



City Forest Credits Carbon Planting Project Application

1. Project Name

Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 21-22

2. Project Type

Tree Planting - Area Reforestation Quantification Method

3. Project Location

Project must be in or adjacent to one of the following. Describe which one of the criteria the project meets and provide name of city, town, or jurisdiction where project is located.

- "Urban Area" per Census Bureau maps; see <https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>
- An incorporated or unincorporated city or town
- A planning area for a regional metropolitan planning agency or entity
- Land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity for source water or watershed protection
- A transportation or utility right of way through one of above

The project is located within a planning area for a metropolitan planning agency or entity, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). CAMPO was formed under the State of Texas law and its geographic boundaries are coextensive with State Planning Region 12, which comprises the counties of Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson.

The project includes a total of 16 sites (15 private and 1 public) in these Central Texas counties.

4. Project Operator

Provide name of organization/entity, and contact information

Organization/Entity: TreeFolks, Inc

Address: P.O. Box 1395

City: Del Valle

State: Texas

Zip: 78617

Contact(s): Valerie Tamburri, Andrew Smiley

Phone: 512-443-5323

Email: Valerie@treefolks.org, Andrew@treefolks.org

5. Project Description

Provide short narrative of the overall project goals, location where trees will be planted, land ownership or eligibility to receive credits, approximate number of trees or acres, main tree species, and project timeframe

TreeFolks' Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Program is an expansion of the Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program pilot, now serving the 6 counties of Travis, Bastrop, Williamson, Caldwell, Hays, and Burnet. This program is a partnership between TreeFolks, the City of Austin Office of Sustainability, City of Austin Watershed Protection Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust. The program, operated by TreeFolks, restores healthy forest buffers of local rivers and streams across Central Texas, to improve air and water quality, promote regional cooling, mitigate floodwaters and create wildlife habitat.

Through this project, TreeFolks planted 66,297 trees on 40.15 acres of public and privately owned parcels. Tree seedlings were planted less than 10 feet on center, with the exception of one site planted 15 feet on center, in order to provide canopy coverage in these riparian zones. Carbon+ Credits generated from this project will be sold to local businesses and the City of Austin to help meet the city's carbon neutrality goals. Using funds allocated for carbon offsets to purchase local credits from these riparian plantings keeps the City of Austin's investments localized while addressing global climate change.

6. Project Impacts

Provide short narrative of the impacts this project will achieve. Examples include how the project addresses increased access to green spaces for under-resourced communities, flood control, human health benefits, recreation or bird and wildlife habitat.

The tree planting projects will increase canopy cover and diversity in an ecosystem that has been degraded for over a century, due to farming and ranching, as well as mismanaged/manicured riverfronts by private landowners. The City of Austin Watershed Protection Department recently concluded that diverse wooded corridors along creeks and riparian zones in Travis county are rare. Reestablishing riparian forest corridors throughout Central Texas has many benefits including the protection of watersheds, erosion control, flood mitigation, increased groundwater infiltration, interception and filtration of storm water run-off into sensitive waterways, regional cooling and creation of vital wildlife habitat. This project ensures protection of the planting areas for a minimum of 26 years.

The reforestation project also serves to engage local community members with the environment, complementing Austin's participation in the Biophilic Cities Network and the Children and Nature collaborative, and aligning with citywide green infrastructure efforts. Reforesting local stream corridors will create lasting change, both within the city limits and across Central Texas.

TreeFolks worked with professional planting crews, volunteers and hired seasonal staff to plant native grasses and tree saplings, while also supporting local nurseries and collecting native tree seeds to be grown out for future plantings. Reforestation services were provided to private landowners free of charge and included trees, planting services, and site consultations, educating landowners on Best Management Practices in riparian zones. Landowners allow TreeFolks to generate Carbon+ Credits in

exchange for free reforestation services, which in turn, ensures reliable funding to help offset program costs and ensure the continuation of reforestation projects in Central Texas.

7. Planting Design and Quantification Method

Provide short narrative about planting design and which quantification method you will use.

- *Single Tree Quantification Method: trees planted in a dispersed or scattered design that are planted at least 10 feet apart (i.e. street trees). This method requires tracking of individual trees and tree survival for sampling and quantification.*
- *Clustered Quantification Method: trees planted at least 10 feet apart but are relatively contiguous and designed to create canopy over an area (i.e park-like settings). This method requires tracking change in canopy, not individual tree survival.*
- *Area Reforestation Quantification Method: tree planting areas greater than 5 acres and where many trees are planted closer than 10 feet. Higher tree mortality is expected and the goals are to create canopy and a forest ecosystem. Project Operators have several quantification models to choose from, all of which produce a carbon index on a per-acre basis.*

TreeFolks followed the *Area Reforestation Quantification Method* for this project. 66,227 seedlings were planted at densities ranging from 3' x 3' spacing to 7' x 10' spacing and 15' x 15' spacing.

8. Additional Information

Provide additional information about your project. Examples include collaboration with other partners or how this project fits into a larger effort.

Partnerships: Strong partnerships with the City of Austin, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Travis County, Bastrop County and Hays County has meant regular and substantive support as we go about implementing the program. We have had the support of County and City administrations and have secured multi-year program funding from the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department through contracts and grant funding from Texas Parks and Wildlife through the Habitat and Angler Access Program. The City of Austin's Office of Sustainability continues their support through the purchase of carbon credits and reaching the Austin Climate Equity Plan's goal of net-zero community – wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. For a second year in a row, we were unable to plant public land with Travis County this season, due to their staffing constraints, but we hope to resume working with them on this project next season. TreeFolks is currently discussing new partnerships with the cities of Wimberley and Bastrop to provide reforestation services on their riparian corridors as well.

Outreach: Data from Travis County Appraisal District was used to identify eligible parcels, due to the lack of canopy cover along the riparian/floodplain area. From the Travis County 100-year floodplain database, 1000 parcels were selected for their Farm and Ranch Improvement, Vacant or Agricultural designation (as to avoid sending mailers to highly urban residential or commercial lots). Direct mailers were prepared for all 1000 parcels and sent in the month of March 2021.

Other outreach methods included active outreach to community groups including the Hill Country Conservancy, Hill Country Alliance, San Marcos River Foundation, Hill Country Conservation Network,

Lower Colorado River Authority, Wilbarger Creek Conservation Alliance, Pines and Prairies Land Trust, and the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership.

Outreach methods also included advertising through TreeFolks' newsletter and social media channels and encouraging current and prior to help us spread the word.

Signed on March 24th in 2022, by Valerie Tamburri, Reforestation Manager, for TreeFolks, Inc.

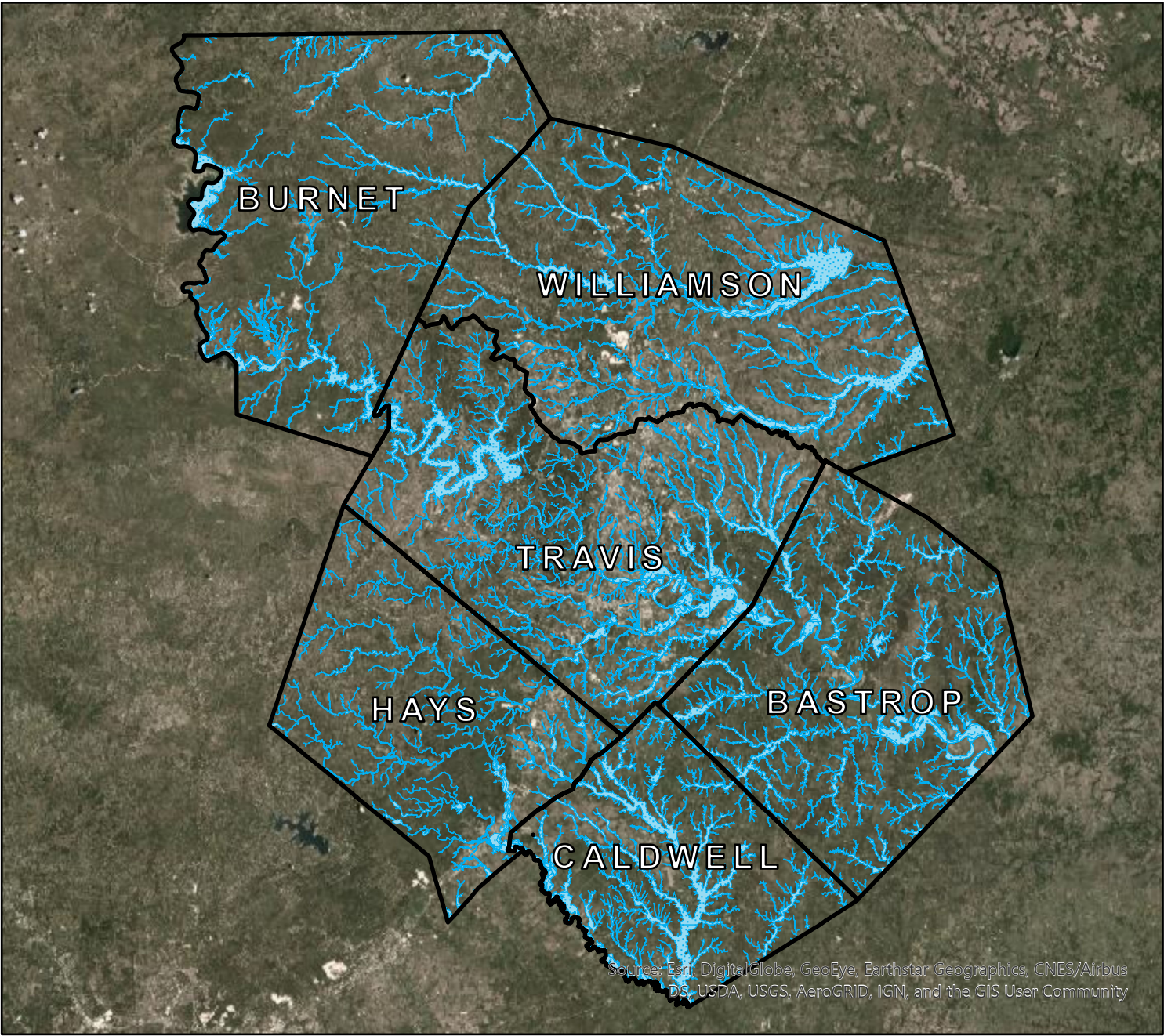
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VT', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature

Valerie Tamburri
512-443-5323
valerie@treefolks.org

TreeFolks' Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Program

Project Location Map



 100 Year Floodplain

 Capital Area County Boundaries

