

Verification Report

Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program

CFC Project Number 008

August 21, 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

Dr. Qingfu Xiao (Verifier) was engaged to verify the Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program (Project) for the period December 3, 2019 – March 7, 2020. The goal of the verification is to ensure that the GHG assertion is materially correct, and that the assertions made by the project are well documented.

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

TreeFolks, Austin Office of Sustainability, Austin Watershed Protection Department and Travis County have 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 will be sold to the City of Austin to help meet the city’s 2020 carbon neutrality goal. Using funds allocated for carbon offsets to purchase local credits from these riparian plantings, the City of Austin seeks to localize its investment while addressing global climate change. The pilot and program, operated by TreeFolks, seek to reforest floodplain on public and private lands. TreeFolks is working with volunteers and youth service organizations to plant native saplings and provide the reforestation services to private owners free of charge. These services include, for those applicants who choose to participate and are selected, free trees, free planting services, and free consultations. The tree planting projects will increase canopy cover and diversity in an ecosystem that needs help. The City of Austin Watershed Protection Department recently concluded that diverse wooded corridors along creeks and riparian zones here are rare. The reforestation project also serves to engage local community members with the environment, complementing Austin’s participation in the Biophilic Cities Network and the Children and Nature collaborative and aligning with citywide green infrastructure efforts. Reforesting Austin’s local stream corridors will create lasting change, both in Austin and in the greater metropolitan area and its floodplains.

The current project under this verification will encompass 85.92 acres total, of which 45.54 are privately owned and the rest owned by the City of Austin or Travis County. TreeFolks planted 47,279 saplings at 8’ x 10’ spacing, with the goal of providing canopy coverage in these riparian zones.

1.2 CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Operator

TreeFolks

P.O. Box 1395

Del Valle, TX 78617-1395

Contact: Andreina Alexatos 512-443-LEAF andreina@treefolks.org

Verification Body

Dr. Qingfu Xiao

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1.3 OBJECTIVE

The goal of this GHG emission reduction verification is to ensure that the GHG assertion made by the Project is materially correct, that the assertions and assumptions 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 PROTOCOL

The verification was conducted to the City Forest Credits Tree Planting Protocol, version 6, August 11, 2018.

2.2 LEVEL OF ASSURANCE

This verification was conducted to a reasonable level of assurance.

3 SCOPE OF VERIFICATION

- The Project encompasses land in Travis County, TX, specifically described in the Project Design Document.
- Reporting Period is December 3, 2019 – March 7, 2020
- 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 reviewed the credit calculations;

- Verifier checked all requirements in the Protocol, and confirmed that documentation satisfies the requirements of the protocol, and that values extracted from the documents and conclusions drawn from the documents are accurate and appropriate;
- Verifier independently checked mapping and selected data or calculated values in each stage of calculations;
- Verifier submitted to the Project Operator requests for clarifications and corrections, as issues came to light, and reviewed revised and corrected documents and calculations.

4.2 CFC TREE Planting PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS

4.2.1 Eligibility

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

- Project Operator (PO) Identify
- Project Design Document (PDD)
- Project Implementation Agreement (PIA)
- Location
- Right to Receive Credits
- Commencement
- Project Documentation
- Project Duration
- Documentation regarding the planting and calculations of total CO₂ storage and credits under the “CFC Planting Riparian Quantification and Monitoring Standards South Central” document:
 - o After Planting:
 - Imaging, Project Operator Declaration of Planting, and Declaration of Planting Affirmation
 - o Calculation of credit totals based on information listed in the “CFC Planting Riparian Quantification and Monitoring Standards South Central” document

5 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

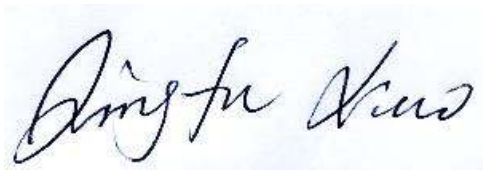
All issues raised by Verifier were clarified or corrected by the Project Operator and all issues were closed by appropriate responses by TreeFolks.

6 VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

This verification of the Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program for the reporting period December 3, 2019 – March 7, 2020 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 emission reduction or removals.

Site	Vintage	GHG Reductions (mtCO ₂ e)	GHG Removals Mortality (20%) and Risk Buffer (5%) (mtCO ₂ e)	Credits to Be Issued After Planting (10%)
Travis County	2020	9,168	8,709	871

Lead Verifier Signature



Dr. Qingfu Xiao