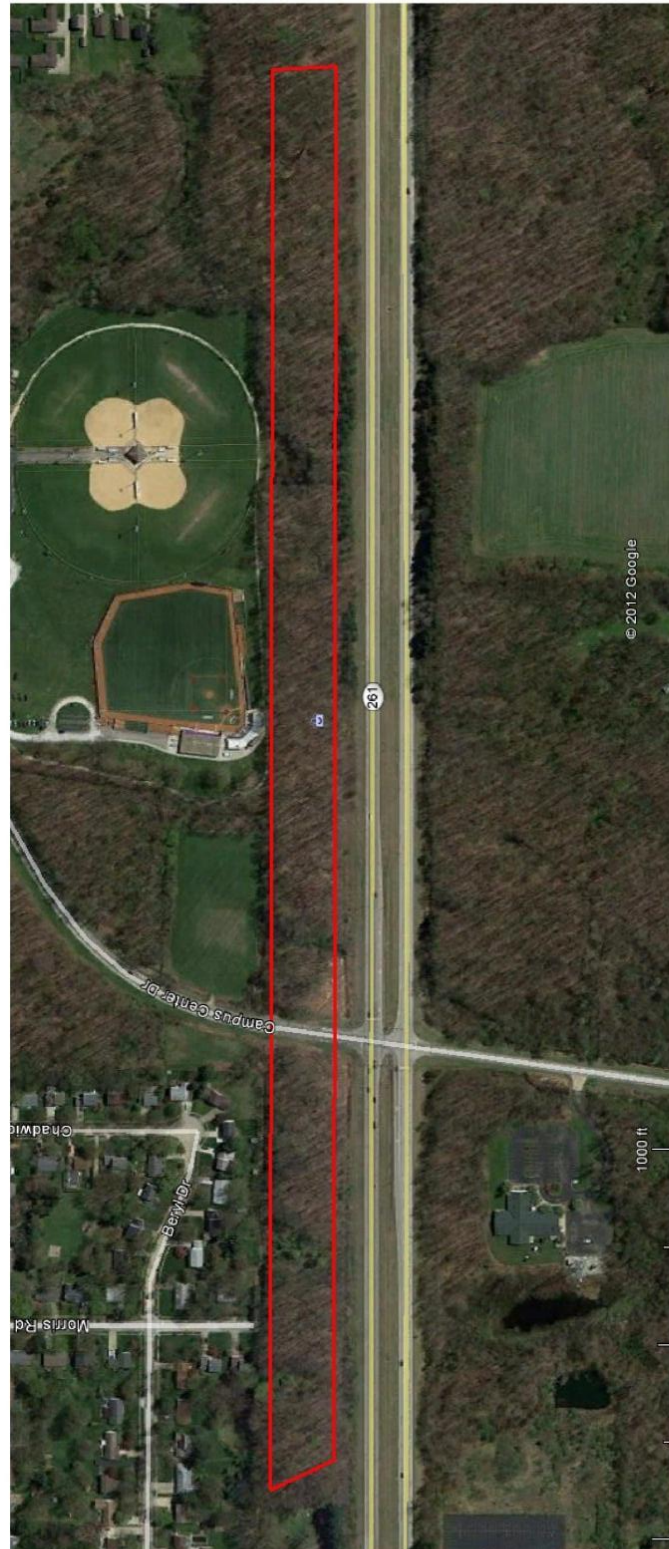
S5-16: *Valley*



S5-17: *Park off of trail*

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: MAPS



Kent State University
Center for Ecology & Natural Resource Sustainability
Image: 4/6/2012 (Google Maps)



Aerial View

Site 5: Nof261

