



City Forest Credits Afforestation and Reforestation Project Application

1. Project Name

For example: Ballinger Open Space Planting Project

Restoring Forests for Carbon Sequestration in Lucas County, OH

2. Project Operator

Provide the name of organization/entity and contact information for the Project Lead

Organization/Entity: Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area (Metroparks Toledo)

Address: 5100 W Central Ave

City: Toledo

State: OH

Zip: 43615

Contact(s): Zuri Carter

Phone: 419-469-7213

Email: Zuri.Carter@metroparkstoledo.com

3. Project Location

Project 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 or Urban Cluster boundary per U.S. Census Bureau*
- *Boundary of any incorporated or unincorporated city or town*
- *Boundary of any planning area for a regional metropolitan planning agency or entity*
- *Within the boundary of land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity for source water or watershed protection*
- *Within a transportation or utility right of way through one of above*

The project areas are all owned by Metroparks Toledo and located in Lucas County, Ohio, which is within a planning area for a metropolitan planning agency or entity, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). TMACOG was formed as a voluntary association organized on May 31, 1968 and established under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Michigan Urban Cooperation Act No. 7 of 1967. The bylaws can be found here:

https://dfig7j11pix8o.cloudfront.net/documents/TMACOG-BYLAWS-ADOPTED-ON-01-19-24_2024-01-24-151200_pins.pdf.

Parcel Numbers: 75-00227, 75-00225, 18-67508, 18-67511, 78-95001, 78-04854, 78-04607, 18-87701, 18-87678, 35-00695

4. Project Description

Provide short narrative of the overall project goals, location where trees will be planted, land ownership or eligibility to receive credits, approximate number of trees or acres, main tree species, and project timeframe.

In the Restoring Forests for Carbon Sequestration project in Lucas County, Ohio, there are a total of 10 parcels across 4 Metroparks that add up to 54.8 acres of project area, all owned and operated by Metroparks Toledo. Each planting project area is located within one of the Metroparks' existing preserves, ranging from Oak Openings Preserve to Glass City. Across the 10 parcels, 25,548 trees were planted, with the majority falling into the category of oak-hickory trees.

Four of the six plantings were completed in Spring 2022, one occurred in Spring 2023, and the final planting was completed throughout spring and fall of 2024. The Metroparks' Natural Resources Division began seeking funding to support the long-term maintenance of the tree plantings and connected with Western Reserve Land Conservancy in early 2025 about their experience with City Forest Credits, a carbon credit registry.

Prior to this planting project, the properties had minimal forest cover and had various previous uses. Secor Metropark's planting site was a golf course originally, Oak Openings' site was farmland, Side Cut was a low-mow field, Glass City's 2.8-acre Ravine Area was mowed turf, its 8.1-acre Ravine Area was unmanaged with woody invasives and noxious weeds, and Glass City Metropark's planting site was a brownfield prior to planting. Now that all of these properties are planting sites, the forest can be expanded and increased. The last tree was planted November 4th, 2024, signifying this as the Credit Commencement Date. The project's timeline accounts for the time that the newly planted trees will need to grow and accumulate sequestered carbon throughout the years. The timeline reflects this by distributing carbon credits in increments over the 26-year duration of the project.

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 wellbeing, improved recreation opportunities, or protection of bird and wildlife habitat.

These planting projects will have immense benefits for the local wildlife habitat, ecosystem services, and provide the Metroparks with continued forested areas to be used for hiking and recreational public use. The impacts relate to several Sustainable Development Goals, listed below:

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being - The increased parkland and forest cover will allow for more recreational activities, encouraging locals to hike and use the parks for exercise, improving overall health and wellbeing. The increased canopy will provide shade in the future once the trees have grown to a fuller capacity, allowing those who hike and enjoy the parks to be in the shade when the trees are in bloom.

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - The planted trees will serve as another stormwater runoff mitigation tool, absorbing runoff and excess nutrients before they can reach waterways. This is especially significant to Toledo, being a city on Lake Erie that consistently is impacted by algae blooms

and their drinking water being compromised as a result. With increased planting of trees and other buffers, algae blooms can be expected to decrease, and Lake Erie can grow towards being a healthy freshwater system.

Goal 13: Climate Action - The surrounding area provides habitat for several species, including Sandhill Cranes, Blanding's turtle, spotted turtle, several species of Lepidoptera and Odonata, Eastern Hognose snake, and wild lupine that are important to the Karner Blue Butterfly. Lucas County is located in the Mississippi Flyway with the western edge of the Atlantic Flyway being particularly significant for bird migratory routes. These reforestation efforts will be instrumental as stop-over habitat for species during their migratory seasons. With more habitat protected, these species can thrive and provide sufficient ecosystem balance.

6. Planting Design and Quantification Method

Provide short narrative about the planting design and quantification method you will use for the project. Refer to Protocol Appendix A for more detail.

- *Single Tree Quantification Method: trees planted in a dispersed or scattered design that are planted at least 16.5 feet apart (i.e. street trees). This method requires tracking of individual trees and tree survival for sampling and quantification.*
- *Clustered Quantification Method: trees planted at least 16.5 feet apart but are relatively contiguous and designed to create canopy over an area (i.e park-like settings). This method requires tracking change in canopy, not individual tree survival.*
- *Area Reforestation Quantification Method: tree planting areas greater than 5 acres and where many trees are planted closer than 16.5 feet. Higher tree mortality is expected and the goals are to create canopy and a forest ecosystem. Project Operators have several quantification models to choose from, all of which produce a carbon index on a per-acre basis.*

This project requires an Area Reforestation Quantification method as the trees are planted with areas greater than 5 acres and the trees are planted at a range of 8-10 feet apart. In two of the planting sites, the trees were planted 8 feet apart, in four of the planting sites, the trees were planted 9 feet apart, and in the remaining two planting sites, the trees were planted 10 feet apart. There are denser plantings in areas where the expected mortality rate is higher due to site conditions such as heavy clay soils that are more prone to drought.

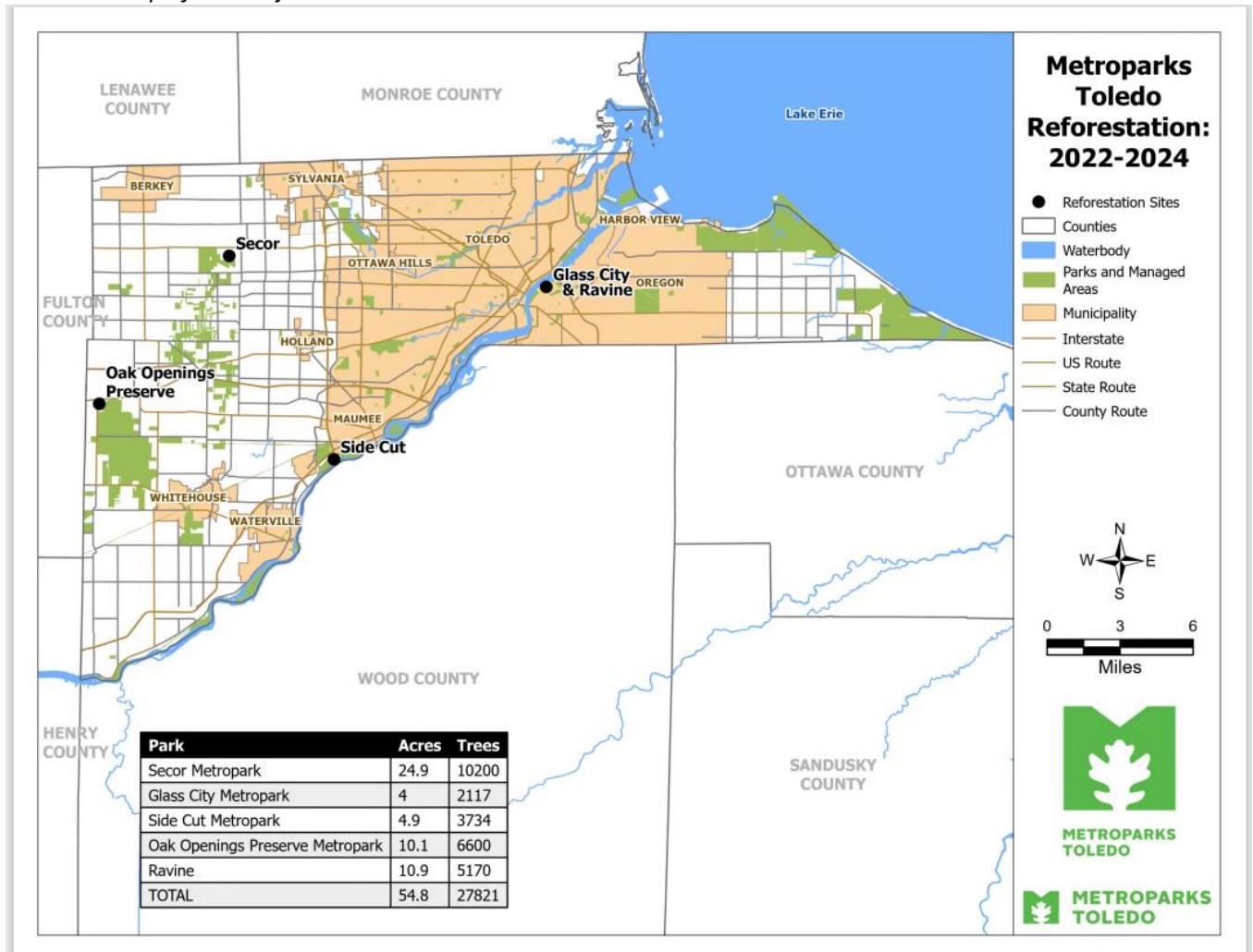
7. Additional Information

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

Metroparks Toledo is partnering with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to initiate carbon credit registration and quantification for this planting project. Western Reserve Land Conservancy has registered several other projects, but this is the first partnership with Metroparks Toledo and their second overall carbon-credited planting project. This project is part of a wider initiative to bring in more organizations to the carbon credit market, register their urban forests with City Forest Credits, and enable carbon credits to benefit local communities.

8. Map

Provide a map of the Project Area.



Signed on April 15 in 2025, by Zuriianne Carter, Chief Natural Resources Officer, for Metroparks Toledo.


Signature

Zuriianne Carter
Printed Name

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Phone

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Email