



City Forest Credits Carbon Planting Project Application

1. Project Name

Fox River Bluffs Planting Project

2. Project Type

Planting

3. Project Location

Projects must be in or adjacent to one of the following. Describe which one of the criteria the project meets and provide name of city, town, or jurisdiction where project is located.

- *“Urban Area” per Census Bureau maps; see <https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>*
- *An incorporated or unincorporated city or town*
- *A planning area for a metropolitan planning agency or entity, such as the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*
- *Land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity such as a utility for source water or watershed protection*
- *A transportation or utility right of way through one of above*

The project is taking place in unincorporated Kendall County directly adjacent to the corporate boundaries of Yorkville, Illinois, an incorporated city.

4. Project Operator

Provide name of organization/entity, and contact information

Organization: Kendall County Forest Preserve District

Address: 110 W. Madison Street

City: Yorkville

State: Illinois

Zip: 60560

Contact(s): David Guritz, Executive Director and Stefanie Wiencke, Special Projects Coordinator

Phone: 630-553-4131

Email: dguritz@co.kendall.il.us; swiencke@co.kendall.il.us

5. Project Description

Provide short narrative including location, number or acres of trees, and overall goals

Kendall County Forest Preserve District (District) planted trees as part of this carbon project on 40-acres of the Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve (Preserve) in Yorkville, IL. The District acquired the 168-acre Preserve in 2015 with an overall goal to restore 99 acres of the former farmland to prairie and a reforested natural area.

After 5 years of analysis and preparation, the District and community volunteers planted native trees and shrubs in Spring 2020. For this carbon project, 23,085 were planted including six Oak species, Shagbark hickory, and Black walnut.

The restoration plan for the remainder of the Preserve is divided into several phases and activities. In addition to this carbon planting project, the District seeded 60+ acres of the Preserve with a diverse prairie mix and woodland edge mix to support pollinators. This pollinator seed mix will support recovery of a local population of the federally endangered Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*) to establish high-quality forage and habitat for this and other local wildlife species. The District also planted an additional 2,749 understory shrubs and trees within the carbon project area.

The remaining 66-acres of the Preserve, which includes a Fox River island, contains high-quality natural resources including oak-dominated bluffs and ravines, seeps, and Fox River shoreline. The District cleared invasive species along the woodland edges, and broadcast additional woodland edge seed mix to further improve habitat quality and plant community diversity. A floristic quality study with long-term management recommendations was also completed in 2020.

6. Project Impacts

Provide short narrative of the impacts this project will achieve. Examples include how the project addresses increased access to green spaces for under-resourced communities, flood control, watershed protection, human health benefits, recreation or bird and wildlife habitat.

- Pilot project establishes a model for carbon crediting for Northeastern Illinois.
- Converts 60 acres of agricultural lands to tree and shrub cover.
- Adjacent non-carbon project restoration includes natural area restoration and establishment of native Illinois prairie. Removes invasive shrub and tree species, and enhances woodland edge plant community diversity.
- Establishes habitat (forage and cover) for the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*)
- Provides forage and cover for a host of local pollinating and other wildlife species.
- Reduces fossil fuel consumption from annual agricultural activities.
- Expands the Fox River oak-ecosystem corridor and natural areas.
- Expands habitat and wildlife corridor connections between Hoover Forest Preserve to the State of Illinois – Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Silver Springs State Park.
- Provides atmospheric carbon sequestration to address global climate action strategies.
- Provides public access to local recreation and expanded nature-based education opportunities and experiences.

7. Number of trees to be planted and general planting-design

Provide number of trees and general planting design. Tree planting design options include:

- *single-tree dispersed (spaced 10" or more apart, i.e. street trees or linear plantings)*
- *single-tree canopy (spaced 10" apart but continuously so to generate canopy over time, i.e. natural areas)*
- *forest canopy (closely planted with spacing less than 10" apart so to generate canopy and forest ecosystem, high tree mortality expected, i.e. riparian areas)*

Prior to tree planting in spring 2020, the District analyzed soil types at the Preserve to determine conversion footprints for restoration to forest and prairie cover. The District continued farming 99-acres of the 166 total preserve acres through the 2019 growing season. Soybeans were planted for three consecutive years to reduce competition from annual and perennial weedy species.

Tree and shrub stock, and native seed mixes were selected for installation based on soil types and floristic quality studies. Seedlings were ordered from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Mason State Tree Nursery.

In Spring 2020, the District installed a total of 23,085 native trees and shrubs with cover crop (Spring oats and Virginia wild rye) over approximately 40-acres as part of this project. Trees were planted in rows 8' to 10' on center using equipment and guidance received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (see attached Exhibit A). The planting list includes:

Tree Species	Total Planted – 40-Acres
Bur Oak	5,417
White Oak	1,667
Red Oak	5,417
Black Walnut	1,000
Shagbark Hickory	4,167
Pin Oak	1,250
Swamp White Oak	1,667
Black Oak	2,500
TOTAL	23,085


8. Additional Information

Provide additional information about your project. Examples include collaboration with other partners or how this project fits into a larger effort.

The Kendall County Forest Preserve District is part of the Kane-Kendall Oak Ecosystem Partnership, an initiative of The Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative. This pilot planting project is serving as a model for the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) for the purpose of establishing a regional certification process and clearinghouse for voluntary carbon credit projects for the greater Chicagoland region. CRTI is a partnership for coordinated action on key issues facing trees. It is the largest such initiative in the country, with leading organizations and agencies from across the seven-county metropolitan region working together. CRTI is leveraging funding, knowledge, skills, and expertise to build a healthier, more diverse regional forest.

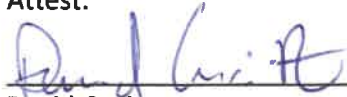
As part of this carbon project, the District completed a growth study of a documented 25-year old planted stand of oak (Red and White), Black walnut, Shagbark hickory, and White pine trees at the District's Hoover Forest Preserve in order to better model projected tree growth for the trees planted in similar location and fashion at Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve. The growth data modeling from Hoover Forest Preserve has been used to support anticipated carbon storage quantities for Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve.

Signed on November 2 in 2021, by Judy Gilmour, President for Kendall County Forest Preserve District.



Judy Gilmour, President

Attest:



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Email

Fox River Bluffs

Tree Planting and Soil Types Map

