



## WHITTLESEY BEACH 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 October 2022, Western Reserve Land Conservancy acquired and protected a 91-acre property located in the City of Mentor, Ohio. The property includes rare, old-growth forest that appears to have never been logged and is located in an area of longstanding and increasing development pressure. Many of the trees in the project area are of great size, including three which have been identified as among the top five largest of their species in the state of Ohio. The forest was zoned to allow for residential development, and protection of the high-quality forest is the result of efforts by the Land Conservancy, the previous landowners, and the local community to preserve this unique resource.

This high-quality forest preserved in an increasingly urban area provides critical habitat for rare and endangered species, including listed bat and bird species. Documented species on the property include two Ohio Endangered bat species, five Species of Concern bat and bird species, and five Species of Special Interest bird species. The site's close proximity to Lake Erie makes it critical stopover habitat for many neotropical migratory birds. The property also represents a geologically significant habitat as the largest contiguous tract of forested land remaining on the Whittlesey Beach Ridge, a geologic feature created by glacial advances and retreats approximately 14,000 years ago. The beach ridge found on the property is the edge of the ancient Lake Whittlesey, a proglacial lake that is a predecessor of present-day Lake Erie.



# Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community

The property will eventually be open to the public, from dawn to dusk, and operated as one of the Land Conservancy's Signature Parks. To support long-term stewardship and management, 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 15,109 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. (carbon dioxide equivalent). The Land Conservancy has exceeded the requisite 40-year protection of the trees on this site placing conservation restrictions on the property that ensure the trees will be protected in perpetuity. The additional ecosystem co-benefits of the forest preservation are equivalent to \$181,516 per year of savings based on rainfall interception, air quality, cooling, and heating avoided costs.

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.

## Contact

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