



Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program Validation Report Year 4

Document Prepared by City Forest Credits

March 25, 2024

PROJECT OVERVIEW

<i>Project Name</i>	Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program
<i>Project Registry Number</i>	008
<i>Project Type</i>	Tree Planting
<i>City Forest Credits Protocol Version</i>	Version 6, August 2018
<i>Project Start Date</i>	March 7, 2020
<i>Project Location</i>	Travis County, Texas
<i>Project Operator</i>	TreeFolks

SUMMARY

State what stage of crediting this Validation Report applies to (i.e. after planting, Year 4, 6, 14, or 26). Provide a few sentences about the overall project. Include the Planting Design and Quantification Method.

Between December 2019 and March 2020, TreeFolks planted 47,279 trees on 16 properties, totaling 85.92 acres, throughout Travis County, Texas, using the Area Reforestation planting design and quantification method. Species planted were mainly pecan, American sycamore, bald cypress, honey locust, and Mexican buckeye.

For the Year 4 credit issuance, the Project Operator used high-resolution aerial imagery to assess canopy establishment across the Project Area.

ELIGIBILITY

Additionality

Criteria

The City Forest Credits Standard and Tree Planting Protocol ensure additionality for every carbon project. A project activity is additional if it can be demonstrated that the activity results in emission reductions or removals that are in excess of what would be achieved under a “business as usual” scenario and the activity would not have occurred in the absence of the incentive period provided by the carbon markets.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has signed an Attestation of Additionality on September 12, 2023 that confirms that the trees were not planted due to an enacted ordinance or law, as well as stating that Project Operator used the Registry’s performance standard baseline in adherence with the WRI GHG Protocol, that the Project Operator signed a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry for a 25-year Project Duration, that the 25-year Project Duration is in addition to and longer than any commitment the Project Operator makes to non-carbon project tree plantings, and that trees were not planted on sites that were forested and then cleared of healthy trees.

The Attestation of Additionality was not required in Protocol Version 6, the protocol version under which the Project Operator registered this Project. However, to comply with current best practice and align with current Protocol requirements, the Project Operator signed the attestation.

No Double Counting and No Net Harm

Criteria

The City Forest Credits Standard describes prevention of double-counting in Section 5.1 and safeguards and the “No Net Harm” Principle in Section 5.2. Project activities shall not cause net harm to the environment or urban communities. Project Operator must sign an Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has submitted an Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm, signed September 12, 2023. In addition, the Project Operator reviewed their list of planted properties against those of other urban forest carbon planting projects. There are four parcels where plantings were conducted as part of the current Project and a later project, Travis County Floodplain Restoration Project 2021 (Project ID 014), led by the same Project Operator. It was determined that between three parcels, 0.35 acres overlap between the areas planted for the two projects. Per Registry guidance, the overlap will be accounted for and removed from the project area during the Year 4 issuance of the later project, Project ID 014.

The Attestation of No Double Counting was not required in Protocol Version 6, the protocol version under which the Project Operator registered this Project. However, to comply with current best practice and align with current Protocol requirements, the Project Operator signed the attestation and conducted the No Double Counting check.

DATA COLLECTION AND CARBON QUANTIFICATION

Carbon Quantification (Section 10 and Appendix A)

Criteria

Project Operator must follow the data collection and quantification methods outlined in Appendix A of the Protocol.

Issue Validated

Project Operator used the Area Reforestation planting design and quantification method, per Protocol Version 6 criteria in Appendix C (this planting design was previously known as the Tree Canopy design). Project Operator used random point sampling of high-resolution aerial imagery to assess tree canopy establishment at Year 4, described in further detail below:

- To be consistent with current Registry requirements, Project Operator calculated canopy cover at both baseline and Year 4 timepoints.

- High-resolution aerial imagery at the appropriate leaf-on timepoints for baseline and Year 4 were accessed through the Upstream Tech Lens platform. However, these images could not be used directly on i-Tree Canopy.
- Instead, the Project Operator followed methods consistent with i-Tree Canopy’s methodology to recreate an i-Tree Canopy assessment on ArcGIS Pro, using the Upstream Tech Lens imagery. For each site, on baseline and Year 4 images:
 - Random points were sampled until standard error was below 5%.
 - Sampling consisted of manual assignments to “Tree” or “Non-Tree” class.
 - Based on sampling, tree canopy was calculated per formulas provided in the i-Tree Canopy documentation.
 - Canopy at baseline and Year 4 was summarized for all sites.

Compared to Initial Crediting, the following changes occurred:

- The Project Area decreased by 2.19 acres, to 83.73 acres, due to a landowner mowing the site. This reduced the amount of area eligible for crediting, leading to a decrease in credit issuance.
- To be consistent with current Registry practice, the credit issuance was adjusted down by the amount of existing baseline determined at Year 0. As such, the credit issuance decreased by 8.4%, the amount of canopy assessed at Year 0.

The Carbon Quantification Summary is as follows:

	Initial Crediting	Year 4
Total number of trees planted	47,279	46,074
Project area (acres), if applicable	85.92	83.73
Total number of trees per acre, if applicable	550	550
Baseline Tree Canopy	Not measured	8.4%
Credits attributed to the project (tCO ₂ e)	9,168	8,184
Credits after mortality deduction (N/A for area reforestation)	N/A	N/A
Contribution to Registry Reversal Pool Account (5%) (tCO ₂ e)	458	409
Total credits to be issued to the Project Operator (tCO₂e)	8,709	7,775
Total credits requested to be issued in Year 4 (40% of above)	3,484	3,110

GHG Assertion: Project Operator asserts that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 7,775 tons CO₂e over the 26-year Project Duration. Project Operator asserts that per Protocol guidelines, 40% of Project GHG emissions mitigation is issued at Year 4, or 3,110 tons CO₂e.

Co-Benefits Quantification (Section 12 and Appendix A)

Criteria

Project Operator must follow the co-benefit quantification methods for rainfall interception, air quality, and energy savings.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has followed the co-benefits quantification method using the templates provided by City Forest Credits. The following table documents the quantified ecosystem services in resource units and avoided costs per year when Project Trees reach 25 years old.

These values have been updated from the Initial Crediting estimates based on the Project Area adjustment.

<i>Ecosystem Services</i>	<i>Resource Units</i>	<i>Value</i>
Rainfall Interception (m3/yr)	9,277.1	\$24,264.98
Air Quality (t/yr)	2.1628	\$5,241.81
Energy: Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	99,164	\$7,526.57
Energy: Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	52,595	\$546.49
Grand Total (\$/yr)		\$37,579.85

VERIFICATION REPORT

CFC reviewed the Verification Report dated March 24, 2024 by Validation and Verification Body Dan Hintz to ensure it accurately reflects the documentation contained in the Year 4 Project Design Document Amendment and supporting documents.

VALIDATION CONCLUSION

I attest that all the information provided in this validation report is free of material misstatement, to the best of my knowledge. The project complies with the validation criteria outlined in the City Forest Credits Standard and Tree Planting Protocol Version 6.

Approved by City Forest Credits on March 25 in 2024.