



SHELTER HILL 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 September 2022, Western Reserve Land Conservancy acquired and protected an 88-acre property located in the Village of Hunting Valley, Ohio. Shelter Hill Forest includes old-growth forest in an area where development trends exacerbate habitat loss and suburban sprawl frequently alters the forested landscape of the Chagrin River watershed. Preservation of the project area is critical to protect a high-quality forest in an urbanized environment. The property has cultural significance as the site of the once sprawling country estate of Myron Herrick, a Cleveland banking mogul, former Governor of Ohio, and Ambassador to France in the early 1900s. 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 and the local community to preserve this unique resource.



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

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This high-quality forest preserved in an urbanized area provides critical habitat for rare and endangered species, including listed bat and bird species. Documented species on the property include the Federally Endangered Indiana Bat, seven Ohio-listed bat species, and more than 90 different bird species. It is strategically located within a corridor of approximately 2,200 acres of contiguous conserved open space stretching for more than seven miles along the State Scenic Chagrin River. All four coldwater streams on the property are characterized as Class A Primary Headwater Habitat, the highest habitat quality and biodiversity rating of all headwater streams in Ohio.

The property will eventually be operated as one of the Land Conservancy's Signature Preserves, allowing access to bridle and hiking trails. 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 developable 35-acre forest area for 40 years will result in greenhouse gas emissions mitigation of 3,114 metric tons of CO₂e (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 \$74,580 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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