

Verification Report

City of Highland Park – Urban Forest Rejuvenation

City Forest Credits Project Number 029

October 25, 2022

Brian Goodall

7326 St Rt 19 Unit 5005

Mt Gilead, OH 43338

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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 City of Highland Park –Urban Forest Rejuvenation (Project) in Highland Park, Illinois, for the period of June 1, 2019 through June 23, 2022. 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

The Urban Forest Rejuvenation project aims to diversify and bolster the population of parkway trees within the City of Highland Park, IL. Parkway trees provide numerous benefits to the residents and patrons of Highland Park. These benefits include ecological, physiological, financial, and aesthetic.

Trees were planted on public rights-of way across eight planting regions of the City on 200 different City streets and properties. In total, 809 trees were planted from June 1, 2019 to June 23, 2022 using the single-tree design and quantification method.

1.2 CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Operator

The City of Highland Park, IL
1150 Half Day Road
Highland Park, Illinois 60035
Contact: Ben Miller-City Forester
Email: bmiller@cityhpil.com
Phone: 847.926.1179

Verification Body

Brian Goodall
7326 St Rt 19 Unit 5005
Mt Gilead, Ohio 43338
Email: goodallarborist@gmail.com
Phone: 614.701.6839

1.3 OBJECTIVE

The goal of this GHG emission removal 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

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 Project Design Document with data on eligibility, 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 10 dated February 7, 2022.

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 Highland Park, IL, specifically described in the Project Design Document.
- Period is June 1, 2019 to June 23, 2022.
- 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 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 project area and regional maps, tree data provided in spreadsheet from Project Operator (including species planted, date planted, latitude/longitude of planting location for all trees planted), and all attestations, including photos of planting events and tree purchase invoices included in the Attestation of Planting
- 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 1604 tons CO₂e over the 26-year Project Duration. Verifier reviewed the Project Operator's assertion that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 160 tons CO₂e after initial tree planting

4.2 CITY FOREST CREDITS TREE PLANTING PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS

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

- Project Operator Identity (Section 1.1): Verifier confirmed identity by reviewing Project Operator website or state/local records.
- Project Design Document (Section 3): Verifier reviewed and confirmed Project Design Document is complete and accurate.
- Project Implementation Agreement (Section 1.3, 3, and 4): Verifier confirmed fully executed Project Implementation Agreement on file.
- Location (Section 1.4): Verifier reviewed mapping and location data.
- Land Ownership or Right to Receive Credits (Section 1.7): Verifier confirmed a signed Attestation of Land Ownership.
- Commencement (Section 2.4, 3): Verifier reviewed Approval of Application Letter. Verifier reviewed the Attestation of Planting and confirmed the date the last project tree was planted.

- Project Documentation (Section 3 and Appendix A): Verifier confirmed all required project documentation present.
- Additionality (Section 4): Verifier reviewed for additionality as follows:
 - Legal requirements test (Section 1.8) – no law or ordinance for Project Operator to plant trees.
 - Performance Standards Baseline (CFC Standard, Section 4.9) – per the program wide performance standard baseline showing net tree loss, these trees are additional. The performance standard baseline is attached to the Project Design Document.
 - The Project did not plant trees on sites that were forested and then cleared of healthy trees (Section 1.9)
 - Project Operator signed a Project Implementation Agreement with City Forest Credits for 26 years.
 - The 26-year Project Duration commitment is additional to and longer than any commitment the Project Operator makes to non-carbon project tree plantings.
 - Project Operator completed and signed the Attestation of Additionality (Section 4).
- Permanence (Section 1.3, 2.2, and 8): Verifier confirmed Project Implementation Agreement imposes a legal obligation to Project Operator to conduct this project for 26 years, including a reversal obligation.
- Quantification (Section 10 and Appendix A):
 - Verifier confirmed Project Operator utilized Single Tree planting design and CFC quantification methodology described in Appendix A.
 - Verifier reviewed the accuracy of the data integrity in the quantification methodology.
 - Verifier reviewed spreadsheets with tree data for carbon quantification.
 - Verifier reviewed the completed and signed Attestation of Planting and Attestation of Planting Affirmation.
- Co-Benefits (Appendix A): Verifier confirmed the calculation of ecosystem co-benefits as set forth in the City Forest Credits quantification tool.
- Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm (Section 5)
 - Verifier reviewed the completed and signed Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm.

5 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

No issues were found by the Verifier.

6 VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

This verification of the City of Highland Park-Urban Forest Rejuvenation for the period June 1, 2019 to June 23, 2022 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 initial 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 (mtCO₂e) | GHG Removals After Deductions for Mortality (20%) (mtCO₂e) | GHG Removals After Deductions for Reversal Pool Account (5%) (mtCO₂e) | City Forest Carbon Forward Removal Credits to be Issued to Project (mtCO₂e) |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| City of Highland Park-Urban Forest Rejuvenation | 2110 | 1688 | 1604 | 160 |
| Cumulative | 2110 | 1688 | 1604 | |

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

| <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 |
| Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr) | 124,341.50 | \$9,437.52 |
| Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr) | 1,809,643.62 | \$17,616.40 |
| Grand Total (\$/yr) | | \$55,778.97 |

Verifier Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Goodall', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Brian Goodall