

CASE STUDY-CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, IL

The City of Highland Park leads effort to utilize verified carbon credits for urban trees in the Chicago Region to plant more trees.

Background

The City of Highland Park is located 25 miles north of downtown Chicago with a population of about 30,000 people. Highland Park's Forestry Section has a long and successful history of stewarding their city trees, as well as leading at the local level. Highland Park is thinking strategically to increase tree canopy cover and diversify tree species to create a more resilient urban forest, considering a changing climate and future threats from pests and diseases.

About the Highland Park Planting Project

The City of Highland Park was an early adopter to participate in the Chicago Region Carbon Program. They enrolled 809 newly planted trees into their carbon project. Trees were planted between 2019 and 2022, mostly along City owned right-of-way. The goal of the project was to diversify tree species planted to create a more resilient urban forest. The carbon revenue generated through this project will be invested in planting additional trees throughout Highland Park to maintain or increase the tree canopy.

Carbon Credit Opportunity

New revenue for additional tree plantings

The City of Highland Park is proud to champion sustainable initiatives throughout the community. Carbon Credits are one opportunity the City is leveraging to enhance existing programs and pursue additional opportunities to achieve its sustainability goals.



AT A GLANCE

Year Registered: 2022

Trees Planted: 809

Location: Highland Park, Illinois

Project Credits: 1,604 tons CO2
Credits Issued at Initial Verification (2023):

160 tons CO2

Remaining Credits Issued over 26-year Project Duration:
1,444 tons CO2

Staff Time Estimate: 30 hours

Credits Sold to Date: *credits to be sold in National Sale*

"The City of Highland Park is proud to be a leader in carefully managing and growing our award-winning urban tree canopy in support of our carbon-limiting sustainability initiatives. Our partnership with City Forest Credits has provided an effective strategy in support of these goals."

**- Joe O'Neill, Deputy Director, Public Works,
City of Highland Park**