



City Forest Credits Preservation Project Application

1. Project Name

Carbon Credits for Lotus Country and Brownlee Properties

2. Project Operator

Provide name of organization/entity and contact information

Organization/Entity: Lake County Forest Preserve District

Address: 1899 West Winchester Road

City: Libertyville

State: Illinois

Zip: 60048

Primary contact: Project Operator: Matt Ueltzen, Manager of Restoration Ecology

Phone: 847-968-3290

Email: mueltzen@LCFPD.org

Secondary contact(s): Administrative contact: Garnet Miller, Grants Specialist

Phone: 847-968-3381

Email: [gmiller@LCFPD.org](mailto:gmillier@LCFPD.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 areas, located in Lake County, Illinois, lie within the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) region boundary. The Brownlee acquisition (parcel# 0326300007) is located in Wadsworth, Illinois in Newport Township. The Lotus Country acquisitions (parcel #s 0125100002, 0125100011, 0125100013, 0125100008, and 0125100009) are located in an unincorporated area in Antioch Township, Illinois.

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.

This project seeks carbon credits for forested parcels that have been recently acquired by the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the District). Since 1958, the District has protected the natural and cultural heritage of Lake County with holdings of more than 31,300 acres across 65 preserves. Each year, the preserves provide more than 3.5 million visitors with opportunities to exercise, relax, and spend quality time outdoors in peaceful, natural settings. The preserves are free and open to the public every day and contribute to the health and well-being of all in Lake County. The goal of the District is to acquire, develop, and maintain land in its natural state; to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, and scenic beauty; for the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public; and for flood control and water management. The District became aware of the CFC Preservation Project opportunity in 2022.

The total forested project area acreage is estimated to be 35.0 acres, which includes 11.28 acres of the Brownlee parcel and 23.71 acres of the Lotus Country acquisitions. The first Lotus Country property to be acquired (in summer 2024), was zoned as Open Space and Agricultural. It was acquired because of its valuable ecological features, namely, the largest heron and egret rookery in the county. The second Lotus Country acquisition closed in May 2025 and was also zoned as agricultural. The second Lotus Country property was acquired for its ecological value and to increase habitat connectivity. The Brownlee property was zoned as suburban estate and was purchased in summer 2023.

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.

This project will protect approximately 35.0 acres of forested parcels, including one adjacent to an elementary school. The protected trees will provide ecosystem services, which are the direct and indirect benefits of ecosystems, including:

- enhancing plant and wildlife habitat: healthy habitats provide the framework and conditions necessary to sustain ecologically significant plant and wildlife populations, as well as biodiversity;
- stormwater interception: trees (and all wooded habitats) slow rainfall reaching the ground and can reduce stormwater runoff that might otherwise affect nearby developed areas;
- carbon sequestration: natural forests and urban trees capture and store (sequester) atmospheric carbon dioxide directly and indirectly;
- improved air quality: trees produce oxygen, reduce airborne particulates such as dust, pollen, ash and smoke, and remove air pollutants such as ozone and nitrogen oxides;
- preserve and enhance community aesthetics: trees and forests have important aesthetic value, they add beauty to their surrounding landscapes by softening and screening development, contributing to the character of the community and environment, and helping maintain or improve property values;
- provide individual and community health and wellness benefits: time spent in nature has quantitative impacts on personal and community health, including reduced stress and anxiety;

improvements in chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes; reduced rates of asthma and other respiratory conditions; etc.

Ecosystem services are generated annually and will increase over time due to inflation, benefiting area residents forever.

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.

Nearly twenty years ago, the conservation community in Lake County developed a shared goal of conserving 20% of the county's land area as open space by 2030. These three acquisitions contribute to the District's progress toward that goal. This project also supports goals outlined in the Illinois Forest Action Plan (2020-2030) and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative.

The Brownlee parcel is included in IDNR's Conservation Opportunity Area in Illinois' Wildlife Action Plan and contains Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC). The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) includes the parcel in its Conservation Opportunity and Regional Conservation Priority maps, and it is within IDNR's Upper Des Plaines River Corridor Conservation Opportunity Area. The Lotus Country parcels are located in the Upper Fox River Watershed and in the IDNR Lake-McHenry Wetland Complex Conservation Opportunity Area. The Lotus Country Conservation Preserve is important because the rookery provides habitat for large numbers of breeding individuals in one place. Birds are incredibly important to the environment and play key roles in ecosystem maintenance.

This project is part of the Chicago Region Carbon Credit Program and complements other tree preservation projects in the seven-metro counties coordinated by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative.

7. Map

Project area maps are attached

PROJECT OPERATOR SIGNATURE

Signed on May 28th, in 2025, by Matthew Ueltzen, for Lake County Forest Preserve District.



Signature

Matthew Ueltzen

Printed Name

847-968-3290

Phone

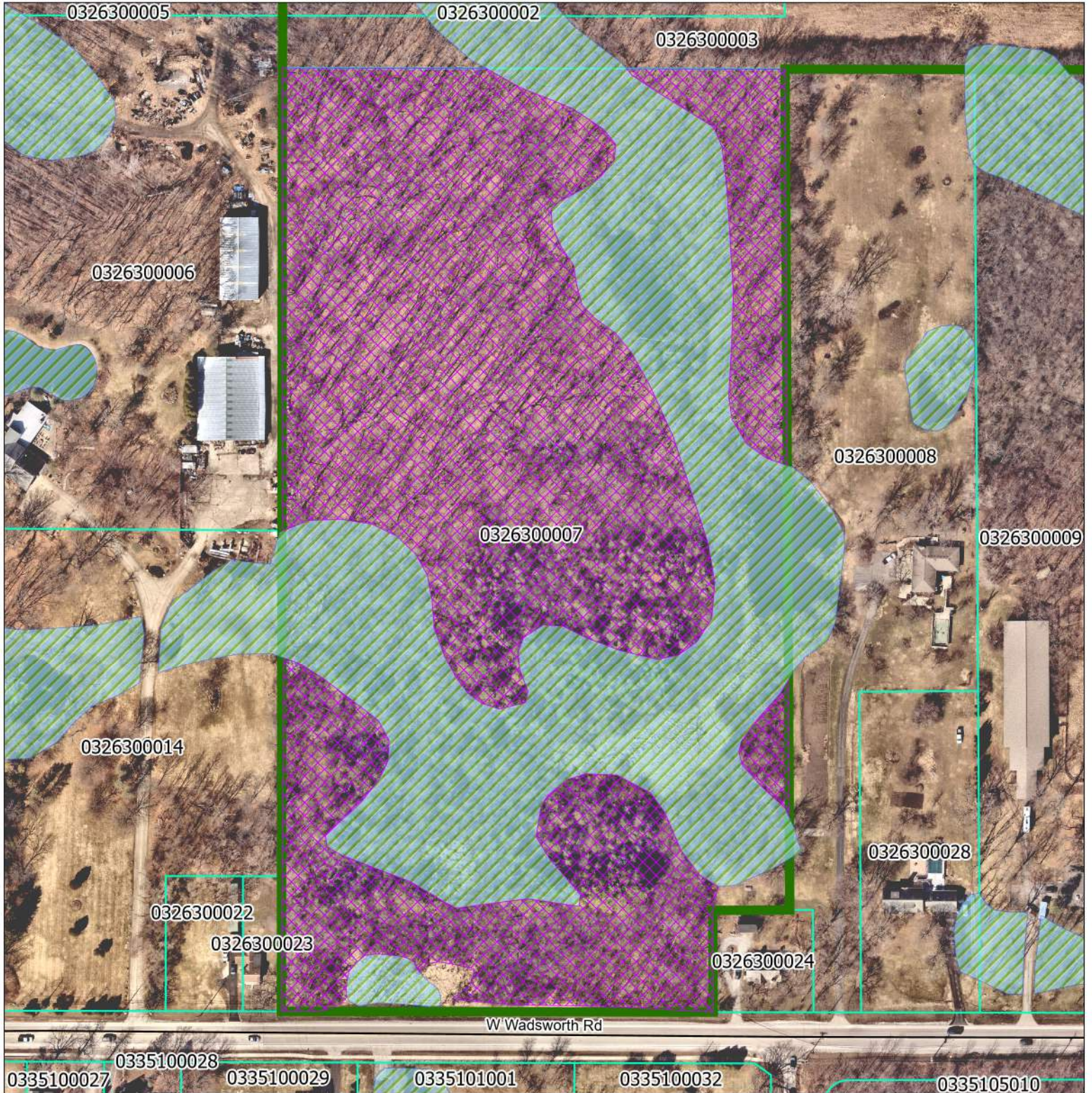
mueltzen@lcfpd.org

Email

CITY FOREST CREDITS - CARBON PRESERVATION PROJECT

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

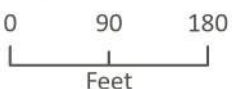
BROWNLEE PARCEL



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Map Created on 5/28/2025



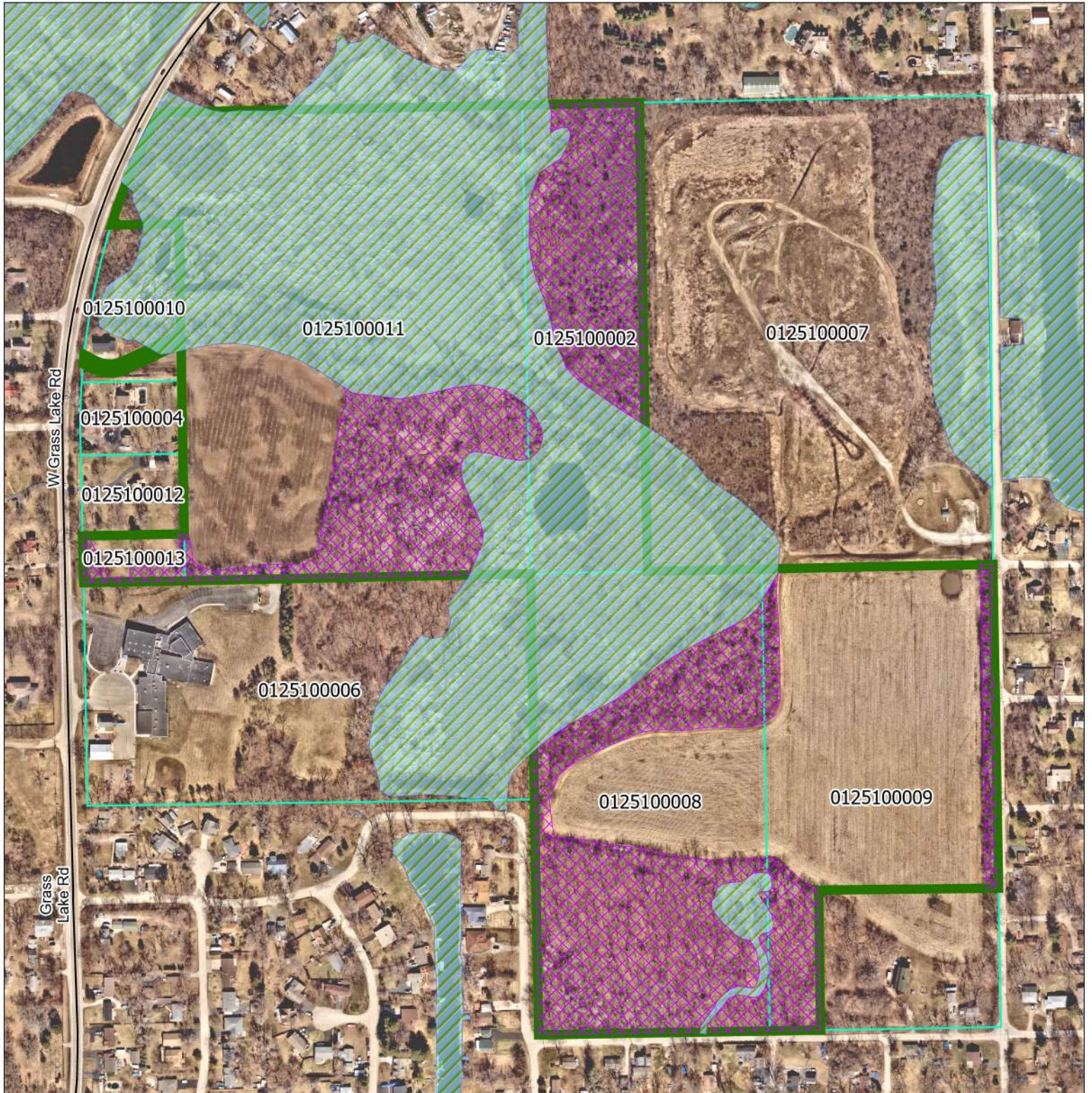
LEGEND

- CityForestCredits_CarbonPreservation
- LCWI Wetlands
- Forest Preserve Boundaries

CITY FOREST CREDITS - CARBON PRESERVATION PROJECT

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

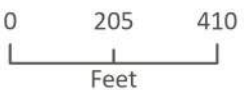
LOTUS COUNTRY PARCELS






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Map Created on 5/28/2025



- L**
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 - G**
 - E**
 - N**
 - D**
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