



PROPERTIES FOR THE COUNT

The following TTLT properties are available for Out for the Count (also see map below). Some of these are usually closed to the public and may have limited or no trails. Please keep in mind your comfort level in wild spaces when choosing where to go. Additional information on each property and maps available below.

Properties open to the public with good trails:

Five Points Forest Driedger Tract

Hawk Cliff Woods

Joany's Woods

Meadowlily Nature Preserve

Tanager Tract

Wardsville Woods

Tiedje Woods (very short trail)

Properties typically not open to the public, may or may not have trails:

Bebensee Tract

Sitler Woods

Lusty Family Woods

McTavish Tract

Newport Forest

MeadowWoods – soon to be a TTLT property!



Five Points Forest

4975 Robinson Road RR4 Ingersoll, ON

Parking - please park along the edge of the road adjacent to the meadow.

Five Points Forest Trail - approx 2.5 km

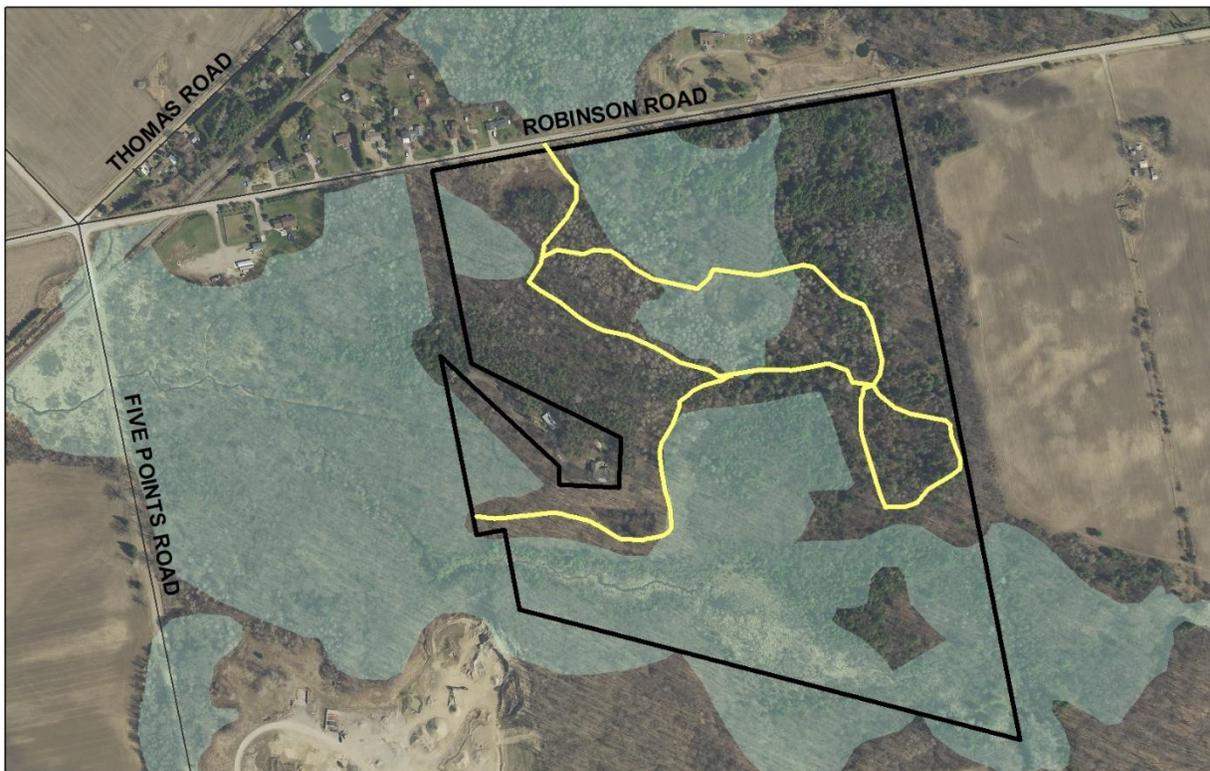
Walk through a range of habitats including meadow, young forest, mature forest, and a White Pine grove. The trail is easy difficulty and mostly flat, although the terrain can be uneven and there are a couple of narrow stream crossings. Different loops mean shorter or longer hikes are available.

Legend

 Five Points Forest
 Provincially Significant Wetland

 Trails

0 145 290
Meters



Hawk Cliff Woods

4435 Hawk Cliff Road, Union, ON

Parking - parking is provided along the edge of Hawk Cliff Road near the green gate and pedestrian access. Some sections of Hawk Cliff Road have steep ditches and the road is very narrow. Avoid parking along other sections of the road.

Trail loop – approx. 1 km

This is a short but beautiful trail loop through a young forest into a more mature forest. Expect to see species like Sugar Maple and Shagbark Hickory as well as ravine views. The trail is easy and flat, expect for a couple of very muddy spots during the spring and when there is wet weather. The trail entrance is about halfway up Hawk Cliff Road on the west side of the road.

Restoration Projects

Auzins Community Wildflower Garden

The garden is planted with all native wildflowers and grasses. It is named to recognize Karen and Eric Auzins, whose generosity helped to ensure that Hawk Cliff Woods would become a protected nature reserve. Visitors are welcome to collect seeds from the garden in the fall. Interpretive signage details each species and how to use it in gardening, as well as seed collecting instructions. The garden is wheelchair accessible from Spring to Fall (not maintained in winter). Access the garden via the parking area at the south end of Hawk Cliff Road.

Although you can't count the species in the garden itself you can count all around in the wilder area!

Meadows

The former agricultural fields have been restored to meadows and some sections planted with trees. The south field also includes two created wetlands at the far west end. Be prepared to be covered in velcro-like plant seeds if you plan to walk in the meadows.

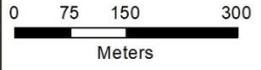
The meadow near the cliff edge is accessed through a locked gate. If you would like access to this site for the BioBlitz please contact TTLT staff.

WARNING: The cliff edge has been eroding for years and former trails along the cliff are unsafe for use. Going near the cliff is prohibited at all times.



Legend

-  Hawk Cliff Woods
-  Public Trails
-  Restoration Projects
-  Streams
-  Roads



Joany's Woods

Two access points:

32549 Boothill Road, Thedford, ON (follow narrow road to small parking lot)

Vernon Road, Thedford, ON (follow towards end of dead-end road and look for pathway down the hill into the nature reserve)

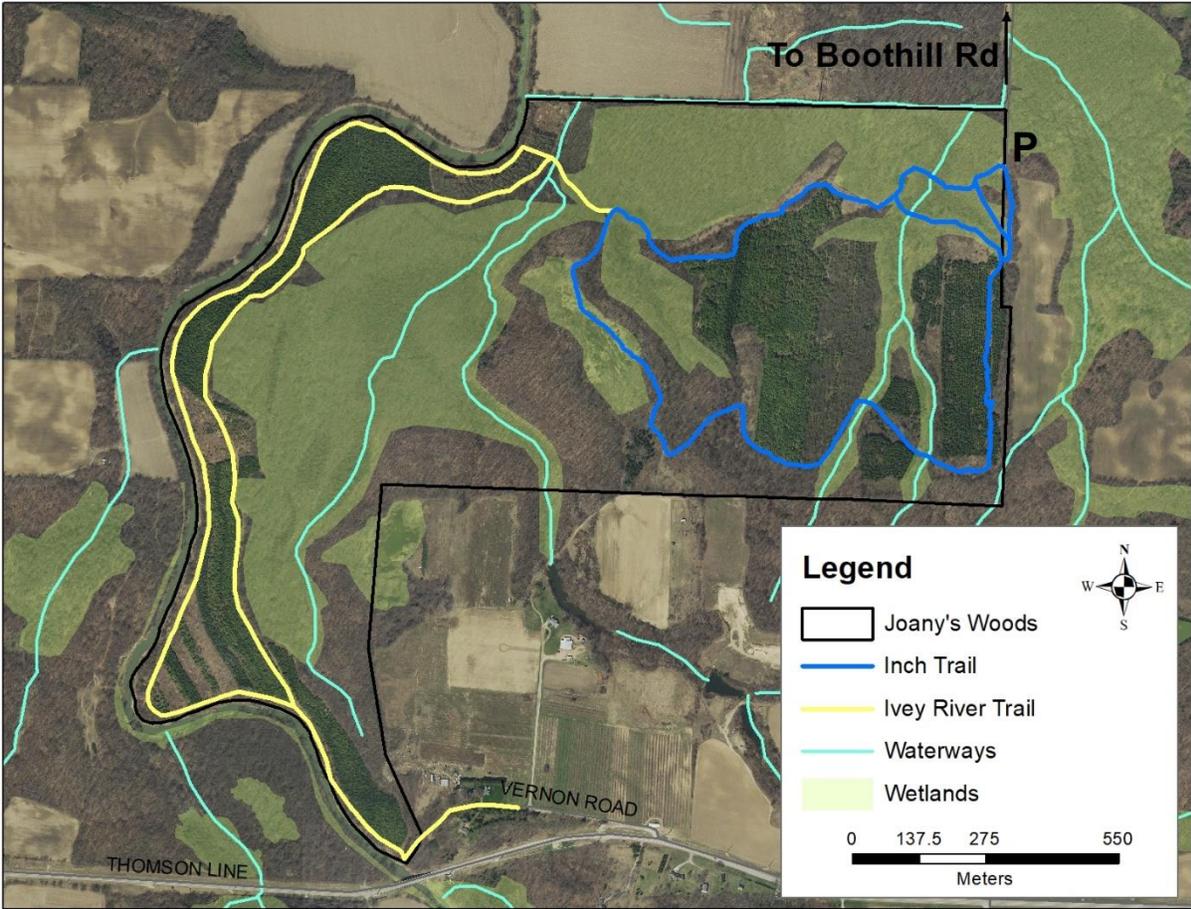
Parking - a small parking area is provided at the Boothill Road property entrance. Depending on the road conditions you may have to park at the intersection of Boothill Road and Elliot Drive and walk in. For the Vernon Road entrance, there is limited parking along the roadside at Vernon Road.

Inch Trail - approx. 3.2 km (easiest access from Boothill Road)

The Inch Trail is named in memory of Helen and Spencer Inch, whose legacy gift to TTLT helped to secure Joany's Woods as a protected nature reserve. The Inch Trail is a loop accessed from the Boothill Road entrance to Joany's Woods. Along this trail you can see varied habitats including woodlands, meadows, swamps, and conifer plantations. This is a medium difficulty trail with some steep sections. The Inch Trail connects with the Ivey River Trail approximately halfway around if you want a longer hike. QR codes along the trail link to a trail guide, or you can download the Inch Trail Guide online.

Ivey River Trail - approx. 3.5 km (easiest access from Vernon Road)

The Ivey River Trail is named in honour of Richard and Beryl Ivey to recognize their incredible generosity to TTLT over the years. The Ivey River Trail is a loop accessed from the Vernon Road entrance of Joany's Woods. It takes you through Carolinian Forest, the Ausable River floodplain and along the banks of the Ausable River. The trail connects to the Inch Trail for a longer hike. This is an easy level trail that is mostly flat, however the trail is accessed via a steep hill. QR codes along the trail link to a trail guide.



Meadowlily Nature Preserve

17 Meadowlily Road South, London, ON

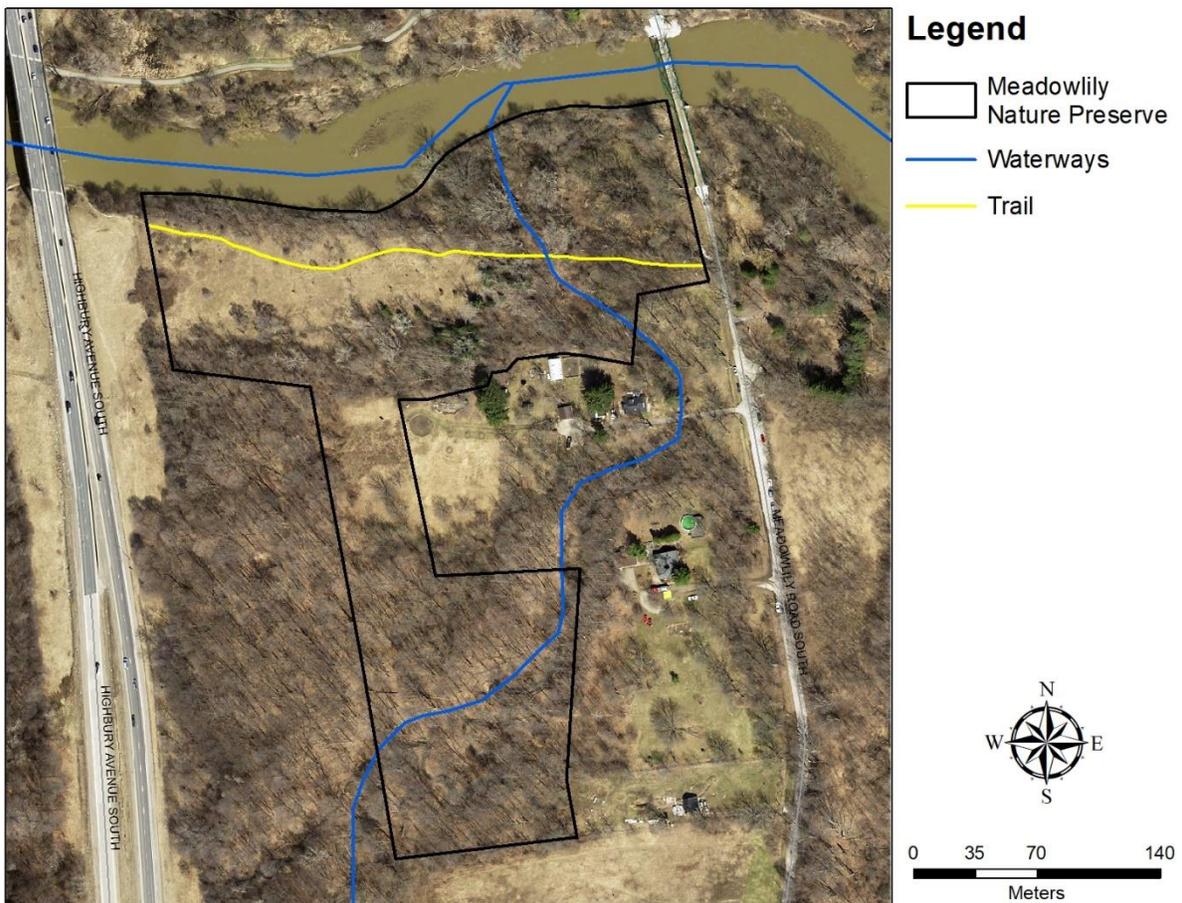
Parking - parking is provided by the City of London along the side of Meadowlily Road South.

Meadowlily Nature Preserve Trail - approx. 350 m

Across the road from the Meadowlily Woods Trail, this short, easy trail takes you from Meadowlily Rd. South along the Thames River floodplain into a butterfly meadow.

Meadowlily Butterfly Meadow

TTLT is slowly restoring this area to native meadow by planting grasses and wildflowers each year with the help of local students. The meadow provides habitat and nectar for an impressive range of butterflies. Interpretive signage in the meadow shows some of the species that can be found there. Visit in July and August for the best chance of seeing these butterflies.

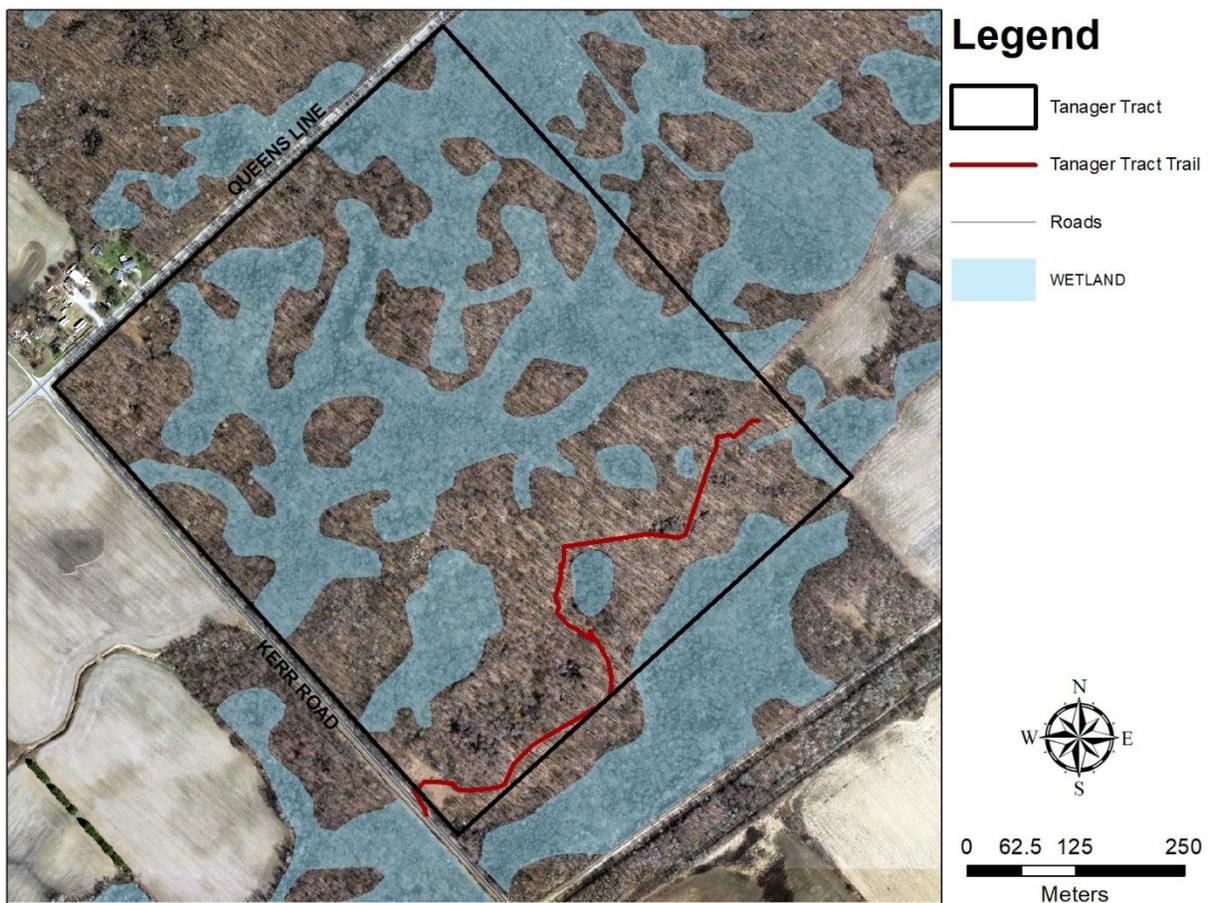


Tanager Tract

12176 Kerr Road, Municipality of West Elgin, ON

Parking – on the shoulder of the road along Queens Line or Kerr Road at the former railway (other parts of Kerr Road do not have a shoulder).

The Tanager Tract is mostly wooded and contains a mixture of wetland and upland habitat types. The rich forest supports many hardwood trees unique to the Carolinian Zone. Large specimens of Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), Sassafras and Swamp White Oak are abundant. The forest's upland and swampy sections have a rich understory of Spicebush, Witch Hazel and many fern species. The interior forest providing suitable habitat for area sensitive birds, including Scarlet Tanager, for which the property is named. Tree cutting in the less wet southern part of the property has led to the development of a range of regenerating forest types with Sassafras, Black Cherry, Red Oak, Sugar Maple and American Beech. There is a small, grassy opening off Kerr Road at the trail access that supports sun-loving species. Tanager Tract is part of the West Lorne Woods area.



Wardsville Woods

1632 Longwoods Road, Wardsville, ON

Parking - a small gravel parking lot is available at the property entrance on Longwoods Road.

Wardsville Woods Trail - approx. 1.6 km

This trail loop takes you on a streamside walk through the edge of a Carolinian Forest and into a restored meadow habitat. Along the way you can see restored wetland habitats, a community wildflower garden, and butterfly meadow. This is a medium level trail with some hills and some areas with uneven terrain. Expect some muddy sections in spring and during wet weather.

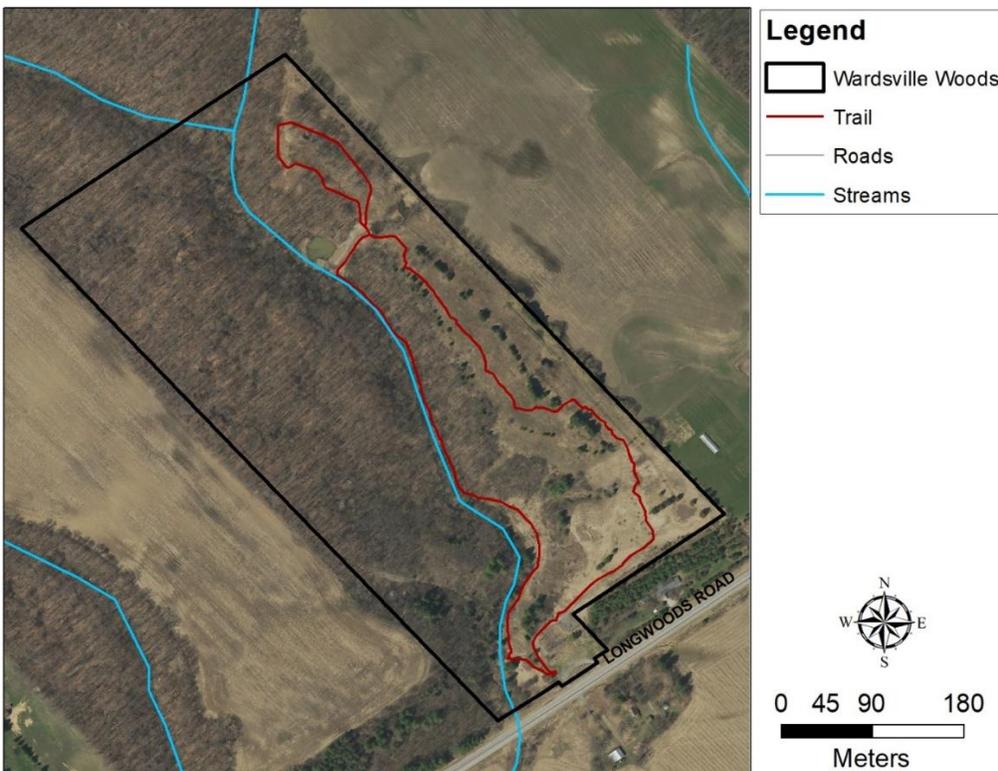
Ann White Butterfly Meadow

The meadow is named to recognize the generosity of Ann White, long time TTLT volunteer, supporter, and donor. The meadow is a restored former golf course that now contains a range of native wildflowers and grasses, providing excellent habitat for butterflies and other pollinators. Visit in July and August for the best chance of seeing butterflies.

Wardsville Woods Community Wildflower Garden

The garden is planted with all native wildflowers and grasses. Visitors are welcome to collect seeds from the garden in the fall. Interpretive signage details each species and how to use it in gardening, as well as seed collecting instructions. Please bring your own bags to collect seeds in. The garden is accessed via the main trail.

Although you can't count the species in the garden itself you can count all around in the wilder area!



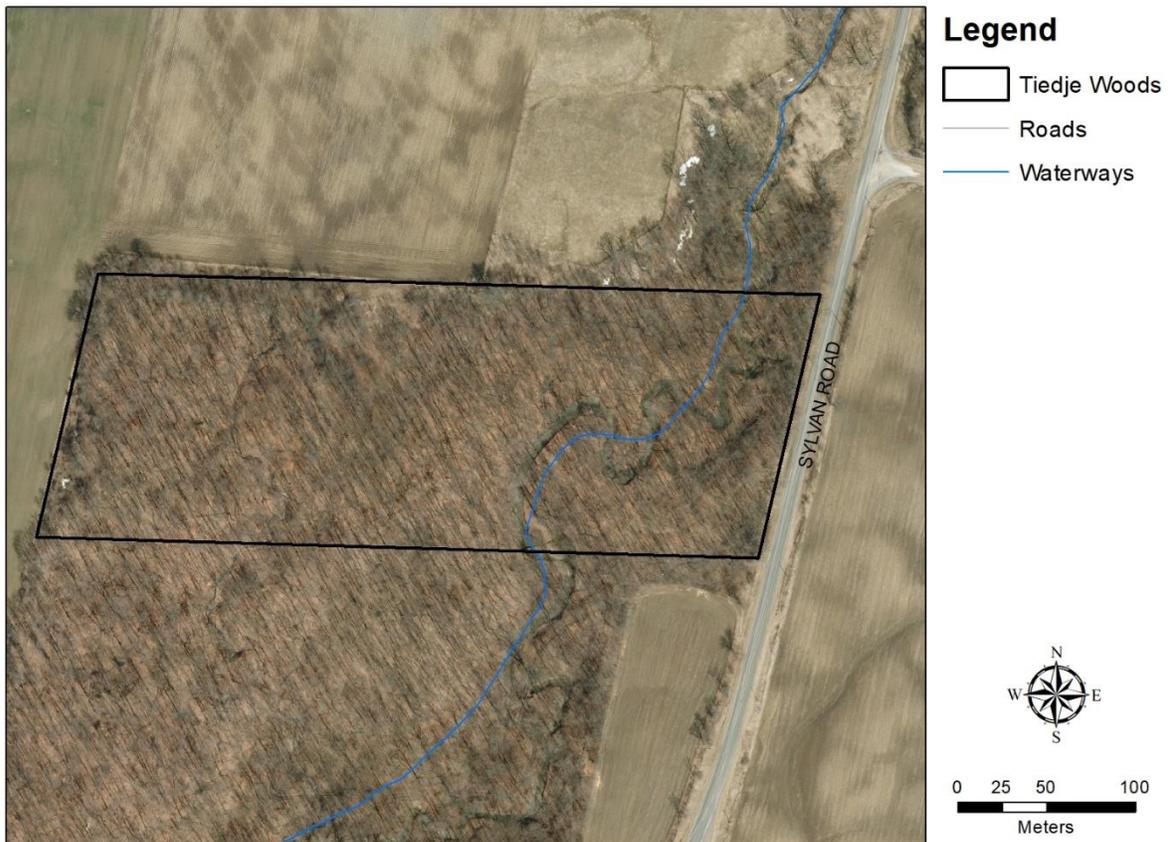
Tiedje Woods

30823 Sylvan Rd, Arkona, ON

Parking – Park on the shoulder of Sylvan Rd with access to the property through a gate at Sylvan Rd.

Tiedje Woods is all forested and supports a good example of a Sugar Maple - mixed deciduous forest with an intact understory. A section of the woods at the northern edge of the property is second growth forest with smaller trees and a higher proportion of shade intolerant species. The topography is rolling, owing largely to a small, meandering creek valley that runs from north to south through the eastern part of the property. The valley is fairly steeply incised, dropping over 10 m in elevation over 100 m distance. The land continues to rise to the west, interrupted by another, smaller creek valley, containing an unnamed, intermittent watercourse.

There is a sold short trail from Sylvan Rd leading to the creek. Otherwise you will have to make your own adventure on this property.

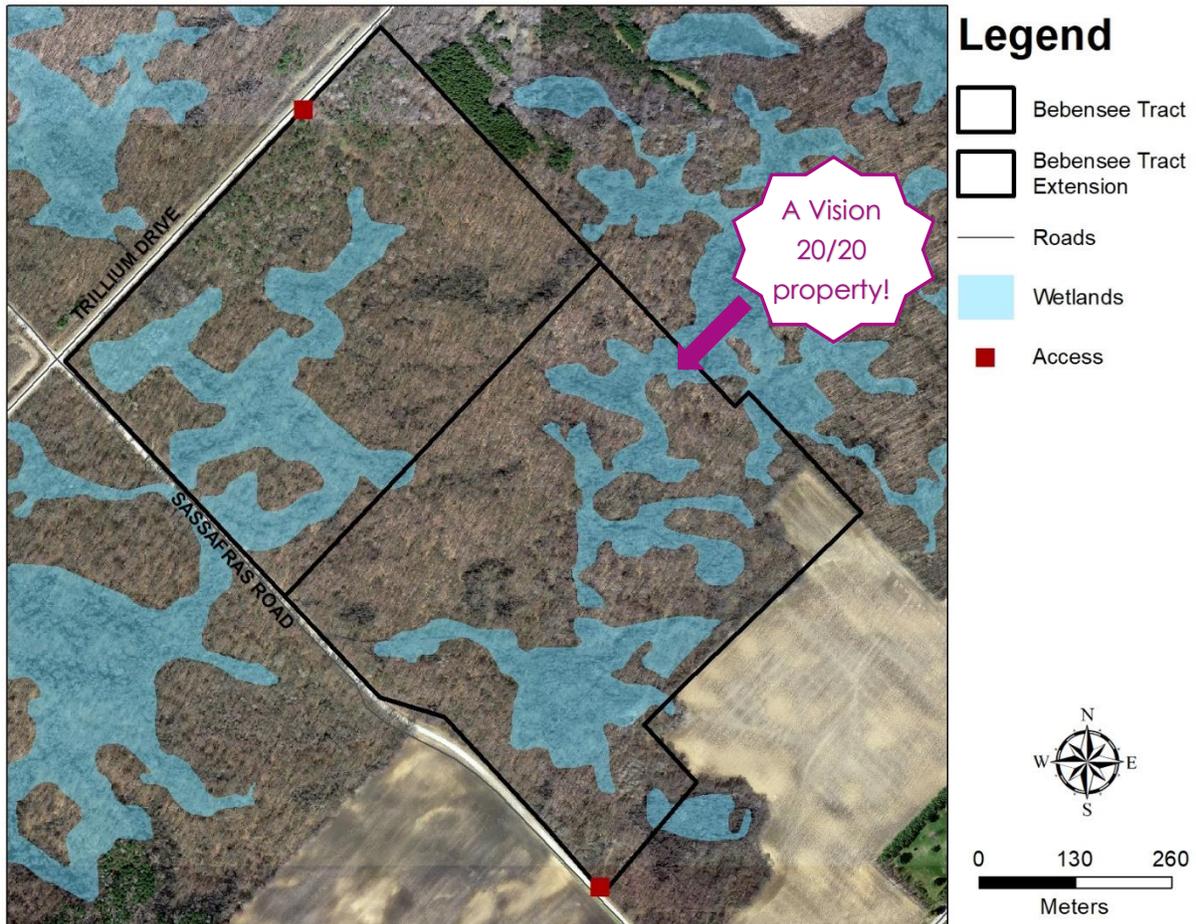


Bebensee Tract

821 Trillium Drive or Sassafras Road, Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
Parking – park along Trillium Drive or Sassafras Road on the grass shoulder

The Bebensee Tract is a wooded property within the Skunk's Misery swamp forest complex, one of the largest remnant Carolinian forest blocks in southwestern Ontario. The property is largely a deciduous swamp forest lying on untilled land with a well-developed swale and hummock (pit-and-mound) microtopography. Several rare breeding songbirds are reported to breed on the property, which contains a diverse selection of Carolinian trees, such as soft maple (Silver and Red), Black, White and Swamp oaks, Black Cherry, American beech, Shagbark and Bitternut hickory and Hackberry. The understorey includes Eastern Flowering Dogwood and Witch Hazel as well as the swallowtail caterpillar foodplants such as Spicebush and Prickly Ash.

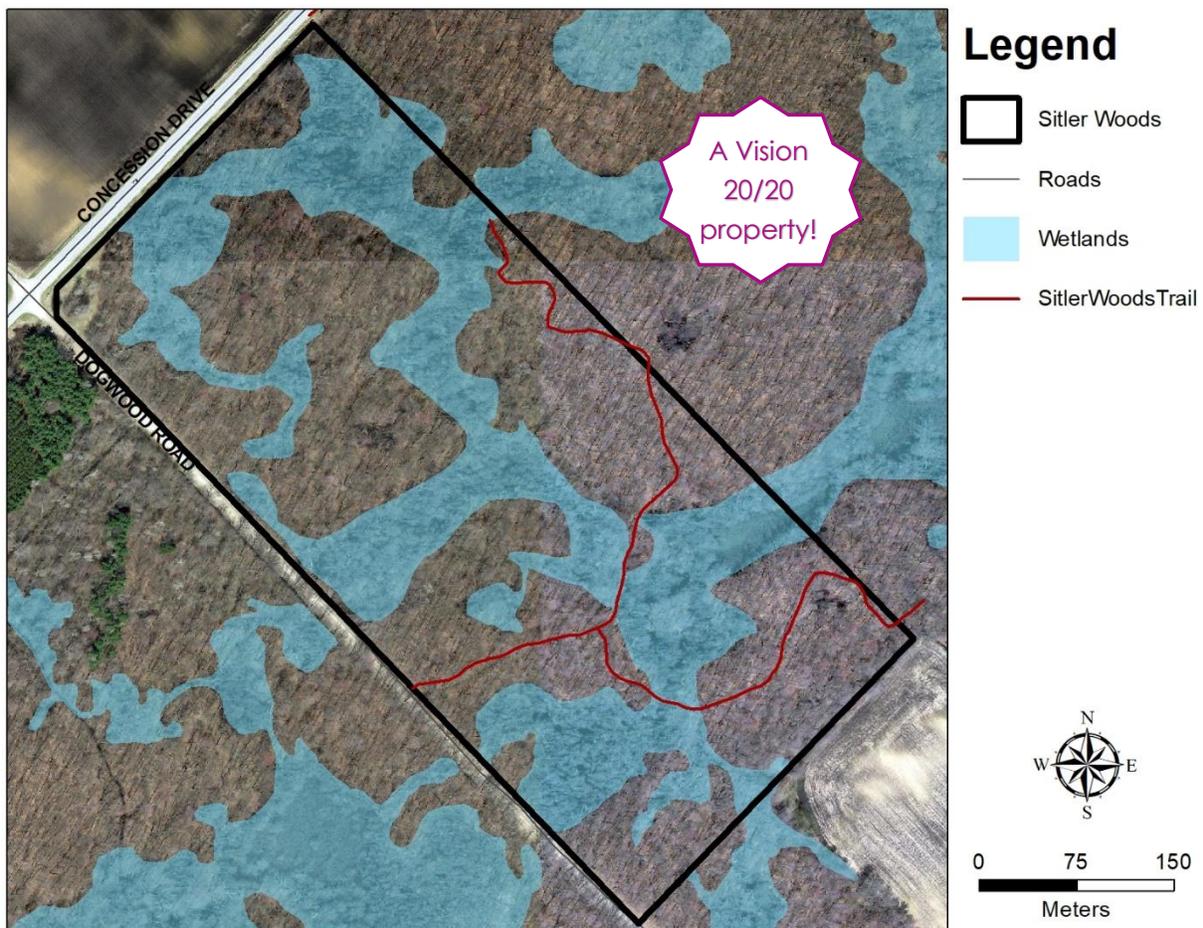
There are unmaintained former trails from the access points indicated on the map.



Sitler Woods

East corner of Concession Dr & Dogwood Rd, Southwest Middlesex, ON N0L 1Z0
Parking – park along Dogwood Rd on grass shoulder. Concession Dr is very busy and high-speed road and parking there should be avoided for safety.

This 50-acre site near Newbury has long been recognized by the Trust as a top priority for acquisition. Situated within the extensive Skunk's Misery Natural Area, this parcel links two woodlands that are in county ownership. The Skunk's Misery complex is home to many rare species that require large tracts of interior woodland to thrive. Thames Talbot Land Trust already owns other parcels within the complex, as do others including the County of Middlesex, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, and many private landowners. Protection of this property ensures that unbroken forest cover will be maintained at this location. The property features many mature trees and older growth characteristics that distinguish it from the majority of woodlots in southwestern Ontario, where logging occurs regularly. This remarkable forest community is home to many at-risk birds.

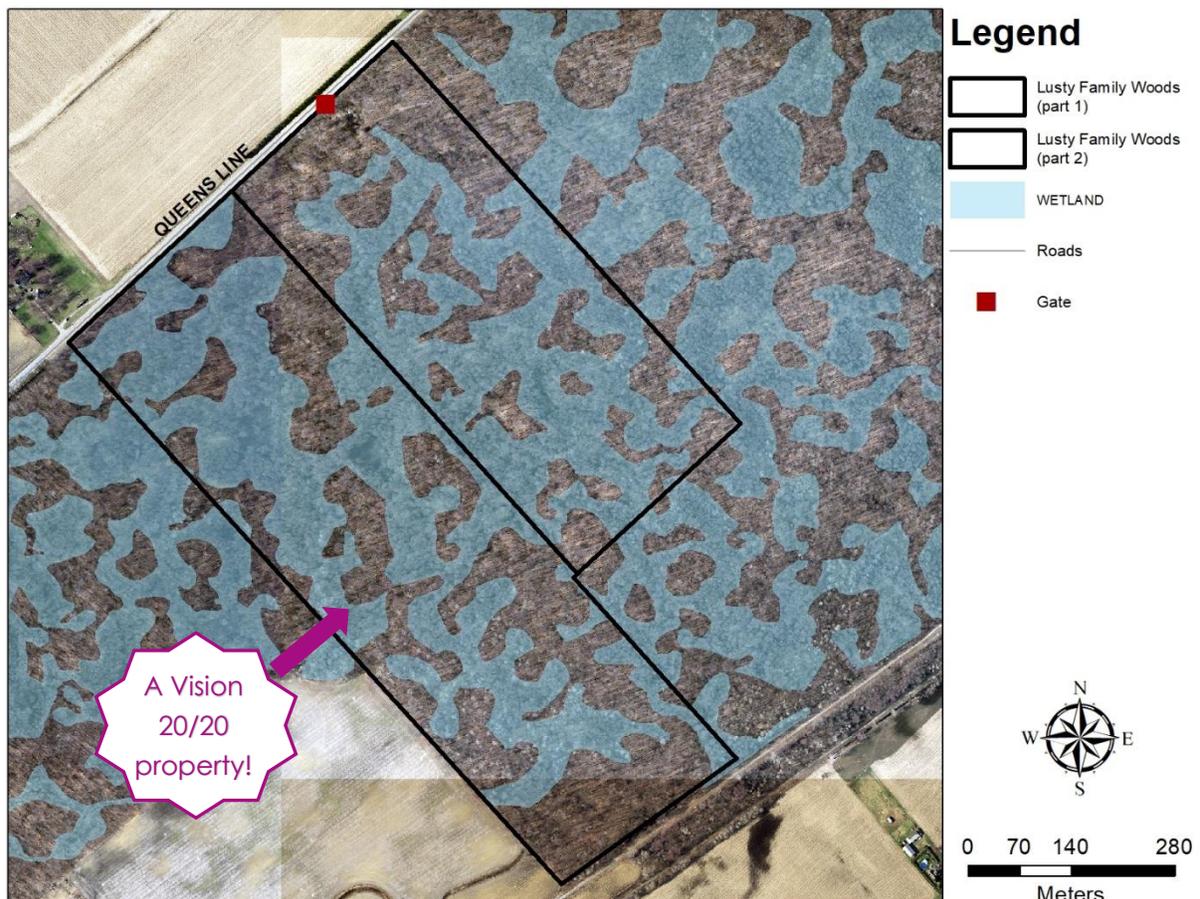


Lusty Family Woods

24495 Queen's Line, Municipality of West Elgin

Parking – park along Queen's Line on grassy shoulder. There is a deep ditch between road and property but there is plenty of space between road and ditch for cars.

Lusty Family Woods lies at the heart of West Lorne Woods and is completely wooded. The upland sections support large specimens of hardwoods such as Tuliptree, Sassafras, White (*Quercus alba*) and Red oaks, Bitternut (*Carya cordiformis*) and Shagbark (*C. ovata*) Hickories, Beech and Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*). The lowland portions form part of a large Provincially Significant Wetland. Soft maples, Red Elm (*Ulmus rubra*) and Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and an understory of Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) dominate in the swales. There are several Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) swamps supported by deeper depressions and more permanent water bodies, which provide important breeding habitat for turtles and mole salamanders. White Birch is a striking component on the sandy hummocks and Bigtooth Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*) are scattered throughout the property.



McTavish Tract

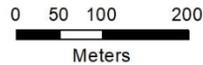
2281 37 Line, Township of Perth East, Perth County, ON (RR#1 Stratford, ON N5A 652)
Parking – Park along the shoulder of 37 Line. Parts of the road have narrow shoulders and steep ditches so you may want to park further away and walk over.

The McTavish Tract contains woodland and wetland habitats including upland Sugar Maple forests, lowland deciduous forests, coniferous swamps, hawthorn and dogwood thickets, and pine plantations. There are two small dug ponds. The site has importance as a headwater area for the Thames River. Springs and seeps on site feed a permanent creek that joins the upper reaches of the Avon River (a major tributary of the Thames River) on the property. The property was managed and protected by the McTavish family for several generations since it was acquired by them in 1836.

There is an unmaintained trail used for conservation purposes.

Legend

-  McTavish Tract
-  Waterways
-  Wetlands
-  Roads

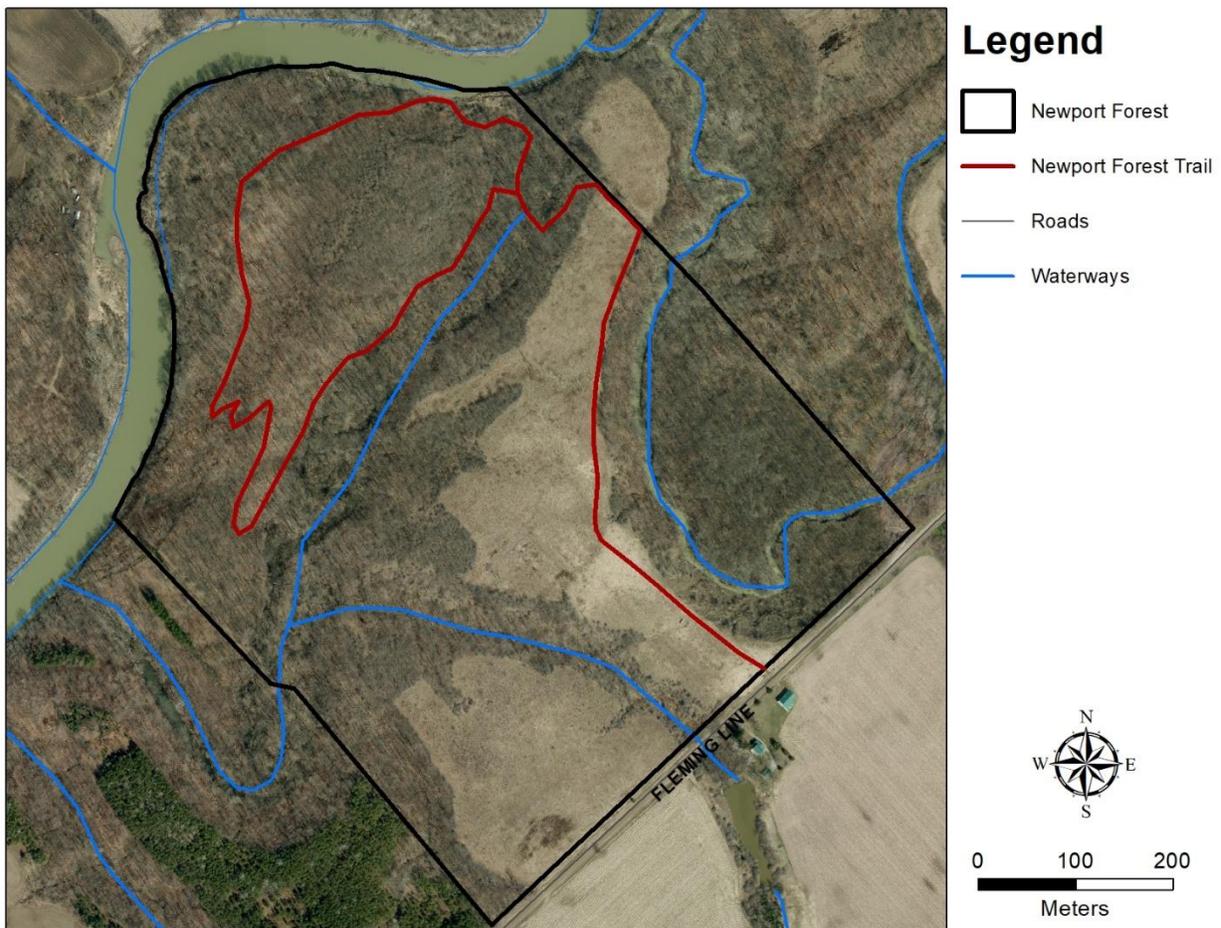


Newport Forest

22130 Flemming Line, West Elgin

Parking - Park along the shoulder of Flemming Line. Access to the main trail is through the gate.

The property consists mainly of lowland forest, with some upland forest (the Hogsback), meadow, floodplain, ravine slopes and bluff forests. The upland forest on the Hogsback consists of a Maple-Beech canopy with about 10 other woody species present including red, White and Chinquapin Oak, Blue Ash and Blue Beech. The four lowland forests consist mainly of Box Elder, Black Walnut, Sycamore, Sugar and Black Maple, Black Willow, American Elm and Slippery Elm. The lowland forest and floodplain attract a wide variety of migrating and resident birds including the Red-bellied Woodpecker and Red-headed Woodpecker.



MeadowWoods – soon to be a TLT property!

North corner of Blacks Rd & Gray Line, West Elgin, ON

Parking – park along Gray Line near gate and access to trail. Access also available off Blacks Rd near trail entrance.

This 105-acre parcel is located in the southwest corner of Elgin County. It lies within a large coastal wildlife corridor formed by a chain of steep wooded ravines and valleys stretching along 100km of Lake Erie shoreline in Elgin County. This property is home to a great diversity of native flora and fauna, including 200 species of migrant and resident birds. Many rare species are found here. Among these are birds, dragonflies, reptiles and amphibians. Although some of the land was previously farmed, it has been restored to native meadows and wetlands. These early successional habitats greatly enhance the species diversity of the vegetation communities present.

