

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

In April 2024, Apex Clean Energy awarded a \$125,000 conservation grant on behalf of Wheatsborough Solar to Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) to support the restoration of Portage Meadows.

About the Portage Meadows Restoration

Located in Ohio's Portage Park District, the conservation project will restore 180 acres of former agricultural fields and mined land into a critical prairie pollinator habitat. This project is a key element in the greater conservation of a 550-acre quarry located in Portage County. Once the restoration is complete, WRLC will transfer the property to the Portage Park District, which will manage it as a public park.

The project aims to transform the area into a vibrant prairie habitat that will benefit pollinators, birds, wildlife, native plants, water quality, and carbon sequestration. Invasive species will be removed, and a diverse mix of native prairie grasses and wildflowers will be planted. The restored habitat will support endangered species such as the rusty patched bumblebee and monarch butterfly, along with priority bird species and state-listed bats. The land also features wetlands, lakes, and streams, which will benefit from the prairie plants' deep roots that help improve water quality and reduce erosion.

In addition to enhancing biodiversity, the project will create a public space for education and recreation and will be one of the largest properties managed by the park district.

About the Apex Conservation Grant Program

As a company with a core value of sustainability, Apex Clean Energy endeavors to not only minimize our projects' impacts, but also promote an ecological balance. Through the Apex Conservation Grant Program, each renewable energy project commercialized by Apex will contribute a sum of money, proportional to the size of the project, to support local or regional wildlife conservation, reforestation and flora restoration, protection of sensitive habitats such as grassland or wetlands, and other environmental conservation initiatives in or near project communities.

