

## **Verification Report**

### **Trees Forever Growing Futures, Growing Trees Project**

CFC Project Number 005

May 7, 2020

Dr. Qingfu Xiao

4216 Vistosa St

Davis, CA 95618

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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1	INTRODUCTION .....	3
1.1	PROJECT BACKGROUND .....	3
1.2	CONTACT INFORMATION .....	4
1.3	OBJECTIVE .....	4
2	VERIFICATION CRITERIA.....	4
2.1	PROTOCOL .....	4
2.2	LEVEL OF ASSURANCE .....	4
3	SCOPE OF VERIFICATION .....	4
4	VERIFICATION PROCESS.....	5
4.1	VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES.....	5
4.2	CFC TREE PLANTING PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS.....	5
4.2.1	Eligibility .....	5
5	VERIFICATION FINDINGS.....	6
6	VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION .....	6

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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Dr. Qingfu Xiao (Verifier) was engaged to verify the Growing Futures, Growing Trees – Des Moines, IA (Project) for the period January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019. 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

Tree planting projects for the Growing Futures project occurred throughout the City of Des Moines. Tree planting locations were a mix of street tree and park plantings, but with the major focus on street tree plantings. Tree planting totals for the 2019 season are: 734 trees, combination of overstory, understory.

Trees Forever is under contract with the City of Des Moines to plant the city's trees and works with the forestry department to target tree plantings. The main project goals were to increase tree equity across the city by targeting trees to under-resourced neighborhoods, working with volunteers to plant trees, and to complete major street corridor plantings.

Trees Forever worked closely with Microsoft and the City of Des Moines on all aspects of the planting. Support from these two entities allowed Trees Forever to employ Growing Futures teen employees to water the newly planted trees throughout the summer and fall months. The overarching goals of these tree planting projects are to:

### Grow leaders by employing and training young people

In Iowa, the highest rates of unemployment are among young people, age 16-19, at rates of 16.5% and African-American and Hispanic youth experiencing unemployment rates of 14.8% and 9%, respectively.

### Grow more beautiful, greener communities and neighborhoods

As trees grow and thrive because of the care they receive from Growing Futures youth, the trees will improve resident's quality-of-life.

### Grow more trees in underserved communities

Research shows a large discrepancy in tree cover between high- and low-income neighborhoods. We must ensure there is equitable distribution of tree benefits to all neighborhoods in our community.

### Deliver quantified environmental benefits

Working with City Forest Credits, our Growing Futures projects will deliver quantified and reportable CO2 sequestration, stormwater reductions, energy savings, and air quality improvements.

## 1.2 CONTACT INFORMATION

### Project Operator

Trees Forever

80 W 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Marion, IA 52302

Contact: Leslie Berckes 515-681-2295 [lberckes@treesforever.org](mailto:lberckes@treesforever.org)

### Verification Body

Dr. Qingfu Xiao

4216 Vistosa St

Davis, CA 95618

## 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 CFC Protocol, and that the Project is in compliance with all CFC requirements relating to eligibility, accounting and documentation.

# 2 VERIFICATION CRITERIA

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## 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

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- The Project encompasses land in Des Moines, IA, specifically described in the Project Design Document.
- Period is January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

- 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

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### 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 at least 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

- For Single Tree Credit Quantification, after planting, Year 4, and Year 6; Project Operator’s Credit Mortality and Verification Assessment:
  - o After Planting:
    - Imaging, Project Operator Declaration of Planting, and Declaration of Planting Affirmation
  - o Field Data and Inputs into Spreadsheets:
    - Data from sampled trees
    - Data Input accuracy

## 5 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

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


## 6 VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

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This verification of the Growing Futures, Growing Trees – Des Moines, IA for the period January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 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 <sub>2</sub> e)	GHG Removals Mortality (20%) and Risk Buffer (5%) (mtCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Credits to Be Issued After Planting (10%)
Des Moines	2019	1,841	1,574	157

**Lead Verifier Signature**



**Dr. Qingfu Xiao**