

(Minor updates 2017)

Appendix B: Property Inventory and Preliminary Needs Assessment

Walnut Creek - Harriet B. Weber Nature Preserve – Ela Township

Landmark Homes, the developer of the Walnut Creek Subdivision, donated the Preserve to LCLC in 1991. The Preserve was dedicated on October 17, 1999 in memory of Harriet B. Weber, a past President of the Walnut Creek Homeowners Association who helped encourage the developer to donate the property to LCLC.

This 29-acre site consists of a willow dominated wetland, a cattail marsh, a sedge meadow, and mesic prairie. A small open water pond is also present. The vast majority of the property is mapped as floodplain. A good diversity of plant life, mammals amphibians, and birds was documented by LCLC in a Floristic Quality assessment done in 1995. Invasive plant species such as cattails, reed canary grass, and willow can be found. Single-family residential housing surrounds the parcel.

Identified management techniques for this site are wetland and habitat improvement through practices such as burning, invasive plant control, woodland management, and vegetative plantings. The site is also suitable for educational uses

Pohickory Nature Preserve – Newport Township

The Yntema family donated the 31-½ acre property to LCLC in 1996. An existing house and garage built by the family is located on the parcel. The property is rich in biological diversity with several natural ecosystems present, including a fen, marsh, an open water pond, oak-hickory forest, and successional forest. The topography is rolling in the south and western sections of the parcel and relatively flat in the northern areas. Upland vegetation mainly consists of white oaks and hickories with lower landscapes of ash, grasses, and shrub/scrub vegetation. There are large amounts of invasive plants found in the woodlands, shrub/scrub areas, and wetlands areas on the property. A residential subdivision (1 acre lots) is located along the southern property line.

LCLC has applied for and obtained three separate grants for wetland and habitat restoration on various portions of the preserve. Management activities started in July of 2003 and will be completed by the end of 2008. The most common grant activities undertaken by LCLC include removal of invasive plant species, woodland thinning, wetland enhancement, controlled burning, prairie establishment, and vegetative plantings. Education was also a focus of this project. Volunteer labor is being utilized for the majority of activities. Although broad in scope, the current grants will not bring Pohickory back to the level desired by LCLC. Additional management will be needed on areas of the property not under current restoration and for ongoing maintenance for improvements already in place. Similar management techniques already in use apply to the majority of the remainder of the property. Other site problems will likely present greater management challenges. Two such challenges are addressing the pond outlet (worked on 2015-2016) and deer population problems.

Maplewood Properties (31 parcels) – Beach Park- Benton Township

The 31 lots in the Maplewood Properties comprise approximately 3 acres obtained in 2002. Four of the lots are found adjacent to Greenway Road. These four lots are classified as wetland. Vegetation consists of water loving trees (ash and willow) and standing water is present much of the year. Scattered single-family residences and vacant lots are adjacent to the property.

The remaining 27 lots are contiguous to each other located between Maplewood and Clarendon Roads. Twenty-three of the lots are classified as wetland but not floodplain. The lots are level to slightly depressional with low quality wetland vegetation present (mainly narrow leaf cattails). Standing water is present during different times of the year. Yard debris dumping has been evident for a number of years. Single family residential surrounds this area on three sides.

Currently all the lots serve as passive open space providing flood control, wetland protection, and habitat. Restoration/enhancement of the wetland is feasible. Management techniques utilizing controlled burns, selected invasive plant eradication, and vegetative plantings could be effective. The site also offers a potential for education to surrounding landowners due to close proximity.

Center and Suddard Street Properties – Beach Park – Benton Township

This is an approximately ½ acre parcel comprised of two unconnected lots that are part of a larger 5 acre wetland. Both lots are in the 100-year floodplain. Vegetation is mainly grasses (narrow leaf cattails), forbs, and shrub (sandbar willows). Standing water is present during periods of the year.

Being small parts of much larger floodplain/wetland areas, this site offer little in terms of active LCLC management. Both lots are best utilized as passive open space for flood storage and wetland protection, and small mammal and amphibian habitat. The greatest present potential is serving as a catalyst for LCLC to obtain surrounding parcels, thereby acquiring additional area for management/restoration.

MAR-Glenn Oaks – Beach Park – Benton Township

This 2.2-acre parcel found in the Dead River watershed was obtained in 1996 from the Reinier Family and expanded in 2016 with the purchase of a .5 acres adjoining land tract. Two ecosystems are present on the property – Oak-hickory forest and ravine. The under story contains a fair amount of native woodland vegetation, although invasive plants are abundant. A tributary of Bull Creek crosses the middle of the property, flowing in an easterly direction. The upland comprising the southern boundary of the stream ends in a very steep slope, almost vertical in nature, due to soil erosion. The northern boundary is more moderately sloping. The creek is intermittent, not flowing in most seasons and subject to extreme flows during wet periods. The North Shore Bike Trail abuts the Western boundary. Single family homes and vacant land are found adjacent to the parcel.

This unique property with the presence of a stream, ravine, and woodlands offers great restoration potential for LCLC. The interesting factor of this property is its size. On the one hand, being small in size the property offers only limited habitat and water quality benefits for

the surrounding area, but then the small size would allow for a complete manageable restoration project highlighting several practices appropriate throughout the immediate area. Management for wildlife habitat and water quality appears most appropriate. Controlling soil erosion, stabilizing the streambed and ravine slopes, and removing invasive plant species are management techniques suited to this site. Woodland burning may also be periodically effective.

North Shore Avenue Properties – Beach Park – Benton Township

These four vacant lots just west of North Shore Avenue total a little over 1/3 acre located in the Dead River Watershed. The lots are in close proximity to the North Shore Bike Path to the west and are bordered by two adjacent single-family homes on the north and south. The site is wooded with softwood tree species (soft maple and cottonwood) with dense underbrush. A tributary of Bull Creek bisects the parcel. Water flow is to the Southeast, although it does not appear water flows all year.

Being so small, the parcel has limitations for management. At present, use as passive open space appears a good option. It is in need of debris cleanup. Other possible activities are a potential for stream bank stabilization, vegetative control, and wetland restoration. The property may also serve as a small storm water control area as the surrounding area continues to urbanize, provided the size is not a limiting factor.

Dover Pond - Deer Park – Ela Township

Obtained in 1991, this 6.2-acre parcel consists of a portion of Dover Pond with a shoreline buffer. The property was donated by Landmark Homes, the developer of the Dover pond Subdivision. LCLC owns the eastern portion of the approximately 25-acre pond, which was man made during the late 1980's. The entire area is classified an ADID Wetland site by US EPA for high functional values for water quality and hydrology. The dominant vegetation is narrow leaf cattails along the shoreline extending out into the shallow pond and reed canary grass and phragmites dominating the emergent/shoreline marshy area along with sandbar willows. The outlet for Dover Pond is found just off site at the southwestern corner of the property. Single-family residences border three sides of the site.

This LCLC site offers a good opportunity for wildlife management. The combination of open water and cover is well suited for small mammal, amphibian, and bird habitat. Aggressive burning, control of invasive plants, and vegetative plantings are good management tools to use on the property. Siltation and uncontrolled vegetative growth are potential problems,

Henrietta Skala Bartizal Nature Preserve – Grant Township

The Bartizal (Pons) Family donated this 19-acre parcel to LCLC in September of 2002 in memory of their mother Henrietta Skala Bartizal. Fox Lake comprises the northern boundary of this property and Squaw Creek forms the western property line. A large cattail marsh occupies the majority of the site. A few scattered trees and shrubs can be found growing in the marsh and along the shoreline. The soil is very high in organic content therefore very susceptible to erosion. Several acres of the total property acreage are open water, the result of years of shoreline erosion by waves, fluctuating water tables, and occasional flooding. This fact is readily apparent when reviewing aerial photographs dating back to the 1930's. Roughly 30-50%

of the landmass on the property has been lost to erosion. Shoreline erosion remains the major environmental issue. The entire parcel falls within a 100-year floodplain. A 1978 vegetative study done by the US Army Corps of Engineers for an adjacent area indicates a wider variety of plant species were previously present in the large marshy area than are found today.

This site presents significant management challenges. There are numerous environmental and political factors, which must be assessed to halt the persistent erosion occurring on the shoreline. Boating, permitting, drawdown, organic soil, and cost are a few issues needing to be addressed. LCLC efforts to address the problems through intergovernmental cooperation and grants have been unsuccessful. The remainder of the property offers equally impressive challenges due to existing vegetation and ownership issues. This property is ideal for fish and wildlife habitat management. Practices may include shoreline erosion control, controlled burning, vegetative plantings, and invasive species control. The site would also lend itself for public education due to the location and visibility.