

Verification Report

Year 4

Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program - 2019

City Forest Credits Project Number 008

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1 INTRODUCTION

Dan Hintz (a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) acting as a third-party verifier) was engaged to verify the Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program (Project) Travis County (various sites), Texas, for the issuance of credits at the Year 4 interval based on the applicable protocol. The goal of the Year 4 verification is to ensure that the GHG assertion is materially correct, and that the sampling process and carbon quantification by the project are well documented and appropriate.

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

TreeFolks, Austin Office of Sustainability, Austin Watershed Protection Department, and Travis County launched the Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program to restore healthy forest buffers of local rivers and streams in eastern Travis County. Carbon+ credits generated from this project are sold to the City of Austin to help meet the city's 2020 carbon neutrality goal.

From December 3rd, 2019 through March 7th, 2020 TreeFolks planted 47,279 saplings on 85.92 acres of land. Roughly 550 trees were planted per acre on an 8' x 10' grid-like system to account for high anticipated mortality rates (~75%). By following this Rapid Riparian Revegetation method, as developed by Guillozet et. al. in 2014, the objective was to create full canopy coverage in the planting areas by year 26 through a combination of plantings and natural recruitment from the cessation of mowing.

Per Registry guidance, updated i-Tree sampling was conducted to assess canopy at both baseline (Year 0 – 2020) and Year 4 (2023) conditions. After conducting baseline and Year 4 i-Tree samplings on each individual site, it was found that there was 8.40% canopy cover across the planting sites at baseline. By 2023, the percent canopy cover had increased to ~15.44% (a 7.04% increase) of the total project area. No trees have been replaced since the initial planting.

During year 4 monitoring, it was observed via the imagery accessed through i-Tree canopy that some land falling within the planting area of Site 10 had been mowed by the new landowner. Because of this the acreage for Site 10 was reduced from 4.78 acres to 2.59 acres (a 2.19-acre reduction) to exclude areas that had previously been mowed. This reduction brings the total project area to 83.73 acres (from 85.92) and the total number of saplings planted to 46,074 (a reduction of 1,205 trees). Projections for total GHG emissions mitigation were reduced in response to the reduction of 2.19 acres of project area.

1.2 CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Operator

TreeFolks, INC.

P.O. Box 1395

Del Valle, TX 78617

Valerie Tamburri, Director of Reforestation and Lead Arborist, valerie@treefolks.org, 512-443-5323

Verifier

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1.3 OBJECTIVE

The goal of this GHG emission removal verification at Year 4 is to ensure that the GHG assertion made by the Project is materially correct, that the sampling process and data used in the offset calculations are appropriate, that the offset calculations conform to the City Forest Credits (CFC) Protocol, and that the Project is in compliance with all CFC requirements relating to eligibility, accounting, and documentation.

2 VERIFICATION CRITERIA

2.1 GENERAL

The Registry will accredit VVBs to act as third-party verifiers who meet the Registry's qualifications and complete training. Those accredited VVBs can then act to verify compliance with this Tree Planting Protocol per International Standards Organization 14064-3. Specifically, the Registry adopts and utilizes the following standards from ISO 14064-3:

- Upon receiving a Year 4 Project Design Document Amendment with sampling data, quantification of carbon and co-benefits, and a request for credits, the Registry will conduct a validation. If it validates the project at that stage, the Registry will retain a VVB to act as third-party verifier to verify compliance with this Protocol.
- The Registry requires a reasonable level of assurance in the accuracy of the asserted GHG removals to a reasonable level.
- The verification items identified in Tables 1 and 2 are all material elements, and any asserted GHG removals must be free of errors, misstatements, or omissions regarding those elements.
- The Registry will record, store, and track all quantification and verification data and either display it for public review or make it available for public review upon request.

2.2 PROTOCOL

The verification was conducted to the City Forest Credits Tree Planting Protocol, version 6, August 2018.

2.3 LEVEL OF ASSURANCE

This verification was conducted to a reasonable level of assurance. The Verification Report accurately reflects the documentation contained in the Project Design Document and supporting documents.

3 SCOPE OF VERIFICATION

- The Project is located in Travis County, Texas, specifically described in the Project Design Document.
- The verification is for the issuance of credits at the Year 4 interval.
- The verification includes review of documents, data, imagery, and other evidence provided by the Project Operator; independent checking of selected data; checking of calculations for accuracy and conformance with the Protocol.

4 VERIFICATION PROCESS

4.1 VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES

The verification process consisted of the following activities:

- Verifier checked that the dates when trees were sampled were subsequent to the Request for Credit Issuance date, March 8, 2023.
- Verifier checked all requirements in the Protocol, confirmed that documentation satisfies the requirements of the Protocol, and that values extracted from the documents and conclusions drawn from the document are accurate and appropriate.
- Verifier checked mapping, sample imagery, tree data spreadsheets for all 16 planting sites, site photos, and attestations. Verifier reviewed the accuracy of process for sampling and data collection, including: i-Tree methodology for canopy cover (both Year 0 baseline and Year 4), sample size calculations, sample imagery of sites with sample locations, and planting site boundaries and locations.
- Verifier reviewed the accuracy of the carbon quantification and City Forest Carbon Forward Removal Credit calculations. Verifier reviewed the Project Operator's assertion that the Project results in total GHG emissions mitigation of 7,775 tons CO₂e over the 26-year Project Duration. Verifier reviewed the Project Operator's assertion that per Protocol guidelines, 40% of Project GHG emissions mitigation is issued at Year 4, or 3,110 tons CO₂e.
- Verifier submitted to the Project Operator a request for updated GIS data to confirm there was no double counting of planting sites with other credit projects in Texas.

4.2 CITY FOREST CREDITS TREE PLANTING PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS AT YEAR 4

Verifier reviewed the Project against all CFC Tree Planting Protocol requirements and confirmed the following:

- Project Design Document (Section 3): Verifier reviewed and confirmed Project Design Document is complete and accurate.
- Project Documentation (Section 3 and Appendix A): Verifier confirmed all required project documentation present.
- Additionality (Section 4): Verifier reviewed for additionality as follows:
 - Verifier reviewed the completed and signed Attestation of Additionality
- Quantification (Section 10 and Appendix A):
 - Verifier confirmed Project Operator utilized Area Reforestation CFC quantification methodology described in Appendix A.
 - Verifier reviewed the accuracy of the data collection process and the data integrity for the Year 4 sampling and quantification methodology.
 - Verifier reviewed spreadsheets with data from all sixteen planting sites for carbon quantification, as well as mapping data, aerial imagery with sample data points, and Area Reforestation carbon quantification calculator.
- Co-Benefits (Appendix A): Verifier confirmed the calculation of ecosystem co-benefits as set forth in the City Forest Credits quantification tool.
- Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm (Section 5)
 - Verifier reviewed the completed and signed Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm.

5 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

Verifier reviewed the changes to the carbon quantification and Project Area, including the reduction of total project area from 85.92 acres to 83.73 acres (a 2.19-acre reduction). This was the result of a portion of planting site 10 being mowed by a new landowner since initial planting. Site 10 was therefore reduced from 4.78 acres to 2.59 acres. This resulted in a reduction of the original carbon credit projection of 8,709 to a current projection of 7,775 (after 5% reversal pool). Verifier determined that the updates were accurate and appropriate. The Project at Year 4 exceeds the Area Reforestation 2.8% canopy growth requirement for Year 4 verification.

All issues raised by Verifier were clarified or corrected by the Project Operator and all issues were closed by appropriate responses by City Forest Credits staff.

6 VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

This verification of the Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program for the Year 4 issuance was completed in a manner consistent with ISO 14064-3 and in conformance with relevant CFC standards and guidelines.

The table below is a summary of the verified GHG emissions removals for the Project for Year 4 credit issuance. These City Forest Carbon Forward Removal Credits are ex-ante credits based on forecasted removals and subject to multiple safeguards, including sampling, and which convert to ex-post at Year 26.

Table 1. Project GHG Removals

Project Name	GHG Removals Attributed to the Project (mtCO ₂ e)	GHG Removals After Deductions for Reversal Pool Account (5%) (mtCO ₂ e)	City Forest Carbon Forward Removal Credits to be Issued to Project (mtCO ₂ e)	City Forest Carbon Forward Removal Credits to be Issued to Project at Year 4 (mtCO ₂ e)
Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program – Year 4	8,184	409	7,775	3,110

Table 2. Ecosystem Co-Benefits Per Year After 25 Years

<i>Ecosystem Services</i>	<i>Resource Units</i>	<i>Value</i>
Rainfall Interception (m ³ /yr)	9,277.1	\$24,264.98
Air Quality (t/yr)	2.1628	\$5,241.81
Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	99,164	\$7,526.57
Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	52,595	\$546.49
Grand Total (\$/yr)		\$37,579.85

Verifier Signature



Daniel J Hintz