



## City Forest Credits Carbon Preservation Project Application

### 1. Project Name

*Crowley Oaks Conservation Area*

### 2. Project Type

Preservation

### 3. Project Location

The project is located in Alden Township, adjacent to the incorporated City of Harvard (37459), in McHenry County, Illinois. McHenry County is within the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's service area.

### 4. Project Operator

*Organization/Entity:* The Land Conservancy of McHenry County  
*Address:* 4622 Dean Street, PO Box 352  
*City:* Woodstock  
*State:* IL  
*Zip:* 60098  
*Contact(s):* Lisa Haderlein  
*Phone:* 815-337-9502 x103  
*Email:* lhaderlein@conservemc.org

### 5. Project Description

The 83.5-acre Crowley Oaks Conservation Area includes a 45-acre old-growth oak-hickory woodland. Many bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) white oak (*Quercus alba*) and red oak (*Quercus rubra*) trees on this property pre-date European settlement of the region. In addition, there are younger white oak (*Quercus alba*), and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) growing throughout, which is a good sign of regeneration. TLC took title to the property in August 2020 and has just started to restore the property to remove invasive trees and shrubs from around the oaks. The site is contiguous with nearly 200 additional acres of old-growth oak woods. The long-term goal for the area is to preserve and restore the entire oak woodland complex for the benefit of woodland birds like Ovenbird, Scarlet tanager and others. The property is zoned for agricultural use, and surrounding land use is a combination of farmland and large-lot residential development.

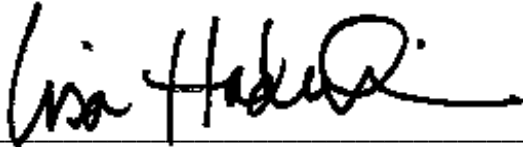
## 6. Project Impacts

Crowley Oaks is located in a headwaters area of Piscasaw Creek, one of the few cold-water creeks remaining in Northeastern Illinois. Protection of this valuable resource can provide many benefits to the natural ecosystem and built environment, including providing habitat for wildlife, managing stormwater runoff, and improving the air quality. Protecting this valuable resource will regulate water temperatures of the Piscasaw creek which is home to various fish species indicative of high water quality. Seasonal creeks meander across the property during the spring and fall, but become a trickle in the summer during dry weather. The property adjoins nearly 200 acres of old-growth, privately-owned oak-hickory woodland. The Crowley Oaks property protection and restoration will provide a habitat anchor for a number of bird species that are considered species of concern due to woodland habitat loss and fragmentation, including the aforementioned Ovenbird and Scarlet tanager which have been identified on the property. In addition to the oak woodland, the Crowley site includes a 30-acre pine plantation that will be converted to oak savanna eventually, but in the meantime will provide a great opportunity for hiking in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter.

## 7. Additional Information

This project is part of the Chicago Region Carbon Credit Program and complements other tree planting and preservation projects in the seven-metro counties supervised by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative. Crowley Oaks is part of TLC's Project Quercus, a multi-faceted effort to inspire the community to take care of the county's remaining oak woodlands. Eighty-five percent of all the remaining oak woods in McHenry County are located on private property, and have no level of protection, not even TLC's property. The organization's work at Crowley will be used to influence other landowners to restore, manage and even preserve their woodlands too.

Signed on June 16<sup>th</sup> in 2022, by Lisa Haderlein, Executive Director, for The Land Conservancy of McHenry County.



Signature

Lisa Haderlein

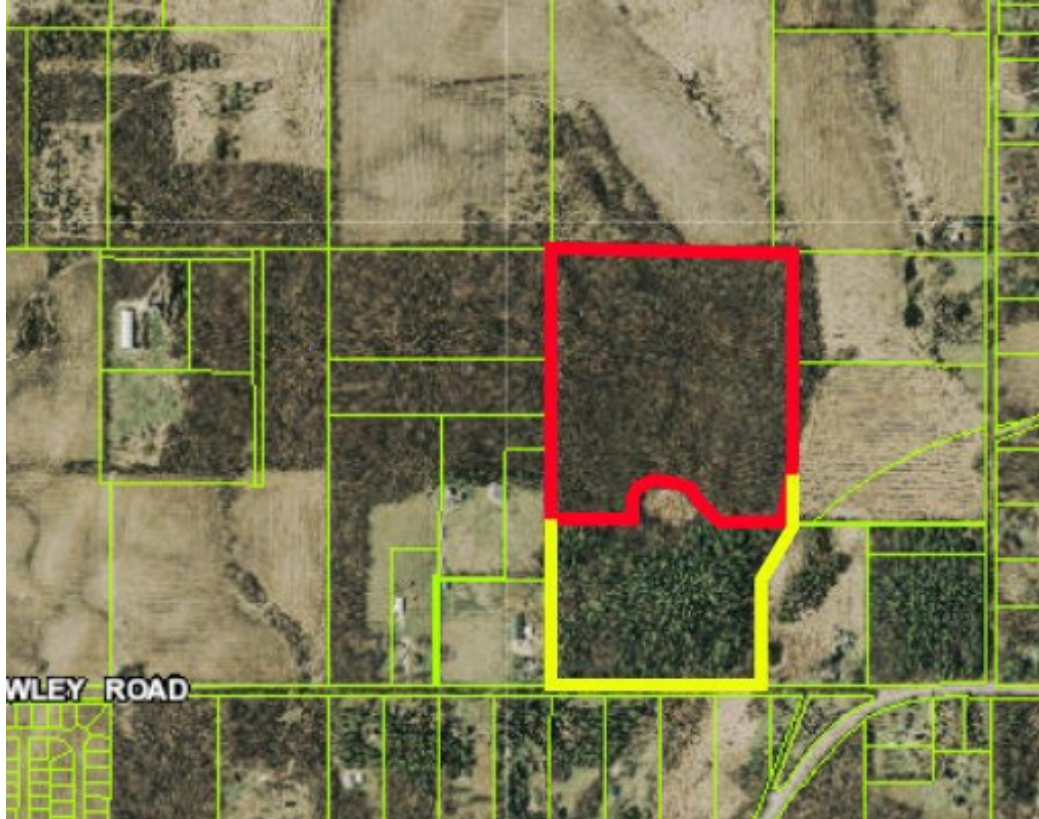
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Email



Red polygon=oaks Yellow indicates the remainder of the 83.5-acre Crowley property.