



City Forest Credits Preservation Project Application

1. Project Name

Spring Creek Preserve

2. Project Operator

Organization/Entity: West Creek Conservancy

Address: 7381 Camelot Drive

City: Parma

State: OH

Zip: 44134

Primary and/or secondary contact(s): Brett Rodstrom, Director of Conservation

Phone: (440) 867-6659

Email: brett@westcreek.org

3. Project Location

The Spring Creek Preserve project is located in Montville Township, Geauga County, Ohio, an unincorporated community. The project meets the urban area criteria because it is part of the planning area for the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), the planning agency responsible for transportation and environmental planning for greater Cleveland. The property is comprised of two parcels, PPN 20-047400 and PPN 20-070969.

Address: 17120 Hart Rd, Montville, OH

Property Centroid: 41.620345, -81.023443

4. Project Description

Provide short narrative of the project goals, Project Area acreage, land ownership, forest characteristics, and land use/zoning. Provide details about when the property was acquired or potential timeline for acquisition. Include information about when carbon crediting was first introduced into the overall project scope.

The Spring Creek Preserve property was identified as a priority conservation acquisition by West Creek Conservancy due to the property's tremendously high-quality natural resources – including dense, mature upland hardwood forest stands – combined with the risk of development of the property caused by its listing on the open market, its residential zoning, and land use conversion trends in area. West Creek purchased the property in October of 2022 using funding through the Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program, and encumbered the property with an environmental covenant to preserve the property's trees and natural assets in perpetuity.

The total Spring Creek Preserve property protected by West Creek Conservancy is 361 acres, but the project area as it relates to this proposed Urban Forest Carbon Program project is 151 acres comprising of three mature forest stands, predominated by hardwood species including red maple and sugar maple with significant presence of American beech, tulip tree, black cherry and northern red oak as well.

Despite the presence of a large wetland complex on the property, the threat of clear-cutting on this property was very high prior to West Creek Conservancy's acquisition of the property. The 361-acre property was listed for sale on the open market, and there is a trend of land use conversion in the surrounding area of Geauga County that includes the systematic timbering and resale of subdivided properties for residential development. The property has been sustainably managed for timber for a long time, with selective cutting done on the property within the last seven years. West Creek Conservancy's conservation acquisition of the Spring Creek Preserve property and encumbrance with an environmental covenant ensures that this high-quality upland forest and wetland area will be preserved in perpetuity. West Creek Conservancy's goal is to manage the property as a nature preserve, integrating the property into West Creek Conservancy's guided nature hike series to promote public access and appreciation for the unique natural heritage of the area. Revenue generated from the sale of carbon credits will support West Creek Conservancy's ongoing stewardship and management of the property, including supporting invasive species and deer population management to protect and enhance the ecological quality of the forest habitat within the project area.

5. Project Impacts

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

The 361-acre Spring Creek Preserve property is part of a larger 700-acre wetland complex known as Montville Swamp. The dense upland forest on this property provides important buffer for this high-quality wetland complex; permanent protection of the Spring Creek Preserve project therefore will have numerous environmental, social and health benefits.

For example, preservation of the dense upland forest buffer that protects the marshlands on the Spring Creek Preserve property will preserve downstream water quality within Spring Creek, Trumbull Creek, the Grand River, and ultimately Lake Erie, avoiding any adverse water quality impacts that would certainly result from the timbering and development of this property.

Additionally, just downstream of the property is Montmere Lake, a residential lake community that relies on the impoundment for recreation including boating and fishing. This residential community also relies primarily on groundwater sources of drinking water supply. The preservation of water quality through protection of wetlands and forested riparian areas upstream from this community is therefore imperative for the health and wellbeing of this community, as well as to preserve the recreational opportunities that the Montmere Lake community and visitors enjoy.

Lastly, the Spring Creek Preserve property provides natural habitat for many wildlife species, including several state- and federally-listed species that have been documented on or within range of the property.

6. Additional Information

Provide additional information about your project. If the Project Area is part of a larger program or preservation effort, include one sentence with more information. Examples include collaboration with other partners to preserve forestland or how this project fits into a regional initiative.

West Creek Conservancy’s conservation acquisition of the Spring Creek Preserve property is intended to serve as a catalyst for other conservation acquisitions in the immediately surrounding area. The forested wetlands on the 361-acre property are part of a 700-acre wetland complex known as Montville Swamp, which is a unique and significant part of the natural heritage of the region, not only for the high-quality plant and wildlife habitat it provides but also for the water quality benefits to the Grand River watershed in which the wetland complex is situated. West Creek Conservancy works in partnership with other regional conservation partners, including the Geauga Park District, the Nature Conservancy, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to conserve the high-quality wetlands, densely forested wetland buffers, and riparian areas that are distinctly important features within the watershed of the state-designated Wild and Scenic Grand River.

7. Map

Provide a map of the Project Area.

See attachment on subsequent page.

PROJECT OPERATOR SIGNATURE

Signed on November 1st in 2023, by Derek Schafer, for West Creek Conservancy.



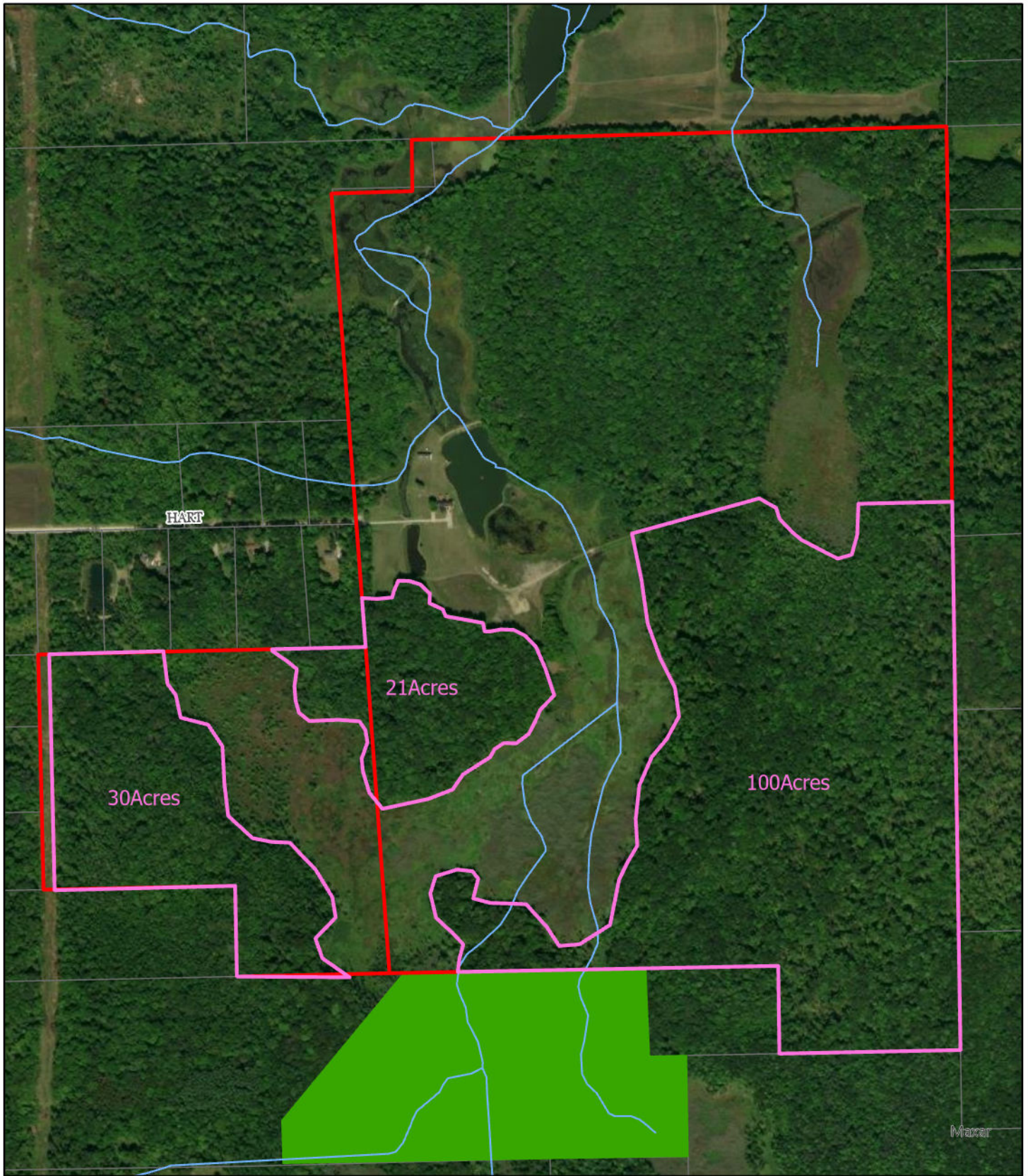
Signature



Printed Name

440-915-2940
Phone

dschafer@westcreek.org
Email



**SPRING CREEK PRESERVE
FOREST UNIT BLOCKS (151 ACRES)**

