



City Forest Credits Preservation Project Application

1. Project Name

For example: Sandy Cross Forest

Hambden Hills

2. 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

Primary and/or secondary contact(s): Sam Farabaugh

Phone: 440-528-4165

Email: sfarabaugh@wrlandconservancy.org

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 the name of the city, town, or jurisdiction where project is located. Provide the parcel numbers.

- *Urban Area or Urban Cluster boundary per U.S. Census Bureau*
- *Boundary of any incorporated or unincorporated city or town*
- *Boundary of any planning area for a regional metropolitan planning agency or entity*
- *Within the boundary of land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity for source water or watershed protection*

The project is located within a planning area for a metropolitan planning agency or entity, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA). NOACA was formed under Section 307.15 through 307.19, 307.85, and 713.21 through 713.24 under the Revised Code of the State of Ohio and encompasses Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina Counties. The NOACA Code of Regulations can be found here:

<https://www.noaca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/3323/637787144852970000>.

Project Location: Hambden Township, Ohio

Address: Property Centroid:

Parcel Number(s):

- Parcel 15-045300; 140.54 acres
- Parcel 15-045400; 42.15 acres

Parcel Number	Parcel Acreage	Project Area Acreage
Parcel 15-045300	140.54 acres	45 acres
Parcel 15-045400	42.15 acres	10 acres

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 project area is 55 acres of a larger preservation project of 182.69 acres in Hambden Township, Ohio. The property is located within the Paine Creek watershed and contains 7,350 feet of Bates Creek with the upland forested section serving as critical riparian buffer. The land is owned by Geauga Park District, acquired in September 2023, with the intent of turning the 182.69-acre property into a park. The project's forest stands are a mix of red and sugar maple, bitternut hickory, and black cherry trees. The land is zoned for residential use, so the preservation of trees on this property is critical to protect against forest clearing for development.

The Project Operator, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, is partnering with the landowner, Geauga Park District, to preserve 55 acres of threatened forest to protect wildlife habitat and provide carbon sequestration. The project will contribute to the greater goal of preserving mature trees with a long-term investment in their future. The ability to sequester carbon from mature forests makes carbon crediting a valuable tool for a project such as Bates Creek Forest Preserve.

Originally zoned for residential land use, the carbon crediting of this project will legally protect the trees so that no tree-cutting is allowed. The current deed restriction will be amended to reflect this protection, strengthening the preservation commitment of the project. There will also be regular monitoring to maintain the property and health of the trees, securing the carbon within the ecosystem and providing critical wildlife habitat for several endangered bat species. This carbon credit project utilizes the intrinsic value of the property for the benefit of the surrounding ecosystem and communities.

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.

Societal Benefits: This space will serve as a greenspace and will be used as a park for the public to enjoy. In the future, the property will be open daily as a park that the public will have access to for exercise, club gatherings, and other community events. This will offer increased recreational opportunities to improve human health and well-being, benefiting the community with aesthetic, wellness, and also leisure value. The creation and protection of recreational and social opportunities will contribute to the quality of life of Geauga County residents.

Environmental Benefits: The preservation of the trees will allow for the increase of nutrient filtration, thus benefiting the tributaries which connect with Paine Creek and eventually Lake Erie. Maintaining the upland forested habitat is essential for water quality of Bates Creek as many headwater streams flow through these forested areas. Deforestation via commercial timbering or from development could lead to increased erosion and sedimentation, warmer water temperatures, and a subsequent decrease in water quality. The mature forest buffers the water features on the site and provides protection for the wetlands and streams.

The project is located within the Bird Conservation Region (BCR 13) Landbird Focus Area #27-Geauga County Forest. Increasing protected habitat within the Focus Area will benefit multiple priority bird species by preventing habitat loss and creating a conservation corridor. Without protection, the property's high-quality habitat will be at risk of loss.

Wildlife Benefits: In addition to providing habitat for bird species, other native plants and wildlife have been documented on the Property that are worthy of conservation. The Property's resources are ideal for bat species. Acoustic bat surveys verified by the Ohio Division of Natural Resources confirm the presence of six (6) State-listed bat species, including the State-Endangered little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and five (5) State Species of Concern, big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), silver hair bat (*Lasioncycteris noctivagans*), and northern bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Other significant species found on the property include the northern clearwater crayfish (*Faxonius propinquus*), an Ohio Species of Concern, and 79 species of lichen, two of which include *Lecania cyrtella* and *Leptorhaphis epidermitis*, two species that are new to Ohio. These species will continue to flourish as the trees that provide them with habitat are more strictly protected through carbon crediting.

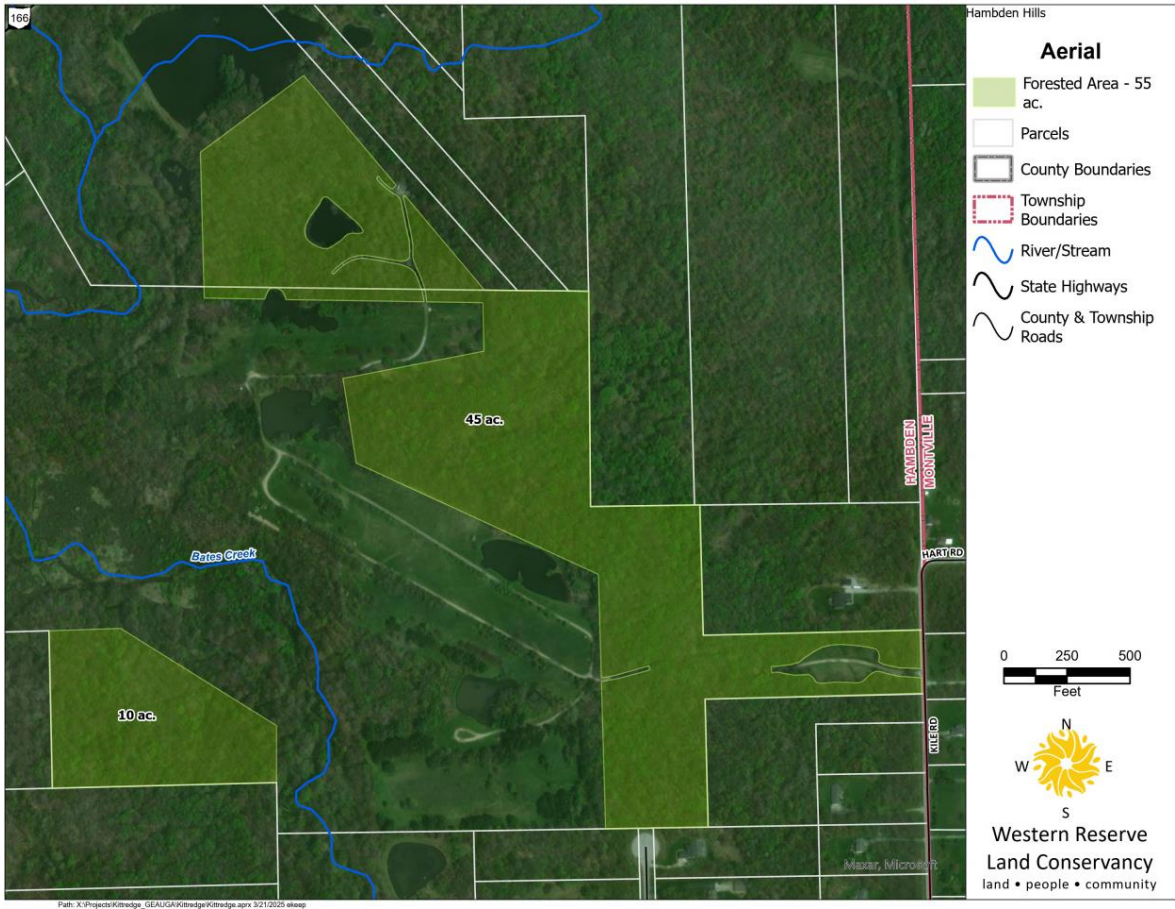
6. Additional Information

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.

This project will be a partnership between Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Geauga Park District. The property's registered carbon credits will foster a collaborative approach towards the spread of carbon credit programming in the area, showing the potential of park districts to be included and empowered in the carbon credit market. Western Reserve Land Conservancy will continue to monitor the property in accordance with carbon credit procedures as they have with similar projects in the past. Carbon credits are an excellent extension of the Land Conservancy's mission, furthering conservation goals that will benefit communities both economically and environmentally, increase valuable acreage, and preserve critical wildlife habitat.

7. Map

Provide a map of the Project Area.



PROJECT OPERATOR SIGNATURE

Signed on March 21st in 2025, by Alex Czayka, for Western Reserve Land Conservancy.



Signature

Alex M Czayka

Printed Name

440-813-4664

Phone

aczayka@wrlandconservancy.org

Email