



City Forest Credits Carbon Preservation Project Application

1. Project Name

Buerkle Family Woodlands

2. Project Type

Preservation Project

3. Project Location

Projects must be in or adjacent to one of the following. Describe which one of the criteria the project meets and provide name of city, town, or jurisdiction where project is located.

- *“Urban Area” per Census Bureau maps; see <https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>*
- *An incorporated or unincorporated city or town*
- *A planning area for a metropolitan planning agency or entity, such as the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*
- *Land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity such as a utility for source water or watershed protection*
- *A transportation or utility right of way through one of above*

Project is located in Ohio Township, PA in an “Urban Area” per US Census Bureau maps.

4. Project Operator

Provide name of organization/entity, and contact information

Organization/Entity: Allegheny Land Trust
Address: 416 Thorn St.
City: Sewickley
State: PA
Zip: 15143
Contact(s): Alyson Fearon, Sr. Director of Community Conservation & Resiliency
Phone: 412-741-2750 x 204
Email: afearon@alleghenylandtrust.org



5. Project Description

Provide short narrative of the forest project area site, forest characteristics, and overall goals

The 54 acres of green hillsides of Allegheny Land Trust's (ALT) **Buerkle Family Woodlands** land protection project in Sewickley Hills and Ohio Township, PA offer more than just carbon benefits to the local community. The visual aspect of this parcel is seen by millions every year as it surrounds a segment of a major interstate intersection that includes a Park n Ride site. The stand is primarily mixed successional forest with some pockets dating back to 1930, and the majority of the site being early growth forest recovering from active farming in the 1970s. This area hosts some red and white oaks but primarily young maple, cherry, and beech canopy. The stream valleys and slopes contain the older and more established forest stands including some hemlock and pine clusters. Overall, with ALT's future stewardship of the site, an open understory should offer some opportunity for continued hardwood growth and for some recreation trails for the local residences.

6. Project Impacts

Provide short narrative of the impacts this project will achieve. Examples include how the project addresses increased access to green spaces for under-resourced communities, flood control, watershed protection, human health benefits, recreation or bird and wildlife habitat.

Located along Blackburn Road and occupying the highly visible northwest corner of the Mt. Nebo Road interchange of I-79, these scenic woodlands are the gateway to Sewickley Hills, Sewickley Heights, and Bell Acres for area residents and visitors alike. The forested slopes and hilltop plateau are emblematic of the rural character of these communities, serving as a buffer from the noise and commercial development of the interstate while proving important wildlife habitat.

The protected green space, which is zoned Residential will prevent disturbance of steep and landslide prone slopes, and absorb rainfall in the flood prone Kilbuck Run watershed. Kilbuck Run's flooding threatens homes and businesses at the bottom of the watershed near the I-79 and Route 65 interchange. Natural green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) can:

- Reduce the volume of stormwater generated during storm events
- Reduce stormwater impacts on receiving streams' water quality
- Improve air quality
- Provide a noise and pollution buffer from the adjacent interstates
- Reduce the heat sink effects of dense urbanization
- Improve the aesthetics and quality of life
- Increase property values

Together these parcels help to maintain the scenic woodlands of this interstate interchange.



7. Additional Information

Provide additional information about your project. Examples include collaboration with other partners or how this project fits into a larger effort.

This project continues the expansion of the multi-municipal Audubon Greenway that links Sewickley Hills and Sewickley Heights Parks. Audubon Greenway is a segment of ALT's NW Allegheny Conservation Plan that expands almost every year to ultimately create a greenway connecting municipal parks and other protected land in Sewickley Hills, Sewickley Heights, Ohio Township, Franklin Park, Bell Acres and Marshall Twp. In addition to the acres of land of the 5 municipal parks in the NW Allegheny Conservation Plan, ALT has protected 857 acres to connect them. (See attached NW Allegheny Conservation Plan Map)

Signed on February 4th in 2022, by Christopher J. Beichner, President and CEO, for Allegheny Land Trust

Signature

Christopher J. Beichner

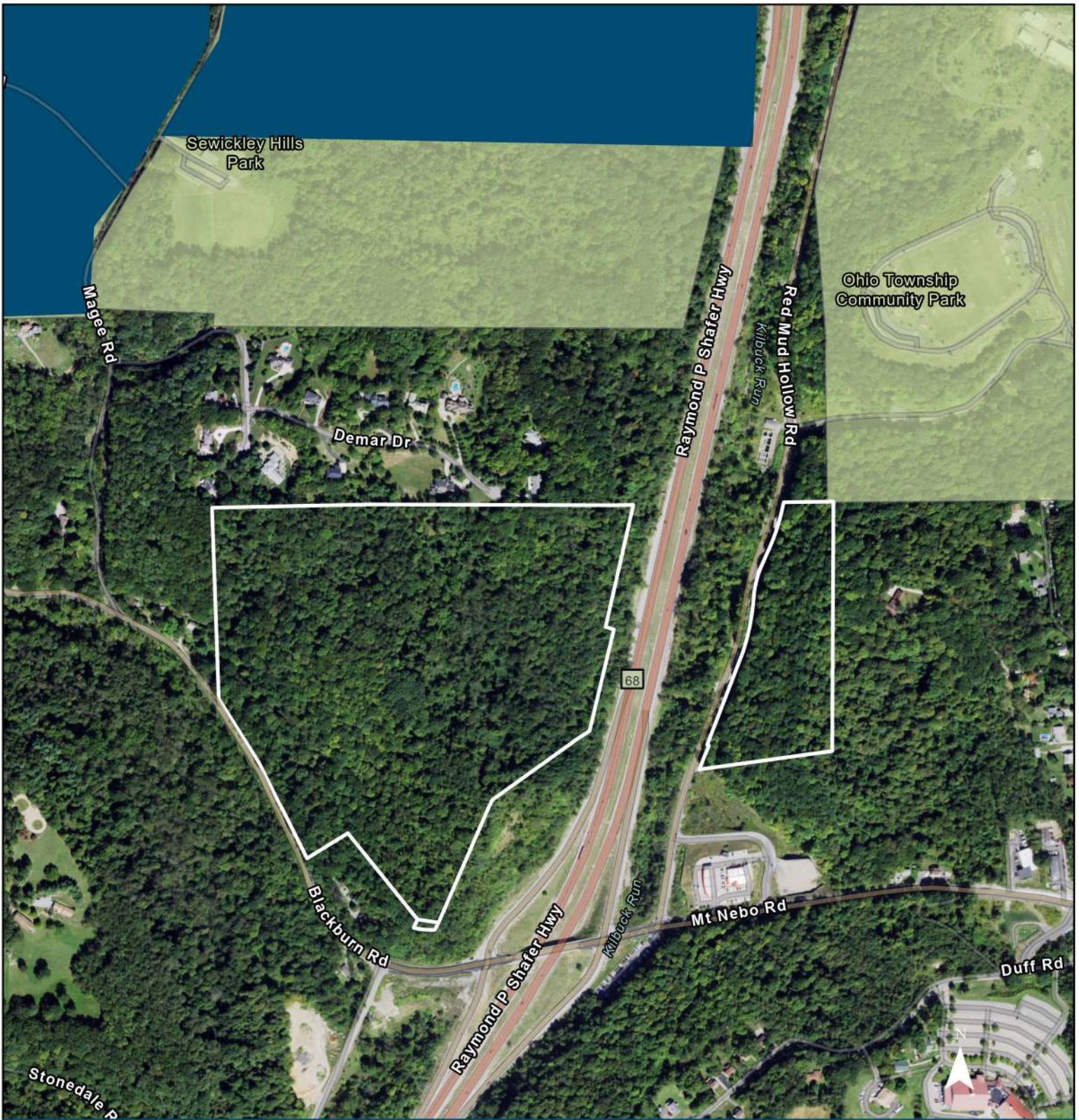
Printed Name

412-741-2750

Phone

cbeichner@alleghenylandtrust.org

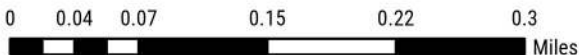
Email



Buerkle Family Woodlands

Legend

- ALT Conservation Areas
- Other Protected Lands



Map is for informational purposes only, boundary lines are approximate.

