

# Verification Report

## Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 2023

City Forest Credits Project Number 041

August 29, 2023

Dan Hintz

810 2nd Ave NW

Issaquah, WA

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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Daniel Hintz (a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) acting as a third-party verifier) was engaged to verify the Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 2023 (Project) in Central Texas (Blanco, Travis, Hays, Caldwell, and Bastrop counties), for the period February 4<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> of 2023. 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

TreeFolks planted 59,423 trees on 60.22 acres of public and privately owned parcels in Blanco, Travis, Hays, Caldwell, and Bastrop counties, between February 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Trees were planted using the Area Reforestation planting design and quantification method to provide canopy coverage in degraded riparian zones. 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.

## 1.2 CONTACT INFORMATION

### Project Operator

TreeFolks

P.O. Box 1395

Del Valle, TX 78617-1395

Contact: Valerie Tamburri, Director of Reforestation & Lead Arborist

Phone: 512-443-5323

Email: [valerie@treefolks.org](mailto:valerie@treefolks.org)

### Verifier

Daniel Hintz

810 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW #4

Issaquah, WA 98027

[Daniel.j.hintz@gmail.com](mailto:Daniel.j.hintz@gmail.com) – 630-740-8947

## 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

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### 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 Afforestation and Reforestation 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 Afforestation and Reforestation Protocol, version 11, dated February 24, 2023.

### 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

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- The Project is located in Central Texas (Blanco, Travis, Hays, Caldwell, and Bastrop counties), specifically described in the Project Design Document.
- Period is February 4<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> of 2023.
- 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

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### 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 and regional area maps, geospatial data, geocoded images, photos of planting, invoices for tree purchases, tree data spreadsheets, and all accompanying attestations to ensure that number of acres being credited is accurate and does not include any double counting.
- 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 5,728 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e over the 26-year Project Duration. Verifier reviewed the Project Operator's assertion that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 573 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e after initial tree planting.
- Verifier submitted to the Project Operator requests for clarifications on the number of sites listed in the Project Area Maps, the landowner listed in the Agreement to Transfer Credits, the total number of trees planted within the project areas (as there were some discrepancies between the numbers listed in the PDD, Attestation of Planting, and Affirmation of Planting), and how the tC/acre (carbon storage) numbers were determined with the tree species used in this project. All questions have been addressed.

### 4.2 CITY FOREST CREDITS AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS

Verifier reviewed the Project against all CFC Afforestation and Reforestation Protocol requirements and confirmed the following:

- Project Operator Identity (Section 1.1): Verifier confirmed identity by reviewing Project Operator website (<https://www.treefolks.org/>), IRS 501c3 confirmation letter, organizational bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation from the State of Texas.
- 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 for all ten planting sites. Maps were provided for each planting site along with photos for each planting site. The PO also submitted a detailed Tree Planting Data spreadsheet with species and numbers for all trees planted at each planting site.
- Land Ownership or Right to Receive Credits (Section 1.7): Verifier confirmed that all sites have an Agreement to Transfer Credits. One site (site 6) is public and owned by the City of Austin and there is an Agreement to Transfer Potential Credits. The other 9 sites are privately owned and all have signed Agreement and Declaration of Covenants.
- 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 Area Reforestation planting design and CFC quantification methodology described in Appendix A.
  - Verifier reviewed the accuracy of the data integrity in the quantification methodology.
  - Verifier reviewed tree planting spreadsheets, geocoded photos, baseline i-Tree Canopy report, invoices, and attestations and affirmations of planting.
  - 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.
  - Verifier compared the Project geospatial data to the registered urban forest carbon afforestation and reforestation projects geospatial database using Google Earth and determined there was no overlap with previous carbon credit projects at any of the 10 CTRP planting sites.

## 5 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

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All issues raised by Verifier were clarified or corrected by the Project Operator and all issues were closed by appropriate responses by City Forest Credits staff and the Project Operator.

## 6 VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

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This verification of the Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 2023 for the period of February 4<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> of 2023 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**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>GHG Removals Attributed to the Project (mtCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>GHG Removals After Deductions for Mortality (0%) (mtCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>GHG Removals After Deductions for Reversal Pool Account (5%) (mtCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>City Forest Carbon Forward Removal Credits to be Issued to Project (mtCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 2023	6,030	N/A	5,728	573
Cumulative	6,030		5,728	

**Table 2. Ecosystem Co-Benefits Per Year After 25 Years**

<b><i>Ecosystem Services</i></b>	<b><i>Resource Units</i></b>	<b><i>Value</i></b>
Rainfall Interception (m3/yr)	7,047.3	\$18,432.78
Air Quality (t/yr)	1.5623	\$3,772.08
Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	72,460	\$5,499.73
Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	37,974	\$394.56
<b>Grand Total (\$/yr)</b>		<b>\$28,099.15</b>

**Verifier Signature**



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**Daniel J Hintz**