



## City Forest Credits Carbon Preservation Project Application

### 1. Project Name

*Thompson Road Oak Woods*

### 2. Project Type

Preservation

### 3. Project Location

The project is located in the incorporated Village of Bull Valley, in McHenry County, Illinois. McHenry County is within the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's service area. The Village is located between the Urban areas of the City of Woodstock (97129) and the City of McHenry (45694).

### 4. Project Operator

*Provide name of organization/entity, and contact information*

*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 35-acre Thompson Road Oak Woods are part of a larger project seeking to preserve a 275 acre property with 5 miles of existing trails. The woods need restoration, but include 100+ year old bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*). TLC acquired the property on March 8, 2022 and over the coming few years, the entire 275-acre property will be restored from farmland to native prairie, wetland and healthy oak woods, and the trails will be opened for public use. This ambitious project was undertaken by The Land Conservancy of McHenry County in partnership with the Village of Bull Valley to preserve an important headwaters area of the Boone Creek watershed, and to prevent future development of the property which is surrounded by 1-10 acre residential home sites and subdivisions.

### 6. Project Impacts

Preserving Thompson Road Conservation Area's 275 acres will help enhance water quality for Boone Creek, one of Illinois' true ecological treasures. Boone Creek is considered a high-quality cold water creek, so protecting the site means safeguarding the water quality found in the creek today. By restoring a functioning wetland system to the property, the natural areas will better filter and manage the water that eventually flows into the creek.

The Boone Creek watershed, which drains 23 square miles across McHenry County, is also fed by the high concentration of Illinois Nature Preserves on private property. Legally designated by the state, Illinois Nature Preserves protect the state's finest woodlands, prairies, and wetlands for people, science, and nature. This new conservation area will join this network of natural areas.

Thompson Road Conservation Area anchors a network of private equestrian trails that stretch across the Bull Valley area. The farm has nearly five miles of existing "heritage trails" that will be preserved and incorporated in the future park as mixed-use trails. That will not only allow for horseback riding to continue, but also add hiking, walking, snowshoeing, trail running and other non-motorized activities.

The property features scenic, rolling terrain and provides natural views from almost every area of the site. An accessible public viewing area will be created along Thompson Road for wildlife viewing, including the seasonally resident sandhill cranes.

There is a wide diversity of birds found at the site based on a survey conducted in late April, 2022. Species included: ovenbird, eastern towhee, brown thrasher, wood thrush, and norther flicker - all species that need woods and/or shrub habitat to thrive.

## 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. Another exciting aspect of this project is that it is an example of the kind of work that needs to be done to achieve the ambitious 30x30 goals promoted by the current administration in Washington. The 30x30 program calls for everyone to step up and work in new ways and with new partners to preserve the land that all living things need to survive. In this case, a local nonprofit and local municipality teamed up to complete a land preservation project that was larger than either had attempted before individually, even though every government conservation organization declined to assist because they did not have the capacity.

Signed on June 15<sup>th</sup> in 2022, by Lisa Haderlein, Executive Director, for The Land Conservancy of McHenry County.



Signature

Lisa Haderlein

Printed Name

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