



KIRTLAND HILLS COMMUNITY 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 global industry standard for high-quality carbon projects. The Land Conservancy's partnership with CFC perfectly complements its 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 2024, Western Reserve Land Conservancy in partnership with the Village of Kirtland Hills protected a 64-acre property located in the Village of Kirtland Hills, Ohio. The Kirtland Hills Community Forest is owned by the Village and contains a mix of oak, pine, maple, beech, and poplar trees. The forest is upland from streams including the adjacent Kellogg Creek, a tributary to the Grand River Watershed, and serves as a natural buffer to control stormwater run-off, prevent erosion, and mitigate flooding of downstream properties, thus providing several ecosystem services. Zoned to be vulnerable to residential and retail development, the registration of this property as a carbon credit project will allow for the conservation of the forest and native habitat for wildlife. This conservation initiative was made possible through an ongoing partnership between the Land Conservancy and Mayor Jack Turben of Kirtland Hills.



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community

While the Kirtland Hills Community Forest provides native habitat for wildlife, additionally, the property will also serve as a park space for the Village and supply intrinsic health benefits to its residents. Community members of the Village will enjoy a green, open space to be used for various passive outdoor recreation activities. In the future, the property will be available to be used as a park for hiking, plant identification, and wildlife and bird watching. Kirtland Hills Community Forest will be operated by the Village of Kirtland Hills, with the sale of carbon credits supporting the Village's long-term land stewardship and management of the property. Through the Land Conservancy's meaningful partnership with City Forest Credits, the verified greenhouse gas emissions mitigation is estimated at 6,671 tons CO₂e. The carbon credits will contribute to avoided costs in the form of ecosystem services that add up to about \$129,266 annually, or a total of \$5,170,650 over the 40 years. By contributing several financial, social, and environmental benefits, the Kirtland Hills Community Forest will serve to provide for the community in perpetuity.

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

