



## City Forest Credits Carbon Preservation Project Application

### 1. Project Name

O'Brien Preserve Forest

### 2. Project Type

Preservation

### 3. Project Location

*Project 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 regional metropolitan planning agency or entity
- Land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity for source water or watershed protection
- A transportation or utility right of way through one of above

The project is located within the incorporated City of Hudson, Summit County, Ohio. It is also directly adjacent to the US Census Bureau "Urban Area" boundary.

Address: 5410 Hudson Dr., Hudson, OH 44236

Property Centroid: 41.210813; -81.453230

Parcel Number: 3000415

### 4. Project Operator

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

Organization/Entity: Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Address: 3850 Chagrin River Road

City: Moreland Hills

State: Ohio

Zip: 44022

Contact(s): Sarah Blakely  
sblakely@wrlandconservancy.org  
440-528-4168

Alex Czayka  
aczayka@wrlandconservancy.org  
440-528-4168

## **5. Project Description**

*Provide short narrative of the overall project goals, project acreage, land ownership, forest characteristics, and land use/zoning*

The O'Brien Preserve Forest (the "Project") consists of a 43-acre Project site within the 55.41-acre O'Brien Preserve property (the "Property"). Western Reserve Land Conservancy, (the "Land Conservancy") is seeking to protect 43 acres of early to mid-successional hardwood forest and forested wetlands that make up the Project area with the rest of the Property containing wetland scrub-shrub, meadow, and floodplain habitats.

The site includes upland and lowland forests estimated at around 30 years old. Tree species present onsite include red and silver maples, black cherry, pin oak, eastern cottonwood, and black walnut. Preservation of the Project will benefit birds and wildlife, improve air and water quality, and sequester carbon. The site will also be open to the public for passive recreation.

O'Brien Preserve Forest was purchased by Natural Areas Land Conservancy in April 2022 to preserve the Property and its forest resources. As part of this preservation project, a conservation easement held by the Land Conservancy was put in place at the time of acquisition. The Property is in an area experiencing increased development pressure. It is adjacent to industrial buildings and offices and is zoned for industrial/business park development.

## **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.*

### **Increased Access and Connection of Green Spaces**

The Property surrounds the City of Hudson's historic O'Brien Cemetery and shares its southern boundary with the Summit County Metro Parks' Bike and Hike Trail, a 33.5-mile trail that spans Summit County and connects to both Cuyahoga County to the north and Portage County to the southeast. The Project is also located within three miles of the 33,000-acre Cuyahoga Valley National Park, an area of key importance for wildlife habitat and Lake Erie water quality. The Property will be open to the public for passive recreation creating newly accessible green space that connects to existing green spaces.

### **Bird and Wildlife Habitat**

This area is a popular birding location for local residents as it provides excellent habitat for migratory birds. Over 100 bird species have been observed on the Property, 25 of which are State-listed species such as the black-billed cuckoo, Canada warbler, red-headed woodpecker, and black-throated blue warbler. The forest habitat is critical for conservation-dependent migrating songbirds in an area experiencing increasing development pressure.

### **Water Quality**

The Project contains 43-acres of early to mid-successional forest and forested wetland and 3,600 linear feet of headwater tributaries to Mud Brook, a main tributary of the Cuyahoga River. Protection of the forested riparian buffer along the tributaries is critical for the water quality and overall health of the Mud Brook Watershed in which it is located. Preservation will help prevent erosion and sedimentation,

and help mitigate storm water. High-quality forested wetlands in the Project area also help to mitigate storm water, prevent flooding, and filter water, benefiting human communities as well.

## 7. Additional Information

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

This preservation project will contribute to quality of life and carries out the recommendation of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) Report, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for the Lower Cuyahoga River by protecting wetlands and riparian areas, which is explicitly listed as an implementation strategy to improve water quality. The Mud Brook Watershed is 61% developed, with forests making up only 23% of the land cover. The Project will therefore ensure that scarce forested land, especially forested land in highly developed areas like this, are protected.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy, an accredited land trust, is Ohio's largest land trust with over 67,000 acres conserved across 28 Ohio counties. The Land Conservancy preserves natural resources that provide multiple environmental benefits and improve the quality of life for residents of northeast Ohio. Carbon credits are an excellent extension of the Land Conservancy's mission, furthering conservation goals that will benefit communities, increase valuable open space acreage, and preserve critical wildlife habitat.

Signed on August 19 in 2022, by Alex Czayka, Senior Vice President for Conservation Transactions, for Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

  
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Signature

Alex M Czayka  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

aczayka@wrlcconservancy.org  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

# O'Brien Preserve Forest

Project Area - 43  
Acres



Western Reserve  
Land Conservancy  
land • people • community