



# BLACK FORK FOREST PLANTING 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 well with the Land Conservancy's mission to conserve and restore essential natural assets for the benefit of the people in our service region.

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 November 2023, Western Reserve Land Conservancy began the Black Fork Planting project. This project is located in Mifflin Township, Richland County, Ohio and is an extension of the larger acquisition and carbon credit preservation project of the Black Fork Forest property. The Black Fork Planting project is located on a property that had been a working farm from 1959 until 2020. When the Land Conservancy acquired the property, acquisition allowed for restoration of the agricultural fields to create wetlands as well as plant prairie pollinator habitat and trees on the property. There were a total of 5,538 trees planted across the 88.4-acre project area, including approximately 62 acres of upland tree plantings and 26.4 acres of wetland tree and shrub plantings. Upland species include the Ohio buckeye, shellbark hickory, swamp white oak, burr oak, and pin oak. Wetland species include pin oak, swamp white oak, Eastern cottonwood, sycamore, and black walnut.





The restored wetlands are intercepting and treating runoff from surrounding agricultural land to capture nutrients and sediment before the water drains to the Black Fork of the Mohican River. Planting trees in the upland and wetland habitats helps to further reduce runoff into waterways by absorbing and slowing the flow of water, allowing for increased filtration of pollutants and decreased soil erosion. Additionally, the planting includes a variety of oak and hickory species which will improve biodiversity and benefit wildlife. The restored property is already experiencing an increase in wildlife with regular sightings of Ohio Threatened sandhills cranes and amphibians populating the wetlands.

Black Fork Planting will have an estimated greenhouse gas emissions mitigation of 13,371 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e over the course of 26 years. As 10% of the total emissions is issued each year with planting projects, the initial issuing of credits is 1,337 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e. The additional ecosystem co-benefits of the trees once they reach the mature age of 25 years adds up to \$456,219 annually. Revenue from carbon credit sales will allow for Western Reserve Land Conservancy to properly maintain and steward the newly planted trees so that the restoration project can positively contribute to the forest and its native wildlife.

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**

Alex Czayka, Chief Conservation Officer  
aczayka@wrlandconservancy.org  
440-528-4180

Ellen Matlock, Senior Development Officer  
ematlock@wrlandconservancy.org  
440-528-4159

Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
3850 Chagrin River Road  
Moreland Hills, Ohio 44022  
www.wrlandconservancy.org