



City Forest Credits
Carbon Preservation Project Application

Notes to applicants: The project application will be posted on the Carbon Project Registry on the project or program page, so it should not include any confidential information. Submit a map of the forested project area with application. We will follow-up with details to create a Carbon Project Registry Page after approval of your application. Within six months of approval of your application, you must submit the following documents to City Forest Credits ("CFC" or the "Registry"):

- *Project Implementation Agreement (contract between the Project Operator and CFC)*
- *Project Design Document*
- *Easement, covenant, or other deed restriction that preserves trees from removal*

1. Project Name

City of Atlanta Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve Carbon Credit Project.

2. Project Type

Preservation (40-year Preservation Protocol)

3. Project Location

Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve is not only within the City of Atlanta limits it is also owned by the City of Atlanta.

4. Project Operator

Provide name of organization/entity, and contact information

Organization/Entity: City of Atlanta

Address: 55 Trinity Avenue SW

City: Atlanta

State: Georgia

Zip: 30303

Contact(s): John R Seydel

Phone: 470-421-6160

Email: jrseydel@atlantaga.gov

5. Project Description

The Lake Charlotte property is an ideal launch project for generating and selling carbon credits in the City of Atlanta. The acquisition of Lake Charlotte, approved by Atlanta City Council in June 2020 (see 20-O-1215), was one of the largest greenspace acquisitions in city history and the first time the City has used money from the Tree Recompense Fund to purchase land. The City bought Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve property from the Conservation Fund, a nonprofit that helps local governments protect, preserve land. Prior to the acquisition, the Lake Charlotte property "was in danger of imminent destruction for development," per Tim Keane, the City of Atlanta's former Commissioner of City Planning.

The Conservation Fund (CF), the City's acquisition partner for the past fourteen years, supported the process and raised the possibility of carbon credits early in this process. Plans for maintenance and

stewardship of the land remain to be determined, but the Atlanta City Code and 20-O-1215 require the land to be preserved as public forested land in perpetuity. Carbon credit revenue could help fund maintenance and stewardship of this property and promote forest health. With 216 acres and 93.5% forest coverage, the property is a rare and valuable environmental and social asset for the residents of Atlanta. Not only will preservation of the forest avoid the emissions that would come with development, the forest and carbon stock will grow over time.

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.

Old Growth Forest and Biodiversity:

- The 216-acre Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve is one of the largest remaining intact, high-quality forests left inside the City of Atlanta. It contains a very diverse mix of hardwoods and evergreens, including significant stands of shagbark hickory trees, rarely seen in Atlanta forests. The site was the top priority for forest preservation in the City, and it contains many trees over 150 years old.

Wildlife and Ecology:

- The thick tree canopy, tree stumps and drained lakebed help sustain the forest's ecosystem of deer, frogs, butterflies and other wildlife.
- This site is the largest mafic-ultramafic rock site found in the Georgia Piedmont and contains significant soil, hydrological, botanical, and zoological integrity. One endangered species *rhus michauxii* is potentially found on this site as its range in Georgia is exclusive to ultramafic soils within the Upper Ocmulgee River Watershed.
- At Lake Charlotte, ultramafic rock produces an uncommon soil type, referred to as serpentine soils. These serpentine soils host plants that are very distinct from neighboring areas and have high rates of endemism, meaning unique to one location. Plants often appear stunted, portray unique coloration, and have carnivorous traits. It is an endangered botanical community that covers less than 1% of land mass in the United States. Due to the rarity of this ecosystem, it is a significant environmental resource for science, conservation, and education.

Greenspace Access:

- Lake Charlotte is a unique resource for Atlanta, allowing nature-based recreation and environmental education opportunities in a large, intact forest for Atlanta residents.
- It is also in close proximity to nearby Southside Park and Constitution Lakes, creating a network of protected greenspace and connectivity.
- The Route 55 MARTA bus stops roughly one half-mile south of the preserve's signage and main entrance. The property also has nearby parking for driving access.

Public Health benefits:

- Air quality
- Urban Heat mitigation impacts
- Public access to "nearby Nature" for millions of residents
- Positive impacts on physical health from exercise, social health from group outings, appreciation of a natural space, and learning and exploration, and mental health from attention restoration, and relief from anxiety and depression

Environmental benefits:

- Carbon storage
- Energy savings from heating and cooling impacts
- Bird, pollinator, and wildlife habitat

Historic Preservation

- This ridge is home to extensive Native American soapstone quarry and workshop sites dating back to 3,000 – 1,000 BC and numerous soapstone vessel fragments have been found on the property. The special soapstone formations were important to Native Americans who carved cooking bowls out of the rock, given its qualities similar to cast iron.
- The history of this site is a national treasure and has potential to be registered as a National Historical Site or National Monument.

7. Additional Information

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

The City of Atlanta Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve Carbon Credit Project is an important opportunity to utilize a revenue-generating model to help fund the preservation and stewardship of urban forested properties. If successful, this model can be scaled in the future to other City of Atlanta projects where at-risk forested properties are purchased and preserved. This model can further directly support the goal of Mayor Dickens' Greenspace Advisory Council (Green Cabinet) to increase preservation of forested greenspaces throughout the City. Funds generated by the sale of Carbon+ credits can provide critical support for sustainability projects, further greenspace acquisition, property maintenance and other ongoing costs for existing and new properties. The City of Atlanta has a great opportunity based on its geography, its urban forests, and its political context, whereby if we can prove this model here, this model can scale urban tree preservation and carbon credit opportunities across the region and the country.

Signed on June 28 in 2022, by John R. Seydel III for the City of Atlanta.



Signature

John R. Seydel III

Printed Name

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Phone

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Email