



City Forest Credits Project Application

Note to applicants: within six months of approval of your application, you must submit the following documents to City Forest Credits (the "Registry"):

- *Project Design Document*
- *Declaration of Ownership of Land (where the Project Operator owns the land where project trees are planted).*
- *Or, Agreement to Transfer Potential Credits (signed by the property owner if Project Operator does not own the land upon which project trees are planted)*
- *Project Implementation Agreement*

1. Project Name *(Include city, town, or county name, and whether this is a planting or preservation project. For example, Shoreline, WA Ballinger Open Space Planting Project)*

Richmond, VA - Evergreen and East End Preservation Project

2. Project Type

Planting Preservation Both

3. Project Location *(Provide name of City, Town, or County where project is located)*

Richmond, Virginia and Henrico County, Virginia

4. Project Operator *(Provide name of organization/entity, and contact information. May have multiple project operators or contacts.)*

Organization: Enrichmond Foundation
Address: 1500 East Franklin Street
City: Richmond
State: VA
Zip: 23219
Contact(s): Jessica Maffey, Assistant Manager of Operations & TreeLab
John Sydnor, Executive Director

5. Project Description *(This will be visible to the public on your project page on the Registry.)*

The 72-acre Evergreen and East End Preservation Project (“Project”) aims to improve forest health, increase awareness to the cultural and historical significance of Evergreen and East End cemeteries, and create a safe, inviting place for the community.

The project area is comprised of three parcels, known as East End Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery. Founded in 1891 by leaders of the African American community, Evergreen and East End cemeteries provide a resting place for more than 10,000 individuals who contributed in important ways to the city’s – and the nation’s – vibrant social, political, intellectual and religious life.

The property straddles the border between the City of Richmond and Henrico County in Virginia. Neglected since the 1970’s, the property and gravesites are overgrown with invasive plant species and illegally dumped trash.

The property is an important natural and cultural asset of the community and state. The Carbon+ Credits generated from the project will provide long-term funding to support Enrichmond’s continuation of hosting volunteer events, maintenance and rehabilitation efforts.

6. Project Benefits (Optional) *These benefits could be equity for underserved or disadvantaged communities, flood control, open space preservation, watershed protection, human health, bird or wildlife habitat, etc. This will be visible to the public on your project page on the Registry website.*

The Evergreen and East End Preservation Project will provide multiple benefits for the environment and community.

The East End neighborhood surrounding the project area have identified these properties as critical for preservation and restoration. Restoring this sacred place, originally conceived as a community gathering place and significant African American site of memory, aligns with Enrichmond’s mission to enhance public places in our communities through volunteerism, a respect for the City’s history, and community collaboration.

The property lies within the James River watershed, the James River being a major tributary of the Chesapeake Bay and the source of public water supply for the City of Richmond and downstream communities. Preservation and restoration of the properties will provide improved air quality, water quality, water storage and rainfall interception, and provide habitat for wildlife. Forests also have the ability to moderate climate and will provide much needed cooling during hot Richmond summers.

7. Total trees planted: N/A

8. Does your project fall within an Urban Area mapped by the U.S. Census Bureau, or within the boundaries of a city or town? *(Click here for Census Bureau mapping information).*

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>

Within an Urban Area

Within a city or town

9. Additional information (Optional) *This may include: What are the goals of the project? Will you be working with other stakeholders? This will be visible to the public.*

Recently designated as a “site of memory associated with the Slave Route Project” by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the cemeteries are monuments to the civic leaders, businesspeople, educators, politicians, and brave souls who forever shaped the City of Richmond and surrounding areas. The property offers families, students and the general public opportunities to honor and understand more deeply the contributions of African Americans to Virginia and American History, from the Civil War era to present day.

The property serves as a unique, sacred site of remembrance for the families and acquaintances of over 10,000 individuals. When Evergreen was founded in 1891 there was no provision made for perpetual care, and the Evergreen Cemetery Association lacked an endowment to help maintain the cemetery into the future. Though the cemetery’s owners hired staff to care for the cemetery through the years, much of the care/repair of individual gravesites fell to families, who maintained the resting places of loved ones for decades, and in some cases continue to do so today. Over the last 20 years, volunteer efforts have cleared pathways and reclaimed over 3,000 headstones shrouded underneath English Ivy, Kudzu, Tree of Heaven, and Chinese Privet that have been overwhelming the site since the 1970’s.

A Restoration Master Plan is underway, led by the Enrichmond Foundation and an advisory team (Executive Planning and Review Team or ExPRT) made up of descendant family, community leaders, and key volunteers. Beginning in June 2018, the ExPRT advisory team defined the vision for a restored Evergreen: “to inspire present and future generations to honor the nation’s African American cultural, historical, and spiritual inheritance.” The team also charted the restoration’s mission: “to reveal and celebrate African American cultural and spiritual experiences, legacies, and places through public programming.” Most of the initial members of the advisory team are descendant family, and they are helping to guide the restoration process, (including community engagement), create opportunities for educational programming at the cemetery, and collaborate with volunteers. The Virginia Department of Forestry developed Community Forest Management Plans in 2019 for both East End and Evergreen to provide recommendations on increasing accessibility, eradicating invasive plant species, and ground cover and soil improvements.