CENTER FOR ECOLOGY & NATURAL RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY



SITE 3

Morgan

Franklin Township
Portage County, OH

Report Written By: Stephanie Deibel
Date of Site Visit: 15, 18, 27 June 2012
Date Finalized: 04 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 Morgan 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 Morgan property is approximately 34.5 acres and is located between Summit Rd and 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 western edge and at the far left of the northern property line. Burnett Rd sits between the eastern property line and a residential area. 261 borders the southern property line with a small creek between them.

Land Cover and Habitats

Mixed Hardwood Forest

The lower left forested area is an uneven-aged, mixed hardwood forest with little to no understory growth. The DBH of the trees in this area range from 8”-25” making this forest a combination of Mid-Successional and Mature age classes. This area is currently being used by the neighboring apartment area. Bikes trails and BMX ramps along with various types of garbage were seen while inventorying the site. A concrete drainage pipe with a pooling area can be found near the middle of the left boundary line.

The middle forested area is an uneven-aged, mixed hardwood forest with dense, diverse understory growth consisting of shrubs and low lying leafy plants. Trees with DBH ranging from 8”-16” classifying this area as Mid-Successional. Some Mature trees with DBH greater than 16” can be found in the lower half of the outlined area. Fallen trees and branches contribute to the difficulty of walking through this site. A small creek runs through this area near the center (photo point 28). Bluegill and spawn beds were seen in this area. The creek gets wider before emptying into the pond. A small, unusable wooden bridge goes across the creek. Near the center of the polygon is a clearing with tall grass growth. A small ephemeral pool with tadpoles was seen here. To the right of this area is a pooling area or small pond that seems to have once been connected to the wider creek area mentioned above. An even-aged maple forest with no significant understory growth can be found to the left of the pooling area located in the lower part of the outlined area. Numerous trees ranging from 8”-10” DBH have been cut down to make what appears to be a fort and is most likely the product of the adjacent apartment residents.

The upper right forested area is an uneven-aged, mixed hardwood forest with a dense, monoculture understory made up of shrubs. The DBH of the trees are ≤ 16” classifying this area as Early/Mid-Successional. Near the lower end of the outlined area the understory becomes nonexistent and seems to get occasionally flooded. Trees in this area had water marks, photo point S3-25, and leafy debris with light sediment covering where observed. Old tires, oil cans, and other plastic bottles can be found in this occasionally flooded area.

Open-field
Open field land cover makes up the rest of the site. The left open area has 2-3 different grass types with some shrubs and small trees scattered in groupings around the area. This area is fairly easy to walk through. The right open area had little diversity in grass types and had smaller, thorny shrub growth up to 100ft from the forest edge, approximately. Old tire marks have created small seasonal pooling areas. When inventoried, these areas had no water but mud cracks were observed.

Pond
A pond, photo point 18, is located between two forested areas. The pond edge consists of cattail growth ranging in width from 2'-50'. Some woody debris in the pond on the left side could be home to a variety of aquatic life. A small drain, photo point 17, seems to be an inlet source as well as the small creek near photo point S3-18.

Creek
A creek, roughly 79 meters long, can be found near the east side of the southern boundary line. Gravel and Sand substrate make up the bottom of the creek. Crawdad, small fish, and adult damselflies were seen while inventorying the area. Another creek, approximately 78 meters long, runs through the hardwood forested area west of the large pond. Water is shallow with sand as its dominant substrate type.

Land Cover Summary

Land Cover Type	**Description**
Mixed Hardwood Forest	19 acres
Open-field	13 acres
Pond	2.5 acres
Creek	157 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 Morgan property has significant educational, research, and natural conservation values. The diverse habitats for aquatic life and wildlife includes various successional stages of hardwood forest, open water ponds, vernal pools, a maple dominant forest, and open field habitats. These habitats offer food and shelter for fish, birds, and various sized mammals.

Site History

5 Parcels:

17-003-10-00-063-000

17-003-10-00-062-000

17-003-10-00-064-000

17-003-10-00-065-000

17-003-10-00-066-000

Transaction:

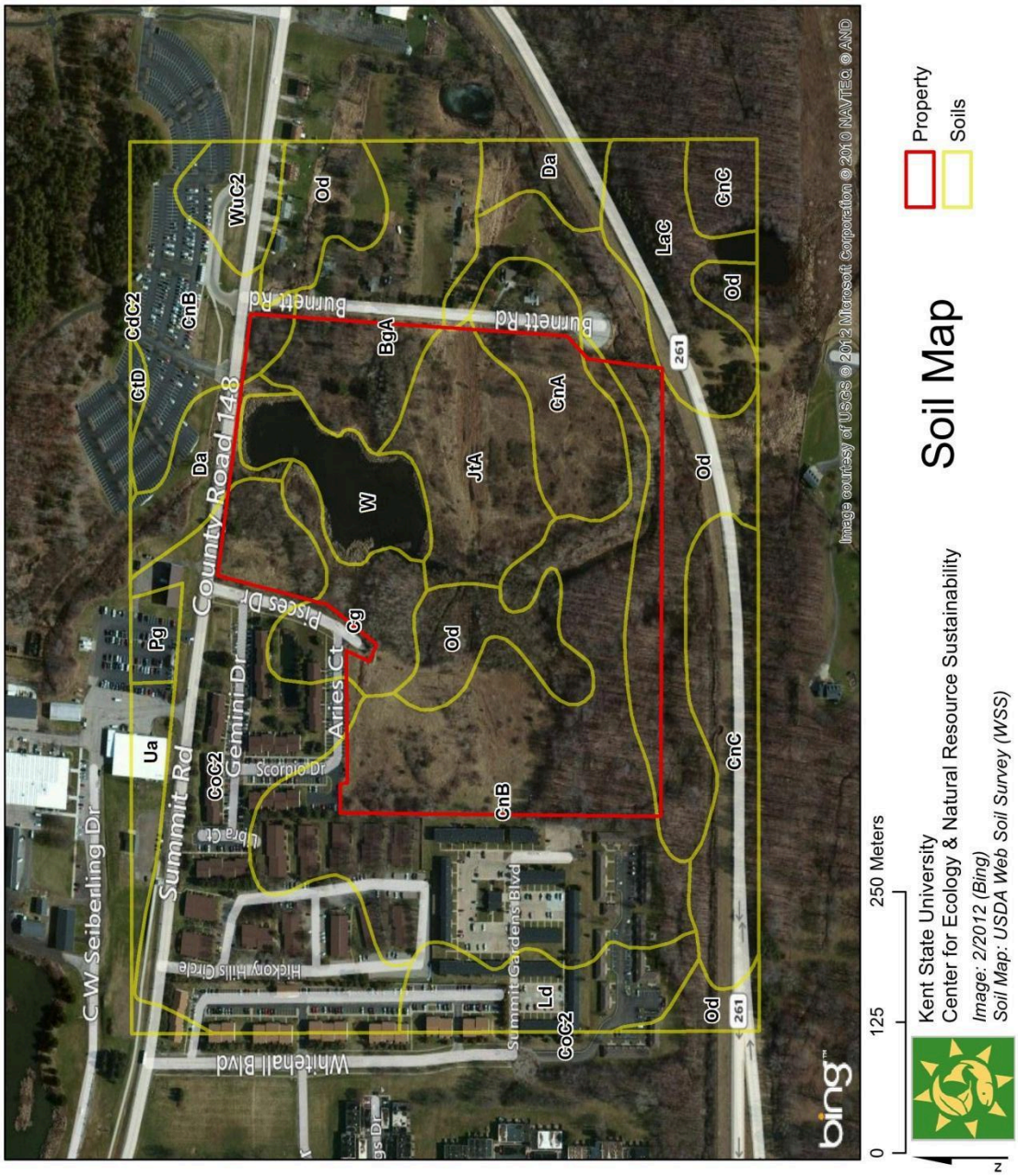
Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Price
11/29/1989	Unknown	Tri County Investments	$0.00
7/19/2000	Tri County Investments	Morgan Burton D & Margaret Clark Burton	$0.00
7/19/2000	Morgan Burton D & Margaret Clark Burton	Kent State University Foundation Inc	$0.00
9/18/2000	Kent State University Foundation Inc	Kent State University Board of Trustees	$0.00

SECTION 2: SOILS INFORMATION

MAP UNIT	SOIL SERIES	SOIL TEXTURE	DRAINAGE CLASS	EROSION RATING	SLOPE
BgA	*Bogart*	*Silt Loam*	*Moderately Well*	*Slight*	*0-2%*
Cg	*Carlisle*	*Muck*	*Very Poor*	*Slight*	*0-2%*
CnA	*Chili*	*Loam*	*Well Drained*	*Slight*	*0-2%*
CnB	*Chili*	*Loam*	*Well Drained*	*Slight*	*2-6%*
COC2	*Chili*	*Gravelly Loam*	*Well Drained*	*Moderately*	*6-12%*
Da	*Damascus*	*Loam*	*Poorly Drained*	*Slight*	*0-2%*
JtA	*Jimtown*	*Loam*	*Somewhat Poorly*	*Slight*	*0-2%*
Od	*Olmsted*	*Loam*	*Very Poor*	*Slight*	*0-2%*

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

- An Open Field Area – Photo Point S3-02 – consists of small trees and shrubs sparsely spaced. It seems to be recovering from what use to be an old road/construction area.
- The Western Edge – Photo Point S3-04 – is marked by a fence. An electrical box is located in a small wooded area near this point.
- A Clearing in a wooded area – Photo Point S3-08 – is dominated by shrub growth. Looking West and North is housing. Looking East the clearing continues. Looking South is a wooded area.
- A Wooded Area – Photo Point S3-09 – extends both North and South of the clearing mentioned above. The trees are uneven aged, mid-succession growth with DBH ranging for 8" to 16". The understory is dense with shrub growth and large leafy plant growth. Fallen trees and branches make for microhabitats.
- An Ephemeral Pool – Photo Point S3-10 – had little water present. An abundant amount of tadpoles were present during the visit. The soil around the pool area was very moist and fluffy.
- A Pond/Stilled Stream – Photo Point S3-11 – seems to have been part of a stream that connected to the larger pond near photo point S3-18. From looking at old satellite images, it seems the stream was filled in at the clearing area to create a road that is no longer in use. The bottom seems to be made up of silt and has points where the depth is great, possibly old pooling areas. Woody vegetation makes up the riparian area on the East and Western sides. At the end of this area – Photo Point S3-12 – trash is located along the banks. The riparian area consists of woody vegetation with good understory growth.
- A Small Creek – Photo Point S3-13 – runs along the Southern edge of the property near photo point S3-34 and S3-35. Gravel and sand are the two dominant substrate types and both riffles and pools are present. Good riparian growth on either side of the creek makes it difficult to navigate along the sides at certain points.
- A Wooded Area – Photo Point S3-16 – is uneven aged with DBH of early/mid-successional and mature. The understory is somewhat open with shrub and grass growth.
- A Small Roadside Drainpipe - Photo Point S3-17 –drains into the pond, located centrally near the Northern property line bordering Summit Rd.
- A Large Pond – Photo Point S3-18 – has cattail growth with some shrubs mixed in around the entire perimeter of the pond. Duckweed was visible at time of visit.
- A Pooling Area – Photo Point S3-22 – is possible at this location. Similar grasses fond in wet areas were observed at this point and the soil was very moist.
- Small Pooling Areas – Photo Point S3-23, S3-24 – seem to have been created by old tire marks. No water was present at time of visit, however, mud cracks were visible.
- White PVC pipe – Photo Point S3-25 –approximately 6 inches in diameter and taller than 5 feet, is located about 75 feet of pond. The pipe is surrounded by a tall (3 feet tall) grass monoculture with a wooded area to the East, in the floodplain.
- A Small Clearing – Photo Point S3-26 – in the understory of an uneven aged forest I present at this point. The pond, photo point S3-18, is West, South is a wooded area with tall grass and blackberry bushes, East is a residential area, and North is a forested area with a monoculture ground cover with few large trees.

- Metal drain pipe – Photo Point S3-27 – is located centrally on the Eastern edge of property, West side of Burnett Road.
- Cement drain pipe – Photo Point S3-28 – feeds small creek that ends at photo point S3-29. Sand and silt substrate make up the bed of this creek. Bluegill and spawn beds were seen at time of visit. The creek meets a pooling area at photo point S3-29 which is connected to the large pond at photo point S3-18.
- A Pooling Area – Photo Point S3-33 - is adjacent to the small creek near photo point S3-13. No water was present at time of visit. A visible drainage pipe is likely to be the source of water in this area.
- Photo Point S3-34 represents a portion of the creek near photo point S3-13. Riffles and two pools are visible at this location. The water flows West to East. Cobble bottom with sandy pools make up the substrate. Good, heavy riparian growth on both sides shades the creek and can be difficult to walk through at certain times.
- Large, Cement drain pipe – Photo Point S3-35 – outlets into creek near photo point S3-13. The creek substrate consists of sand and gravel. The Southern 261 boundary fence is no longer visible. The Northern side of creek (stream right) has heavy shrub growth. The Southern side of creek (stream left) has little riparian growth. Damselflies, crawfish, and small fish were spotted in this area.
- Cement drain pipes – Photo Point S3-37 – empty into a pooling area. Unclear whether connected to small creek (13). Frogs spotted in pooled area.

4.2 Access Roads and Trails/Parking

- The site was accessed near photo point 1, utilizing the end of Pisces Dr as parking.
- Very faint remnants of 4x4 trails were used to navigate through portions of the site. These trails can be found near photo point, 7, 8, 11, 23.
- Access from the end of Burnett Rd is feasible as well as near photo point 27. However, substantial parking couldn't be supported at the cul-de-sac.

4.3 Dumps, Disturbances, or Environmental Hazards

- Old tire and oil can dump –Photo Point S3-25 – old truck tires, oil cans, and other plastic bottles were abundant in this area.
- Tree cutting and fort building – Photo Point S3-30 – Trees ranging from 6-10" in DBH have been cut down with what appears to be a chainsaw. The cuts were very smooth and the trees were used to build a fort, in a "Lincoln Log" method. Could be utilized as brush pile for wildlife.
- Couch and miscellaneous plastic bottle dump – photo point 36 – old couch, laundry detergent bottles, and other plastics bottles are abundant in this area.

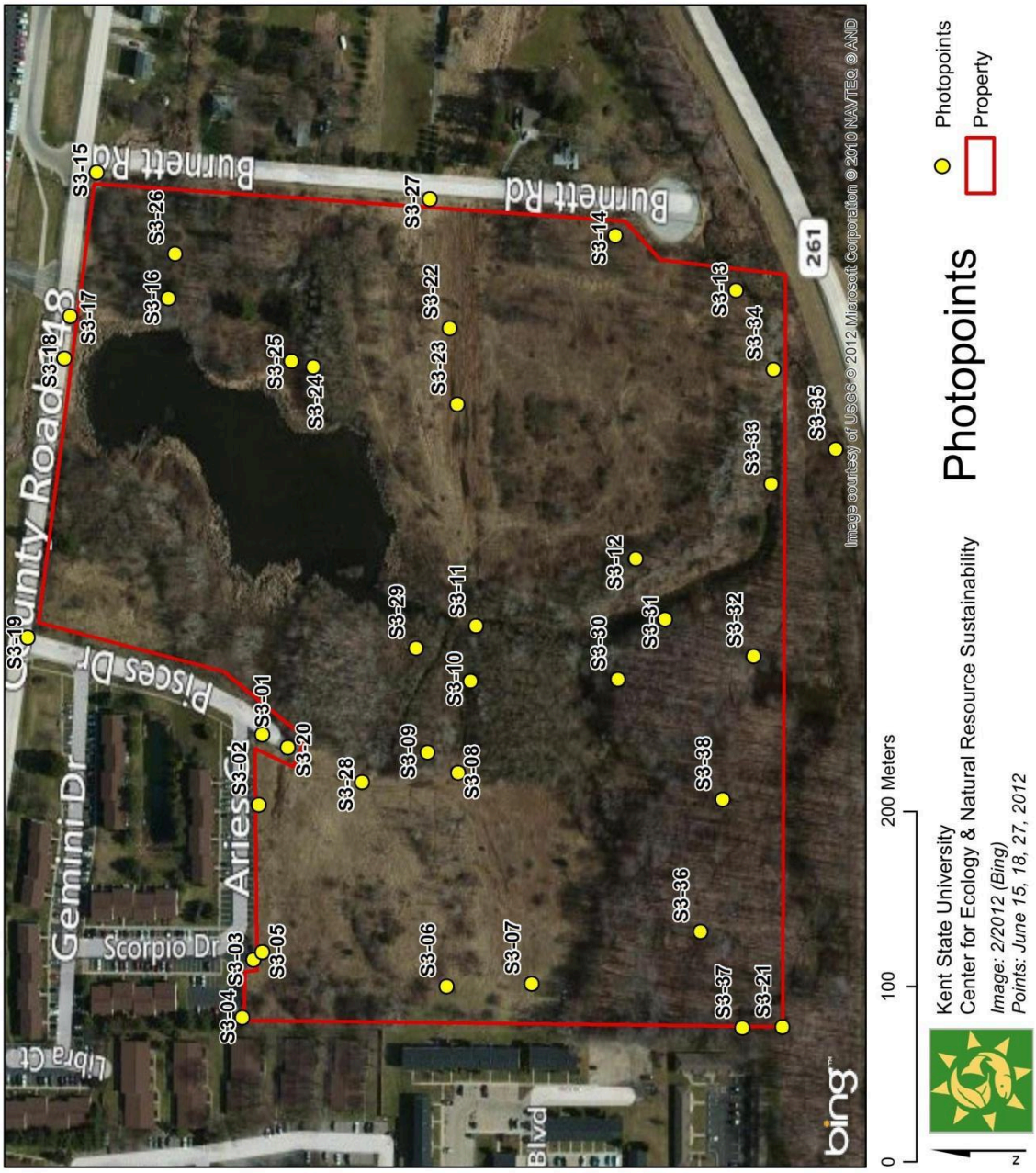
4.4 Encroachments/Trespassing

- Residential 1 – Photo Point S3-06 – Tenants from the neighboring apartment complex on the western boundary line have built a fire pit, stacked fire wood, grown a garden, and made an aluminum can pile on KSU property.
- Residential 2 – Photo Point S3-07 – Tenants from the neighboring apartment complex on the western boundary line are growing a large garden on KSU property. Trash piles surround the southeastern edge of the garden.
- A BMX Bike Zone – Photo Point S3-36 – has been created by the neighboring residents. Trees are spray-painted with graffiti and numerous jumps and trails are present. Trash, including a couch, plastic bottles, and paper waste were present at time of visit.

SECTION 5: LIST OF PHOTO POINTS

S3-01: *Corner of Aries and Pisces*
S3-02: *Open Field Area*
S3-03: *Corner*
S3-04: *Western Edge*
S3-05: *Interesting Rock*
S3-06: *Residential Use 1*
S3-07: *Residential Use 2*
S3-08: *Clearing/ wooded area (9) split*
S3-09: *Woods*
S3-10: *Ephemeral Pool*
S3-11: *Pond/Stilled stream*
S3-12: *End of pond above/ Pooled area*
S3-13: *Corner and Creek*
S3-14: *Corner/ Burnett Rd*
S3-15: *NE Corner*
S3-16: *Woods on Eastern side of Pond*
S3-17: *Drain*
S3-18: *Pond*
S3-19: *NW Corner*
S3-20: *Pisces drive/End of road*
S3-21: *Southwest Corner*
S3-22: *Possible pooling site*
S3-23: *Small pooling area*
S3-24: *Small pooling area*
S3-25: *PVC pipe*
S3-26: *Clearing 2*
S3-27: *Drainage pipe*
S3-28: *Drainage pipe*
S3-29: *End of stream□pooling area□pond*
S3-30: *Trees cut down*
S3-31: *Standing pool (12)*
S3-32: *Small pool*
S3-33: *Pool 2*
S3-34: *Part of creek near 13*
S3-35: *Drain outlet into creek*
S3-36: *Bike zone*
S3-37: *Drain pipe*
S3-38: *Cool fungi*

SECTION 6: MAP OF PHOTO POINTS



SECTION 7: PHOTO POINT COORDINATES

Coordinate System: UTM UPS, NAD83, (meters)
GPS Points taken on June 15, 18, 27, 2012; using a Garmin eTrex Legend HCx GPS

Point Number	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)	Elevation (ft)
S3-01	41 08.276	81 19.662	1095
S3-02	41 08.277	81 19.684	1093
S3-03	41 08.278	81 19.732	1089
S3-04	41 08.281	81 19.750	1092
S3-05	41 08.275	81 19.729	1081
S3-06	41 08.218	81 19.740	1084
S3-07	41 08.193	81 19.740	1087
S3-08	41 08.214	81 19.674	1069
S3-09	41 08.224	81 19.669	1083
S3-10	41 08.211	81 19.645	1073
S3-11	41 08.210	81 19.628	1076
S3-12	41 08.161	81 19.608	1077
S3-13	41 08.129	81 19.526	1071
S3-14	41 08.167	81 19.508	1072
S3-15	41 08.326	81 19.488	1077
S3-16	41 08.305	81 19.528	1085
S3-17	41 08.334	81 19.533	1075
S3-18	41 08.337	81 19.547	1071
S3-19	41 08.348	81 19.633	1092
S3-20	41 08.268	81 19.665	1078
S3-21	41 08.115	81 19.752	1092
S3-22	41 08.218	81 19.536	1025
S3-23	41 08.215	81 19.560	1038
S3-24	41 08.260	81 19.549	1067
S3-25	41 08.267	81 19.548	1076
S3-26	41 08.303	81 19.514	1089
S3-27	41 08.224	81 19.498	1076
S3-28	41 08.245	81 19.677	1098
S3-29	41 08.228	81 19.635	1082
S3-30	41 08.166	81 19.646	1067
S3-31	41 08.151	81 19.628	1075
S3-32	41 08.124	81 19.639	1063
S3-33	41 08.119	81 19.586	1070
S3-34	41 08.119	81 19.550	1051
S3-35	41 08.098	81 19.575	1052
S3-36	41 08.141	81 19.724	1100
S3-37	41 08.128	81 19.752	1103
S3-38	41 08.133	81 19.683	1115

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

S3-01: *Corner of Aries and Pisces*
S3-02: *Open Field Area*



S3-03: *Corner*
S3-04: *Western Edge*



S3-05: *Interesting Rock*



S3-06: *Residential Use 1*



S3-07: *Residential Use 2*



S3-08: *Clearing/ wooded area (9) split*



West



North



East



South

S3-09: *Woods*
S3-10: *Ephemeral Pool*



Pool



Tadpoles

S3-11: *Pond/Stilled stream*



North



South

S3-12: *End of pond above/ Pooled area*



North



South

S3-13: *Corner and Creek*



S3-14: *Corner/ Burnett Rd*



S3-15: *NE Corner*



East- Burnett Rd



North-Summit Rd



Woods



Drain

S3-16: *Woods on Eastern side of Pond*
S3-17: *Drain*



S3-18: *Pond*



S3-19: *NW Corner*
S3-20: *Pisces drive/End of road*



S3-21: *Southwest Corner*

S3-22: *Possible pooling site*



S3-23: *Small pooling area*



S3-24: *Small pooling area*



S3-25: *PVC pipe*

S3-26: *Clearing 2*



North- monoculture understory



East- residential





South- thicker understory



West-forest

S3-27: *Metal Drainage pipe*



S3-28: *Cement Drainage pipe*



S3-29: *End of stream□pooling area□pond*
S3-30: *Trees cut down*



S3-31: *Standing pool (12)*

S3-32: *Small pool*
S3-33: *Drainage Pipe*



S3-34: *Part of creek near 13*



S3-35: *Drain outlet into creek*



S3-36: *Bike zone*



S3-37: *Drain pipe*



S3-38: *Cool fungi*



APPENDICES



0 125 250 Meters

N

Kent State University
Center for Ecology & Natural Resource Sustainability

Image: 2/2012 (Bing)

Aerial Map

Site 3: Morgan Property

Property



Kent State University
Center for Ecology & Natural Resource Sustainability
Image: 2/2012 (Bing)
Topography: Portage County Auditor (2ft)

Topography Map