



# SANDY CROSS FOREST CARBON CREDITS



Western Reserve Land Conservancy is partnering with City Forest Credits to register carbon credit projects to protect and restore the forests of northern Ohio and directly benefit communities within our region. City Forest Credits (CFC), a national nonprofit carbon registry, is exclusively registering and issuing credits from urban, suburban, and exurban forests. These projects qualify forests with smaller acreages than traditional carbon credit projects, and per CFC's carbon protocol, are always in close proximity to people. Therefore, urban carbon credits provide unmatched conservation and human health benefits, aligning very well with the Land Conservancy's goals.

CFC's carbon crediting process offers a rigorous systems and accountability approach that ensures high-quality forest projects in urban and exurban areas. CFC's carbon crediting standard has been endorsed by the International Carbon Reduction and Offset Accreditation (ICROA), the oldest accreditation program that has set the industry standard for high-quality carbon projects. Our partnership with CFC aligns perfectly with our mission to provide the people of our region with essential natural assets through land conservation and restoration where we envision thriving, prosperous communities nourished by vibrant natural lands, working farms, and healthy cities.

In June 2020, Western Reserve Land Conservancy acquired and protected a 480-acre property located in Mifflin Township in Richland County. A portion of the property had been a working farm since 1959, but despite portions being systemically cleared and drained for agriculture, the property still contained approximately 94 acres of mixed successional forest and 115 acres of wetlands which are now protected by an environmental covenant. Located along a major interstate, the intact forest provides an important buffer for wetlands that drain to the region's main water source, Charles Mill Lake. The site contains high-quality forest with a diverse assemblage of 65-year old trees including hickory, sugar maple, American beech, black cherry, American elm, and several species of oaks.

In addition to the high-quality forest, the property contains valuable natural resources, including 115 acres of Category 3 wetlands that connect to a larger wetland complex, which includes 4,120-acres of protected lands that are directly adjacent to the property. The site also contains approximately 204 acres of 100-year flood zone and over 3,340 linear feet of Class III streams. Two Ohio State-listed species have been identified on the property, including Ohio Threatened sandhill crane and Species of Concern red-headed woodpecker. Protection of



the property has allowed for approximately 160 acres of active agricultural fields to be restored to 85 acres of wetland and 75 acres of native upland habitat. Throughout the restored habitat, approximately 7,800 trees have been planted.

To support the long-term management of the property, the Land Conservancy registered the property's high-quality forest as a carbon credit preservation project with City Forest Credits. The third-party verification process asserted that preservation of the forest for 40 years will result in greenhouse gas emissions mitigation of 14,408 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent). The Land Conservancy has exceeded the 40-year protection of the trees on this site through the conservation restrictions on the property, which result in the trees perpetual protection. The additional ecosystem co-benefits of the forest preservation are equivalent to \$213,636 per year of savings based on rainfall interception, air quality, cooling, and heating avoided costs. The property will also be the first planting project the Land Conservancy has registered for carbon credits, and it is anticipated that these credits will be available in 2024.

If your corporation is interested in supporting this project as part of your sustainability, social responsibility, and emissions reductions goals, please inquire about carbon credits available for purchase.

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