



City Forest Credits Preservation Project Application

1. Project Name

Twinsburg Heights Preserve

2. Project Operator

Organization/Entity: West Creek Conservancy

Address: 7381 Camelot Drive

City: Parma

State: OH

Zip: 44134

Primary and/or secondary contact(s): Brett Rodstrom, Director of Conservation

Phone: (440) 867-6659

Email: brett@westcreek.org

3. Project Location

The Twinsburg Heights Preserve property consists of 12 contiguous parcels or portions of parcels and is located on the border of the City of Twinsburg and Twinsburg Heights in Summit County, Ohio. The City of Twinsburg is an incorporated suburban city within the Akron metropolitan area, and as such the project meets the urban area criteria because it is within and along the boundary of an incorporated city. The parcel numbers associated with the Twinsburg Heights Preserve property are: PPN 6200695; 6401498; 6400992; 6408343; 6204711; 6401269; 6400627; 6200607; 6401270; 6200609; 6401271; and 6409071.

Property Centroid: 41.308 -81.449

4. Project Description

Provide short narrative of the project goals, Project Area acreage, land ownership, forest characteristics, and land use/zoning. Provide details about when the property was acquired or potential timeline for acquisition. Include information about when carbon crediting was first introduced into the overall project scope.

The Project Area includes 50 acres of forestland within the 76-acre Twinsburg Heights Preserve property, which in turn is part of a larger, 86-acre property that West Creek Conservancy purchased in October of 2022. The 76 undeveloped acres have been permanently preserved by West Creek Conservancy, purchased in 2022 using Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program funding through the state of Ohio's Public Works Commission. Of these 76 acres, the 50 acres making up the Project Area are densely forested, primarily with red and sugar maples as well as some significant presence of black cherry and American beech. Among the trees on the property are some large specimens, including a

number of red maples reaching 43" dbh and a giant American beech specimen approximately 5 feet across.

The property is zoned as an Interchange Business District (the portion in the City of Twinsburg) and an Interchange Mixed Use District (the portion in Twinsburg Township/Twinsburg Heights). As an open space in a highly developed area located right off a major interstate highway, the property was at high risk for clearcutting and development. Selective cutting has recently taken place on the property, further demonstrating risk of deforestation. Due to the high natural resource value and habitat quality of the property, West Creek Conservancy identified the property as a crucial conservation investment. The property was encumbered at the time of purchase by West Creek Conservancy with a declaration of restrictions preventing any future development of the property and preserving its trees and natural resources in perpetuity.

West Creek Conservancy plans to establish public access to the 76-acre Twinsburg Heights Preserve, allowing the natural area to be a resource to the residents of the neighboring residential areas, enhancing property values and quality of life while simultaneously preserving high quality natural resources. This will require installation of some access infrastructure, some invasive species treatment and deer management, as well as stream and floodplain restoration to preserve the ecological functionality and quality of the property. H2Ohio funding has been sought for some of the necessary restoration components. West Creek Conservancy has decided to pursue City Forest Carbon+ Credits in order to generate additional funding for the ongoing stewardship of the property as well as maintenance for public access.

5. Project Impacts

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

Permanent protection of the Twinsburg Heights Preserve property yields numerous environmental, social and health benefits. The 76-acre natural area supports a variety of native plant and wildlife habitats, containing beech-maple forest, mesic forest, sedge meadows, and sandstone ledges that provide a diversity of nesting habitats and food sources for wildlife. The property has been identified as providing suitable habitat and within range for at least 14 species of birds, fish, and amphibians and two species of plants that are listed as either threatened or endangered in the state of Ohio.

West Creek Conservancy's conservation acquisition of this property has also benefitted the adjacent community of Twinsburg Heights, a formerly redlined and predominately African American residential neighborhood. This community still grapples with the legacy of the formerly discriminatory practices of redlining, with highway 480 directly adjacent to the neighborhood and fewer public amenities such as sidewalks and streetlights than can be found in nearby communities within the City of Twinsburg and Twinsburg Township. The commercial land use conversion of the property, as was the intent of the previous owner and was aligned with the zoning of the property, would have had significant and irreparable impacts on the Twinsburg Heights community, including exacerbating pre-existing stormwater issues such as flooding and erosion. Conservation of the property as a natural area will preserve the ecological services including flood control that the property provides to the adjacent community. West Creek Conservancy's plans to turn the property into a publicly accessible nature

preserve, including installation of some walking trails, will provide recreational opportunities for the community while also likely increasing nearby property values.

Additionally, the Twinsburg Heights Preserve property contains approximately 12,269 linear feet of unnamed headwater streams that flow into a tributary of Tinkers Creek. According to the Tinkers Creek – Town of Twinsburg NPS-IS Plan, several locations downstream of the project site are not reaching water quality attainment standards or the goals of the NPS-IS Plan. Preservation of over 2 miles of headwater streams and the surrounding forested riparian areas and natural topography has prevented the water quality degradation and downstream flood risk that would certainly have resulted from stream channel alteration and riparian vegetation removal associated with the timbering and commercial development of this property.

6. Additional Information

Provide additional information about your project. If the Project Area is part of a larger program or preservation effort, include one sentence with more information. Examples include collaboration with other partners to preserve forestland or how this project fits into a regional initiative.

West Creek Conservancy is working on collaboration with Summit County Metroparks to create a plan for full public access to this regionally significant natural area, including possible future incorporation of the Twinsburg Heights Preserve property as part of the Summit County Metropark system of managed parklands.


7. Map

Provide a map of the Project Area.

See attachment on subsequent page.

PROJECT OPERATOR SIGNATURE

Signed on November 1st in 2023, by Derek Schafer, for West Creek Conservancy.



Signature



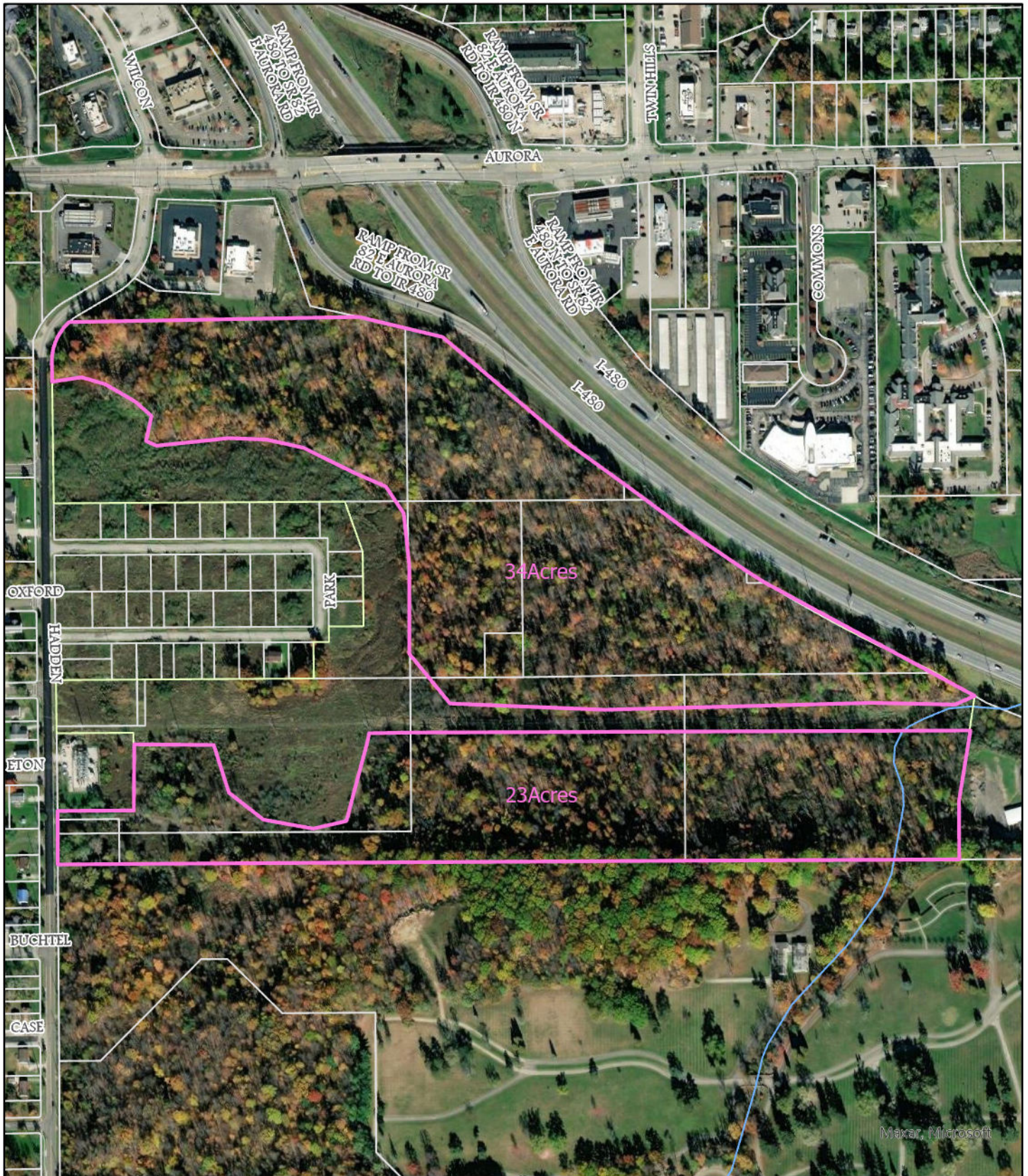
Printed Name

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Phone

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Email



**TWINSBURG HEIGHTS PRESERVE
FOREST UNIT BLOCKS (57 ACRES)**




WEST CREEK
CONSERVANCY



N

TWINSBURG HEIGHTS PRESERVE PROJECT AREA (50 ACRES)

- SUMMIT COUNTY RIPARIAN SETBACKS
- THP RIPARIAN SETBACK AREAS (6.37 ACRES) EXCLUDED FROM PROJECT AREA


WEST CREEK
 CONSERVANCY