

BLAIN FARM

The 26-ha Blain Farm is situated on the south side of the Thames River in the Municipality of West Elgin in Elgin County. The farm has 20 ha of productive cropland separated from the river by a 1.3 km strip of riverine forest and terraced floodplain. Blain Farm lies just west of Wardsville in SW Middlesex and is about a 40 minute drive southwest of London. The Blain Property was secured by the TTLT for conservation purposes in 2009 through a purchase agreement from Wilbert and Eleanor Blain of West Elgin. The Blains farmed the land for over 70 years and live nearby.



The Blain Farm lies within the Skunks Misery Natural Area recognized by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. It is 1 km south of Skunks Misery Forest, a complex of upland and swamp forest constituting a provincially significant area of natural and scientific interest (ANSI) and significant wetland (PSW). Skunk's Misery is a Carolinian Canada Site as well as an Important Bird Area.

The riverine forest at Blain Farm is part of a wildlife corridor connecting the Thames River to the forested core of Skunk's Misery via properties in SW Middlesex. It also acts as a vegetated buffer from up-slope agricultural land in West Elgin. Much of the hardwood forest here is at an early to mid-stage of forest succession. It has a good seed source of Carolinian trees and shrubs, including mature Hackberry, Sycamore, representatives of the White Oak group, Bladdernut and Spicebush. The forested frontage and sandbars along the Thames River at Blain Farm are likely breeding sites for rare turtles and habitat for a number of freshwater mussel species-at-risk.

The conservation goals are to enhance the existing hardwood corridor and vegetative buffer, improve aquatic habitat, reduce erosion and enhance connectivity between wooded areas within and adjoining the Blain Farm. A stewardship plan is being prepared to guide the management of the Blain Property. This is the first property secured by the Land Trust for its agricultural heritage values. The Land Trust will follow best-management agricultural practices in farming the productive cropland. The natural areas on the property have no existing trail system and are closed to the general public. As with all Land Trust properties, the recreational use of motorized vehicles, hunting and other forms of destructive activity are not allowed at the Blain Property.

Thames Talbot Land Trust

Subject Property:

Blain Farm
Part Lot 12, Con. BF
Township of Aldborough
County of Elgin

Legend

-  Subject Property
-  Teranet ownership layer



1:10,000



This map is for illustrative purposes only.
Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator
of routes, locations or features nor as a guide
to navigation.

