



Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board – Planting Project 2021 Validation Report

Document Prepared by City Forest Credits

October 18, 2022

PROJECT OVERVIEW

<i>Project Name</i>	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2021
<i>Project Registry Number</i>	021
<i>Project Type</i>	Tree Planting
<i>City Forest Credits Protocol Version</i>	Version 9, February 7, 2021
<i>Project Start Date</i>	October 31, 2021
<i>Project Location</i>	Minneapolis, MN
<i>Project Operator</i>	Green Minneapolis

SUMMARY

This Validation Report is for the initial crediting after planting.

Between April 1, 2019 and October 31, 2021, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) planted 23,755 trees in the city limits of Minneapolis, MN. Trees were planted in public right-of-way along city streets as well as on other public lands where MPRB has the authority to plant and maintain trees. The Project used the single-tree planting design and quantification method.

ELIGIBILITY

Project Operator Identity (Section 1.1)

Criteria

A Project requires at least one Project Operator (“PO”), an entity organized and licensed under the laws of its jurisdiction, or a governmental body, which undertakes a Project, registers it with the registry of City Forest Credits (the “Registry”), and is ultimately responsible for all aspects of the Project and its reporting. While not required for Tree Planting Protocol Version 9, City Forest Credits recommended that Project Operators provide documentation regarding their identity.

Issue Validated

Green Minneapolis, a 501c3 nonprofit corporation, is the Project Operator. To demonstrate that it is an entity organized and licensed under the laws of its jurisdiction, Green Minneapolis provided a copy of the organizational bylaws to City Forest Credits.

Project Submittal Dates (Section 7, Appendix A)

Criteria

Under Tree Planting Protocol Version 10, Project Operator must submit applications to the Registry within six months of the date of the planting of the last tree that is part of the planting Project. Project with plantings prior to May 1, 2017 are not eligible. While the six-month deadline was not required for Tree Planting Protocol Version 9, City Forest Credits recommended that Project Operators submit the

application within that timeframe. Under Planting Protocol Version 9, Project Operators are required to submit all initial crediting documents within 12 months of application approval by the Registry.

Issue Validated

The Project application was submitted on December 13, 2021, which was within 6 months of the planting of the last Project tree on October 31, 2021.

Project Operator submitted all crediting documentation by September 8, 2022, which was within 12 months of application approval on December 13, 2021.

Permanence – Project Duration and Reversals (Section 1.2, 5, 10)

A. Project Duration – Project Implementation Agreement (Section 1.2 and 5)

Criteria

Project Operator must sign a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry setting forth the Project Operator's obligation to comply with the protocol. Project Operator must monitor and report for 25 years.

Issue Validated

Green Minneapolis and City Forest Credits signed a Project Implementation Agreement effective July 20th, 2022 for the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2021 (Project Registry Number 021). Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) has signed the Project Implementation Agreement as well, establishing a three-party agreement between MPRB, City Forest Credits and Green Minneapolis. The Project Implementation Agreement defines responsibilities and obligations of MPRB (as the Tree Owner), Green Minneapolis (as the Project Operator) and City Forest Credits (the Registry) for the MPRB Planting Project 2021. The agreement specifies that the MPRB is financially responsible for tree funding, planting, maintenance, and avoidable tree losses, establishes Green Minneapolis as Project Operator with responsibilities including periodic verification of the Project and defines the Registry's responsibilities related to issuing carbon credits and maintaining a reversal buffer pool of credits in the event of an unavoidable tree loss. MPRB warrants that they are the owner of the trees, and that the trees were not required to be planted by law.

The project has a 25-year duration under City Forest Credits Tree Planting Protocol Version 9.

B. Reversals (Section 10)

Criteria

A "Reversal" is loss of stored carbon such that the remaining stored carbon within the Project Area is less than the amount of stored carbon for which Registry credits have been issued. The Registry will retain in a Reversal Pool account 5% of all credits issued to planting projects. This Reversal Pool Account shall be used to compensate for Unavoidable Reversals.

Issue Validated

The Project Design Document and request for credits based on GHG mitigation includes a 5% deduction for the Reversal Pool Account of credits, with 2,572 credits contributed to the Registry Reversal Pool

from this Project. The carbon quantification was verified by the Validation and Verification Body, Dan Hintz.

Project Location (Section 1.3)

Criteria

Project Area must be located in parcels within or along the boundary of at least one of the urban area criteria. The Project Operator must specify the Project Area and provide a map of the Project Area.

Issue Validated

The planting areas include public rights-of-way along city streets and parks owned and managed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The majority of trees (97.7% of 23,755 trees) were planted within the limits of the incorporated City of Minneapolis, meeting Protocol criteria Section 1.3B. The remaining 549 trees were planted in MPRB-owned parks outside of the city, in an 'Urban Area' as defined by the US Census Bureau, meeting Protocol criteria 1.3A. The Project Operator has provided maps as supporting evidence, including regional-scale and project area maps, as well as the latitude and longitude of each project tree.

Project Area (Section 8)

Criteria

The Project Operator may include more than one planting site in a project. The initial planting of trees for all properties in a project must occur within a 36-month period or less.

Issue Validated

The Project includes multiple planting sites over a 31-month period. The trees were planted between April 1, 2019 and October 31, 2021.

Ownership or Eligibility to Receive Potential Credits (Section 2)

Criteria

Project Operator must demonstrate ownership of potential credits or eligibility to receive potential credits.

Issue Validated

Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) is the landowner for the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Planting Project 2021. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is an independently elected, semi-autonomous body of the City of Minneapolis.

The Project Operator provided a signed Agreement to Transfer Potential Credits with MPRB, known for this project as "Agreement to Collaborate", as supporting documentation, thereby meeting protocol criteria Section 2C. Under this Agreement, MPRB claims ownership of the trees and is the entity responsible and liable for tree maintenance.

Project trees were planted on public park land property and the right-of-way along city streets, which is owned by the City of Minneapolis. However, per the [Minneapolis Code of Ordinances Article VI. – Park and Recreation Board](#) established that the MPRB establishes, governs, administers, and maintains, and may design, develop, and improve the ornamental and shade trees in the City’s streets, alleys, and public grounds and ways.

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.

Projects must demonstrate the following:

- A Legal Requirements Test that declares city trees planted due to an enacted law or ordinance not eligible (Section 4B);
- Either 1) a project-specific baseline or 2) the current version of the Registry’s performance standard baseline developed in adherence with the WRI GHG Protocol (CFC Standard);
- Project Operators must sign and comply with a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry that requires a 25-year Project Duration.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has met the Legal Requirements Test that the trees were not planted due to an enacted ordinance or law. Project Operator used the Registry’s performance standard baseline, which is attached to the Project Design Document, in adherence with the Performance Standard methodology set out in the World Resources Institute Greenhouse Gas Protocol for Project Accounting. Project Operator signed a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry for a 25-year Project Duration.

Project Operator has signed an Attestation of Additionality that confirms the above, as well as stating 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.

No Double Counting and No Net Harm

Criteria

The Tree Planting Protocol Version 10 describes prevention of double-counting in Section 5.1 and safeguards and the “No Net Harm” Principle in Section 5.2. Project activities shall not cause net harm to the environment or urban communities. Although not required under Tree Planting Protocol Version 9, CFC recommended that the Project Operator sign an Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has submitted a signed Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm, and the Registry sees no evidence of net harm from this project. The Registry has reviewed the records of prior projects to confirm that the Project Area for this project has not already received credits under the CFC Standard.

Carbon Quantification (Section 12 and Appendix B)

Criteria

Project Operator must follow the quantification methods outlined in Appendix B of the Protocol.

Issue Validated

Project Operator used the Single-Tree Planting Design and Quantification Method, per Protocol criteria in Appendix B. Project Operator signed the Attestation of Planting, including attachments of invoices of trees purchased and planting photos. Project Operator provided an Attestation of Planting Affirmation signed by Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The Carbon Quantification Summary is as follows:

Total number of trees planted	23,755
Project area (acres), if applicable	n/a
Total number of trees per acre, if applicable	n/a
Credits attributed to the project (tCO ₂ e)	64,296
Credits after mortality deduction (20%)	51,437
Contribution to Registry Reversal Pool Account (5%) (tCO ₂ e)	2,572
Total credits to be issued to the Project Operator (tCO₂e)	48,865
Total credits requested to be issued in Year 1 (10% of above)	4,887

GHG Assertion: Project Operator asserts that the Project results in total GHG emissions mitigation of 48,865 tons CO₂e. Project Operator will sample trees, quantify tons CO₂e, and submit documentation for verification and credit issuance at Year 4, 6, and after Year 25 per the Tree Protocol and Single Tree Quantification Methodology.

Project Operator asserts that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 4,887 tons CO₂e after initial tree planting.

Co-Benefits Quantification (Section 12 and Appendix B)

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.

<i>Ecosystem Services</i>	<i>Resource Units</i>	<i>Value</i>
Rainfall Interception (m3/yr)	124,911.99	\$894,252.94
Air Quality (t/yr)	3.7169	\$15,302.66
Energy: Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	3,983,352.77	\$302,336.48
Energy: Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	55,614,135.61	\$541,388.71
Grand Total (\$/yr)		\$1,753,280.78

Monitoring and Reporting (Section 6, Appendix A)

Criteria

Project Operator must report on tree conditions across the Project Area for the Project Duration. Reports must be submitted annually on the anniversary of the date of the first Verification Report. At Years 4, 6, and after Year 25, sampling, measurement of trees or canopy coverage, and/or quantification of CO2e will be submitted for request of credit issuance in lieu of a monitoring report that year.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has agreed to submit written annual monitoring reports using the template provided by City Forest Credits, in coordination with MPRB. MPRB will inspect and record significant tree loss annually using the TreeKeeper software system and will engage seasonal staff and interns for imaging and assessment of trees for future credit issuances.

Social Impacts

Criteria

While not required under Tree Planting Protocol Version 9, CFC recommended that the Project Operator use the Carbon Project Social Impact template to evaluate the SDGs to determine how a Project provides social impacts that contribute towards achievement of the global goals, as described in Tree Planting Protocol Version 10, Section 12.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has submitted a completed Carbon Project Social Impact document.

VERIFICATION REPORT

CFC reviewed the Verification Report dated October 16, 2022 by Dan Hintz, a Validation and Verification Body acting as a third-party verifier, to ensure it accurately reflects the documentation contained in the Project Design Document and supporting documents.

VALIDATION CONCLUSION

All the information provided in this validation report is free of material misstatement, to the best of our 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 October 18 in 2022.