

EXHIBIT E

BASELINE DOCUMENTATION REPORT

FOR

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD
WELLFIELD RECHARGE PRESERVE

GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

May 2, 2003

Prepared for:

Village of Middlefield
14860 North State Avenue
Middlefield, OH 44062

Prepared by:

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INTRODUCTION

The Village of Middlefield, Geauga County, Ohio proposed construction of a northwest by-pass connecting S.R. 87 with S.R. 608 to ease traffic congestion and improve pedestrian and buggy safety in the downtown. This by-pass route of approximately 9000 linear feet in length, with a 100 foot wide right-of-way, impacted 1.61 acres of wetland and 84 linear feet of stream, affecting the East Branch of the Cuyahoga River.

In order to proceed with the road improvement project, approval was required and obtained from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and United States Army Corps of Engineers to fill the impacted Category 2 wetlands (1.56 acres) and isolated, Category 1 wetlands (0.05 acres), as well culverting the stream.

The mitigation plan, as prepared by Davey Resource Group, included the purchase of 1.6 credits at the Trumbull Creek Mitigation Bank and preservation of a seven (7) acre Wetland Preserve ("Preserve") located adjacent to Tare Creek, near S.R. 608. The Preserve is a separate parcel of land, not adjacent to the by-pass, and more specifically identified on the enclosed map, and labeled Exhibit A in the recorded Conservation Easement.

An adjacent parcel, owned by the Village, and more specifically identified on the enclosed map, and labeled Exhibit C in the recorded Conservation Easement, provides permanent, but limited access to the Preserve. A five (5) year temporary access easement exists on a neighboring property, including an access drive, but this easement will expire in May of 2007.

Ohio Stream Preservation, Inc. (OSP) was asked to consider a third-party stewardship role by accepting a conservation easement over the entire 7-acre Preserve. In February 2003, OSP submitted a written agreement to the Village for stewardship services in holding the conservation easement. The Village and OSP reached an agreement for these services in February 2003.

OSP prepared the Grant of Conservation Easement, conducted a site visit and finalized all documents for recording purposes. The Conservation Easement was signed by the OSP Executive Director and Secretary/Treasurer in May 2003, and delivered to the

Village for their signature.

MONITORING RESULTS

As part of OSP's stewardship functions, a site visit to the Preserve was conducted in April 2003 and digital photographs were taken. This Baseline Documentation Report (Exhibit E in the Conservation Easement) characterizes the Preserve at the time of the Grant of Conservation Easement. The Report is intended to serve as an objective information baseline for monitoring compliance according to the terms of the grant. OSP acknowledges that this Report is an accurate representation of the Preserve at the time of this grant.

OSP followed staked boundaries of the Preserve in its entirety in order to achieve this Baseline Documentation Report. It is recommended that re-flagging and marking of the boundary be performed annually as deterioration, removal or destruction of wood lath staking and vegetative re-establishment will quickly disguise the actual boundary lines. OSP will provide a re-flagging as required, during the annual site visit.

Impacts to the Preserve from the by-pass project are non-existent because of the separation of the two properties. The 7-acre site is located in a much larger wetland system, adjacent to Tare Creek, with little to no adjacent land disturbances. Fenced pasture and grazing land borders the south and west sides of the Preserve, and a much larger wetland and riparian edge buffer the east and north sides.

The Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM v.5) forms, prepared by Davey Resource Group, scored the Preserve as high-quality Category 3 wetlands with excellent habitat development. The forms also indicate a known occurrence of a state/federal threatened or endangered species.

Photographs of the Preserve reflect the limited access to the parcel, and the minimal risk of impact from adjacent properties.

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Photo 1: East-SE from S.R. 608 through Access Parcel to Preserve



Photo 2: South-Southeast from Northeast corner of Preserve



Photo 3: North from Southeast corner of Preserve



Photo 4: South-Southwest from Southeast corner of Preserve

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Photo 5: North from point along Southeast line of Preserve



Photo 6: South from point along West line of Preserve



Photo 7: Northeast from point along West line of Preserve



Photo 8: North from point along West line of Preserve

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Photo 9: Perennial stream along West line of Preserve



Photo 10: East from point along North line of Preserve



Photo 11: West from point along North line of Preserve



Photo 12: West from point along North line of Preserve