



City of Highland Park Urban Forest Rejuvenation Validation Report

Document Prepared by City Forest Credits

October 26, 2022

PROJECT OVERVIEW

<i>Project Name</i>	City of Highland Park – Urban Forest Rejuvenation
<i>Project Registry Number</i>	029
<i>Project Type</i>	Tree Planting
<i>City Forest Credits Protocol Version</i>	Version 10, February 7, 2022
<i>Project Start Date</i>	June 23, 2022
<i>Project Location</i>	Highland Park, IL
<i>Project Operator</i>	City of Highland Park, IL

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.

This Validation Report is for the initial crediting after planting in Year 0.

Between June 1, 2019 and June 23, 2022, the City of Highland Park planted 809 trees in the city limits of Highland Park, IL. Trees were planted on public rights-of way across all 8 planting regions of the City on 200+ different City streets/properties. The project used the single-tree planting design and quantification method.

ELIGIBILITY

Project Operator Identity (Section 1.1)

Criteria

Under Tree Planting Protocol Version 10, 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.

Issue Validated

The City of Highland Park (‘the City’) is the Project Operator. The City is a governmental body.

Project Submittal Dates (Section 2)

Criteria

Under Tree Planting Protocol Version 10, projects must submit an application and all crediting documentation 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.

Issue Validated

Project Operator submitted the application on June 9, 2022 and all crediting documents were submitted by August 31, 2022, which was within 6 months of the date of planting the last project tree (June 23, 2022).

Permanence – Project Duration and Reversals (Section 1.3, 2, 8)

A. Project Duration – Project Implementation Agreement (Section 1.3 and 2)

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 26 years.

Issue Validated

The City of Highland Park and City Forest Credits signed a Project Implementation Agreement on August 22, 2022 for the City of Highland Park – Urban Forest Rejuvenation project (Project Registry Number 029). The project has a 26-year duration under City Forest Credits Tree Planting Protocol Version 10.

B. Reversals (Section 8)

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 84 credits contributed to the Registry Reversal Pool from this Project. The carbon quantification was verified by the Validation and Verification Body, Brian Goodall.

Project Location (Section 1.4)

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 an electronic map of the Project area.

Issue Validated

The Project is located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Highland Park, which meets protocol criteria Section 1.4B. The Project Operator has provided maps as supporting evidence, including regional-scale and project area maps.

Project Area (Section 1.5)

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 809 trees planted on about 200 different City-owned streets, properties, and public-rights-of way over a 36-month period. The trees were planted between June 2019 and June 2022.

Ownership or Eligibility to Receive Potential Credits (Section 1.7)

Criteria

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

Issue Validated

The City is the landowner for the City of Highland Park - Urban Forest Rejuvenation, meeting protocol criteria Section 1.7A. The Project Operator provided a signed Attestation of Land Ownership as supporting documentation.

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 1.8);
- 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 26-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 in adherence with the WRI GHG Protocol, which is attached to the Project Design Document. Project Operator signed a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry for a 26-year Project Duration.

Project Operator has signed an Attestation of Additionality that confirms the above, as well as stating that the 26-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 (Section 5)

Criteria

The City Forest Credits Standard 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. Project Operator must 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 10 and Appendix A)

Criteria

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

Issue Validated

Project Operator used the Single Tree planting design and quantification method, per Protocol criteria in Appendix A. 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 Guy Scopelliti Original Landscaping Co., Inc.

The Carbon Quantification Summary is as follows:

Total number of trees planted	809
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)	2,110
Credits after mortality deduction (default is 20%)	1688
Contribution to Registry Reversal Pool Account (5%) (tCO ₂ e)	84
Total credits to be issued to the Project Operator (tCO₂e)	1604
Total credits requested to be issued in Year 1 (10% of above)	160

GHG Assertion: Project Operator asserts that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 1604 tons CO₂e over the 26-year Project Duration. Project Operator will sample trees, quantify tons CO₂e, and submit documentation for verification and credit issuance at Year 4, 6, 14, and 26 per the Tree Protocol and Single Tree Quantification Methodology.

Project Operator asserts that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 160 tons CO₂e after initial tree planting.

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.

<i>Ecosystem Services</i>	<i>Resource Units</i>	<i>Value</i>
Rainfall Interception (m ³ /yr)	3,931.70	\$28,147.30
Air Quality (t/yr)	0.1250	\$577.76
Energy: Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	124,341.50	\$9,437.52
Energy: Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	1,809,643.62	\$17,616.40
Grand Total (\$/yr)		\$55,778.97

Monitoring and Reporting (Section 7)

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, 14, and 26, 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. Monitoring plans have been described in the Project Design Document.

Social Impacts (Section 11)

Criteria

The Project Operator must 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 25, 2022 by Brian Goodall to ensure it accurately reflects the documentation contained in the Project Design Document 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 10.

Approved by City Forest Credits on October 26 in 2022.