



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 October 2021, Western Reserve Land Conservancy strengthened conservation protections on the 132-acre Sandy Cross Forest project located in Mansfield, Ohio. The forest is part of a larger 214-acre property, the remaining acres of which are former agricultural fields in the process of being restored to native prairie/pollinator habitat. The original conservation restrictions placed on the site in 2018 did not explicitly protect the project's trees from removal, as development for park improvements was allowed anywhere on the property. The amended conservation restrictions impose additional protections for the forest and restrict the removal of trees to ensure minimal impacts on biomass and carbon stock. The property contains a diverse, 85-year old forest, which includes yellow poplar, sugar maple, oak, black cherry, shagbark hickory, and pine. Intact forests of this size are becoming increasingly rare in Richland County due to agricultural and residential development.

In addition to the high-quality forest, the property includes approximately 8,820 linear feet of streams, all tributaries of the Clear Fork of the Mohican River to the east. The three high-quality, well-functioning streams along with their associated floodplains are now protected, and preservation of the forest buffering each of the stream's benefits water quality of the Mohican River Watershed. The forest and streams provide critical habitat for notable flora and fauna with confirmed presence of salamander nymphs. The site's mixed hardwood forest also suggests the potential to support at least two threatened bat species, which are known to favor shagbark hickory trees found on the property.



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land • people • community

The property will be used as passive open space with the long-term intent of creating a trail system and restoring the agricultural fields to natural habitat. To support restoration and long-term 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 17,144 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 \$289,948 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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