

Natural Resource Evaluation: **Ungar Property**

Beachside Rd., Munson Twp., Ohio 44022
Parcel #: 21-164800

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Geauga Park District, August 16, 2019

General Introduction: This 0.57 acre piece of property was walked and rapidly assessed for natural quality/resources using visual observation (site visit) by NRM staff on August 16th, 2019 and later reviewed in the office with GIS (geographic information systems) technology (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Ungar Property parcel location and lines.

Forests: This property consists of almost entirely swamp forest habitat (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Swamp forest trees located on the Ungar Property, 2019.
Photos: Paul J. Pira

Water Resources: Wetlands on this property were the most ecologically important features documented and consist of the following:

Wetlands: Wetlands were the dominant natural resource found on the property. The majority of wetland acreage probably being Category 2 swamp forest according to Ohio EPA standards (Mack 2001). Swamp forested wetlands are important because they often harbor important breeding pools for sensitive woodland amphibians and also provide habitat to uncommon birds. This particular forest mitigates the surrounding neighborhood storm water run-off and helps protect Bass Lake's water quality (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Photos of wetlands located on the Ungar Property, **Photos:** Paul J. Pira, 2019.

This property's sensitive wetlands serve as important water quality buffers and help to mitigate anthropogenic impacts on the downstream aquatic ecosystems found within Bass Lake Preserve's watershed and eventually the Chagrin River.

Parcel Connectivity: This parcel is directly contiguous with Geauga Park District's Bass Lake Preserve.

NQEI Score: This property was evaluated using the Natural Quality Evaluation Index (NQEI) developed by previous Geauga Park District Natural Resource Management staff and subsequently revised (see below; Table 1). This property scored a total of 33 points (out of possible 100). This parcel falls within the "poor/fair" category rating in comparison to all other potential parcels reviewed by NRM staff over the last 15 years.

The Department of Natural Resource Management Recommendation:

The Department of Natural Resource Management would not recommend Geauga Park District consider the purchase (fee-simple acquisition) of this property based on its low NQEI score (which attempts to quantify the relative "naturalness" and predict the "biodiversity potential" of the property) and this parcel's potential for habitat restoration. With this said, the protection of the Ungar parcel would serve to help preserve water quality within Geauga Park District's Bass Lake Preserve. Thus, a donation may warrant consideration by Geauga Park District.