



City Forest Credits Preservation Project Application

1. Project Name

Elizabeth Twp, PA – Buena Vista Heights Conservation Area

2. Project Type

Preservation

3. Project Location

Elizabeth Township, Allegheny County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

4. Project Operator

Organization: Allegheny Land Trust

Address: 416 Thorn Street

City: Sewickley

State: PA

Zip: 15143

Contact: Alyson Fearon, Community Conservation Director – afearon@alleghenylandtrust.org

5. Project Description

Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) is working with the local community in southeastern Allegheny County to permanently protect 155 acres of woodlands from rapidly encroaching residential development. This hilltop/hillside landscape rests entirely within the Youghiogheny River Watershed and is located approximately ten linear miles upstream from the City of Pittsburgh. The three contiguous parcels of land that comprise this property area are fully platted for a suburban residential development that is designed to convert 88 acres of the property and contain more than 150 homes. ALT is purchasing the property from the real estate developer who commissioned these plans. Once ALT acquires the property (closing scheduled for March 2020) the rolling hills of maple, oak, hickory, and cherry woods will be open to the public for passive recreational uses including hiking, birding, mountain biking and selective hunting. Its acquisition and subsequent permanent protection present the opportunity to generate revenue from the sale of carbon credits for on-going sustainable land stewardship and potential future expansion.

6. Project Benefits

Buena Vista Heights Conservation Area will permanently protect a significant and visible open space helping to preserve the semi-rural character of this community. In addition to providing these obvious recreational and aesthetic benefits, it will contribute to the solution to many pressing issues the region is grappling with today as a result of its industrial past, aging infrastructure, challenging topography, and climate change induced rain events. These issues include landslides, flash flooding, combined sewer

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overflow, and poor air and water quality. The property's natural capacity to absorb and filter storm water (an estimated 860,000 gallons per year), cleanse the air (sequestering an estimated 2,000 pounds per year), provide accessible and healthy recreational opportunities, and contribute to economic vitality will help to mitigate rather than exacerbate these issues thus contributing to the area's long-term resiliency and sustainability.

7. Does your project fall within an Urban Area mapped by the U.S. Census Bureau, or within the boundaries of a city or town? *(Click here for Census Bureau mapping information).*

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>

Within an Urban Area

Within a city or town

8. Additional Information

ALT seeks to work with local residents, civic organizations, environmental groups, Elizabeth Township and Elizabeth Forward School district, elected officials, and businesses to protect this land and care for it using best stewardship practices so that it becomes an a true and lasting asset to the community.