

# **Verification Report**

## **Fox River Bluffs Planting Project**

City Forest Credits Project Number 019

December 10, 2021

Dr. Qingfu Xiao

4216 Vistosa St

Davis, CA 95618

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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Dr. Qingfu Xiao (Verifier) was engaged to verify the Fox River Bluffs Planting Project (Project) Yorkville, IL, for the period April 8, 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

Kendall County Forest Preserve District (District) planted trees as part of this carbon project on 40-acres of the Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve (Preserve) in Yorkville, IL. The District acquired the 168-acre Preserve in 2015 with an overall goal to restore 99 acres of the former farmland to prairie and a reforested natural area.

After five years of analysis and preparation, the District and community volunteers planted native trees and shrubs in April 2020. For this carbon project, 23,917 were planted including six Oak species, Shagbark hickory, and Black walnut.

The restoration plan for the remainder of the Preserve is divided into several phases and activities. In addition to this carbon planting project, the District seeded 60+ acres of the Preserve with a diverse prairie mix and woodland edge mix to support pollinators. This pollinator seed mix will support recovery of a local population of the federally endangered Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*) to establish high-quality forage and habitat for this and other local wildlife species. The District also planted an additional 2,749 understory shrubs and trees within the carbon project area.

The remaining 66-acres of the Preserve, which includes Fox River island, contains high-quality natural resources including oak-dominated bluffs and ravines, seeps, and Fox River shoreline. The District cleared invasive species along the woodland edges, and broadcast additional woodland edge seed mix to further improve habitat quality and plant community diversity. A floristic quality study with long-term management recommendations was also completed in 2020.

## 1.2 CONTACT INFORMATION

### Project Operator

Kendall County Forest Preserve District  
110 W Madison St  
Yorkville, IL 60560

Contact: David Guritz and Stefanie Wiencke, 630-553-4131, [dguritz@co.kendall.il.us](mailto:dguritz@co.kendall.il.us);  
[swiencke@co.kendall.il.us](mailto:swiencke@co.kendall.il.us)

### 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 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

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### 2.1 GENERAL

The Registry will accredit third-party verifiers who will 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 Project Report with updated data on eligibility, quantification of carbon and co-benefits, and a request for credits, the Registry or the Project Operator will retain a third-party verifier to verify compliance with this Protocol.
- The Registry requires a reasonable level of assurance in the accuracy the asserted GHG removals to a reasonable level.
- The verification items identified in Tables C.1 and C.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 9, February 7, 2021.

### 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

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- The Project encompasses land in Yorkville, IL, specifically described in the Project Design Document.
- Period is April 8, 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

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### 4.1 VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES

The verification process consisted of the following activities:

- CFC and Verifier jointly responded to questions from the Project Operator, regarding how to interpret the Protocol
- Verifier reviewed and commented on draft versions of the credit calculations
- 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 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

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

- Project Operator Identify (Section 1.1): Verifier confirmed identity by reviewing Project Operator website or state/local records.
- Project Design Document (Section 8): Verifier reviewed and confirmed Project Design Document is complete and accurate.
- Project Implementation Agreement (Section 1.2): Verifier confirmed fully executed Project Implementation Agreement on file.
- Location (Section 1.3 and Appendix C): Verifier reviewed mapping and location data.
- Right to Receive Credits (Section 2 and Appendix C): Verifier confirmed either a signed Declaration of Land Ownership or Agreement to Transfer Credits.
- Commencement (Section 5 and Appendix C): Verifier reviewed Approval of Application Letter.
- Project Documentation (Section 6 and Appendix C): Verifier confirmed all required project documentation present.
- Additionality (Section 4 and Appendix C): Verifier reviewed for additionality as follows:

- o Legal requirements test – no law or ordinance for Project Operator to plant trees.
- o Performance Standards Baseline (Appendix D) – per the program wide performance standard baseline showing net tree loss, these trees are additional.
- Permanence (Appendix D): Verifier confirmed Project Implementation Agreement imposes a legal obligation to Project Operator to conduct this project for 25 years, including a reversal obligation.
- Quantification (Appendix B):
  - o Verifier confirmed Project Operator utilized the CFC quantification methodology described in Appendix B.
  - o Verifier reviewed the accuracy of the data integrity in the quantification methodology.
  - o Verifier reviewed geocoded photos and imaging.
  - o Verifier reviewed the Declaration of Planting and Declaration of Planting Affirmation.
- Co-Benefits (Appendix B): Verifier also confirmed the calculation of ecosystem co-benefits as set forth in the CFC-developed quantification tool below:

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**Co-Benefits *per year* after 25 years.**

<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Resource Units Totals</b>	<b>Res Unit/Acre Tree Canopy</b>	<b>Total \$</b>	<b>\$/Acre Tree Canopy</b>
<b>Rain Interception (m3/yr)</b>	10,820.4	270.5	\$77,472.17	\$ 1,936.80
<b>CO2 Avoided (t, \$20/t/yr)</b>	64.8	1.6	\$1,296.13	\$ 32.40
<b>Air Quality (t/yr)</b>				
<b>O3</b>	0.2065	0.0052	\$312.81	\$ 7.82
<b>NOx</b>	0.0345	0.0009	\$52.20	\$ 1.31
<b>PM10</b>	0.1056	0.0026	\$136.10	\$ 3.40
<b>Net VOCs</b>	0.1063	0.0027	\$180.76	\$ 4.52
<b>Air Quality Total</b>	0.4529	0.0113	\$681.87	\$17.05
<b>Energy (kWh/yr &amp; kBtu/yr)</b>				
<b>Cooling - Elec.</b>	85,177	2,129	\$6,464.96	\$ 161.62
<b>Heating - Nat. Gas</b>	1,592,668	39,817	\$15,504.27	\$ 387.61
<b>Energy Total (\$/yr)</b>			\$21,969.23	\$549.23
<b>Grand Total (\$/yr)</b>			\$101,419.41	\$2,535.49

## 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 Kendall County Forest Preserve District.

## 6 VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

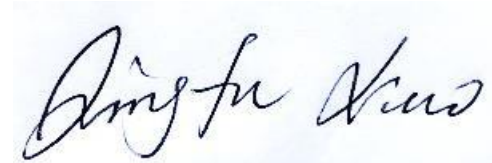
This verification of the Fox River Bluffs Planting Project for the period April 8, 2020 was completed in a manner consistent with ISO 14064-3 and in conformance with relevant CFC standards and guidelines. The table below is a summary of the emission reduction or removals.

Site(s)	GHG Removals (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	GHG Removals After Deductions for Risk Buffer (5%) (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	CFC Carbon+ Credits to be Issued to Project (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Fox River Bluffs	5,328	5,061.6	506.16
Cumulative	5,328	5,061.6	506.16

### Co-Benefits *per year* after 25 years.

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Lead Verifier Signature



Dr. Qingfu Xiao