



# **Fox River Bluffs Planting Project Validation Report Year 4**

**Document Prepared by City Forest Credits**

**January 29, 2024**

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

<i>Project Name</i>	Fox River Bluffs Planting Project
<i>Project Registry Number</i>	019
<i>Project Type</i>	Tree Planting
<i>City Forest Credits Protocol Version</i>	Version 9, February 7, 2021
<i>Project Start Date</i>	April 8, 2020
<i>Project Location</i>	Yorkville, IL
<i>Project Operator</i>	Kendall County Forest Preserve District

## 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.*

In April 2020, the Project Operator, Kendall County Forest Preserve District, planted 23,917 trees on 40 acres using the Area Reforestation planting design and quantification method. Species planted included six species of oaks (bur, red, black, white, pin, and swamp white oaks), as well as shagbark hickory, black walnut, and American plum.

For the Year 4 credit issuance, the Project Operator conducted a plot sample inventory to evaluate tree establishment across the 40-acre Project Area.

## ELIGIBILITY

### **Additionality (Section 4)**

#### *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 signed an Attestation of Additionality on December 11, 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 trees within the prior 10 years.

The Attestation of Additionality was not required in Protocol Version 9, 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.

## 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 Registry guidance provided to the Project Operator at the time of initial crediting (submitted as Attachment 5). This guidance was later adopted into future versions of the Protocol.

In alignment with the Registry-provided guidelines for Area Reforestation, the Project Operator randomly sampled sixty 1/100-acre plots throughout the 40-acre Project Area, counting all trees of the planted species in each plot. The Project Operator trained and engaged local high school students to assist in the plot sampling; all tree counts and identifications by students were then validated by Project Operator staff using collected samples.

Based on the tree counts across the sampled plots, the Project Operator calculated the average number of trees per plot (4.18 trees/plot). Based on plot size, they then extrapolated across the Project Area to an average stocking density of 403 trees/acre. According to the Registry-provided guidance document, 400 trees/acre is the threshold stocking density needed to achieve full canopy at Year 25. The Project Operator's reported plot sampling data show that the Project meets that threshold.

Because the Project Operator's plot sample data shows tree establishment above the threshold required, the carbon quantification below is the same as was calculated during Initial Crediting.

The Carbon Quantification Summary is as follows:

Total number of trees planted	23,917
Project area (acres)	40
Total number of trees per acre	598
Total number of trees per acre observed via plot sampling (Year 4)	402.8
Credits attributed to the project (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	5,328
Credits after mortality deduction (N/A for area reforestation)	N/A
Contribution to Registry Reversal Pool Account (5%) (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	266
<b>Total credits to be issued to the Project Operator (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>5,062</b>
<b>Total credits requested to be issued in Year 4 (30% of above)</b>	<b>2,025</b>

GHG Assertion: Project Operator asserts that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 5,062 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e 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 2,025 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e.

### 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 are consistent with the values calculated during Initial Crediting, since no changes to the Project Area were made, and the Project is on track to achieve the 400 trees/acre density needed for full canopy by Year 25.

<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Resource Units</b>	<b>Value</b>
Rainfall Interception (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	10,820.4	\$77,472.17
Air Quality (t/yr)	0.4529	\$681.87
Energy: Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	85,177	\$6,464.96
Energy: Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	1,592,668	\$15,504.27
<b>Grand Total (\$/yr)</b>		<b>\$100,123.27</b>

## VERIFICATION REPORT

CFC reviewed the Verification Report dated January 29, 2024 by VVB 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 9.

Approved by City Forest Credits on January 29 in 2024.