

Verification Report Year 4

Lake County Forest Preserve District- Carbon Planting Project

City Forest Credits Project Number 020

September 15, 2025

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1 INTRODUCTION

Brian Goodall (a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) acting as a third-party verifier) was engaged to verify the Lake County Forest Preserve District- Carbon Planting Project (Project) in Lake County, Illinois, 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

Trees were installed in three consecutive years (2019-2021) at multiple sites throughout Lake County, Illinois. In total, 2,960 trees were submitted for carbon credits (across roughly 445 acres). Original carbon credits were based on 'single tree' quantification. When performing the Year-4 monitoring, it was noted that the original quantification method would not be appropriate for this project and City Forest Credits advised the Lake County Forest Preserve District to switch to the 'clustered' quantification method. Additional modifications were made to the number of trees included for credits due to unforeseen monitoring methods when using (switching to) the 'clustered' quantification method, i.e. aerial photography interpretation. Some planting polygons were removed due to pre-project canopy interference that hindered analysis. The new proposed total is 2,121 trees across 62 acres. The large reduction in project acres is due in part to some polygon removals, but also due to re-mapping of actual planting areas. The original project design counted entire habitat areas (larger acreages) where trees were installed; current mapping depicts only tree planting areas within those larger habitat areas. There have not been any changes to the ownership of the trees and the Lake County Forest Preserve District has maintained and monitored the trees for the duration of the project. There has not been any known, significant tree mortality to date. No trees have been replaced thus far.

1.2 CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Operator

Lake County Forest Preserve District
1899 West Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Contact: Matthew Ueltzen, Manager of Restoration Ecology; mueltzen@lcfpd.org; (o) 847-968-3290, (m) 847-276-6230

Verifier

Brian Goodall
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Contact: goodallarborist@gmail.com/614.701.6839

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 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

- The Project is located in multiple locations within the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois, 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 the tree canopy imagery was analyzed were subsequent to the Request for Credit Issuance date, October 30th, 2024.
- 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, imaging, and attestations. Verifier reviewed the accuracy of process for sampling and data collection, including: data input accuracy, accuracy of canopy assessment and project area boundary.
- 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 3904 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 1,337 tons CO₂e which accounts for initial crediting discrepancies.

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:
 - o Verifier reviewed the completed and signed Attestation of Additionality
- Quantification (Section 10 and Appendix A):
 - o Verifier confirmed Project Operator utilized the Clustered CFC quantification methodology described in Appendix A.
 - o Verifier reviewed the accuracy of the data collection process and the data integrity for the Year 4 sampling and quantification methodology.
 - o Verifier reviewed imaging, canopy assessments from iTree Canopy, and maps.
- Co-Benefits (Appendix A): Verifier confirmed the calculation of ecosystem co-benefits as set forth in the City Forest Credits quantification tool.

5 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

Verifier reviewed the changes to the carbon quantification or Project Area, including change to Clustered method. Verifier determined that the updates were accurate and appropriate.

Verifier confirmed that the Project at Year 4 meets the minimum required stocking threshold of 2.8% canopy, or 400 trees per acre, needed to create full canopy cover after 25 years. Therefore, the Verifier confirmed that no changes are required to the credit issuance schedule.

6 VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

This verification of the Lake County Forest Preserve District- Carbon Planting Project 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 Mortality (20%) (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 at Year 4 (mtCO ₂ e)
Lake County Forest Preserve District- Carbon Planting Project – Year 4	5,459	4,367	205	1,337

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

<i>Ecosystem Services</i>	<i>Resource Units</i>	<i>Value</i>
Rainfall Interception (m3/yr)	10,240	\$73,310
Air Quality (t/yr)	0.3171	\$1,484
Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	310,504	\$23,567
Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	4,632,949	\$45,101
Grand Total (\$/yr)		\$43,462

Verifier Signature


Brian Goodall