



# **Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Planting Project 2023 Validation Report**

**Document Prepared by City Forest Credits**

**July 12, 2024**

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

<i>Project Name</i>	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Planting Project 2023
<i>Project Registry Number</i>	064
<i>Project Type</i>	Afforestation/Reforestation
<i>City Forest Credits Protocol Version</i>	Version 12, February 29, 2024
<i>Project Start Date</i>	September 25, 2023
<i>Project Location</i>	Minneapolis, Minnesota
<i>Project Operator</i>	Green Cities Accord

## 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.*

Green Cities Accord and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) are partnering on a third urban tree planting project to issue carbon offsets in the State of Minnesota. Green Cities Accord will serve as the Project Operator and MPRB will plant and maintain the trees. This project includes 6,973 trees that were planted within the city limits of Minneapolis, MN from April 17, 2023 to September 25, 2023. The method of planting is single-tree dispersed and this validation report applies to the initial crediting stage.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Project Operator Identity (Section 1.1)

#### *Criteria*

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*

Green Cities Accord provided documentation, including their W9 tax form, bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation, to City Forest Credits to demonstrate that it is an entity organized and license under the laws of its jurisdiction.

### Project Submittal Dates (Section 2)

#### *Criteria*

Project must submit applications 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 March 25, 2024, which was within six months of the date of planting the last project tree (September 25, 2023). City Forest Credits granted a two-month extension for all project documentation to be submitted by May 25, 2024.

**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*

Green Cities Accord and City Forest Credits signed a Project Implementation Agreement on June 7, 2024 for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Planting Project 2023 (Project Registry Number 064). The project has a 26-year duration under City Forest Credits Afforestation and Reforestation Protocol Version 12.

**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. 743 credits were contributed from this Project to the Registry Reversal Pool. The carbon quantification and Reversal Pool deduction were 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 in the City of Minneapolis, which meets protocol criteria Section 1.4B. The Project Operator has provided maps as supporting evidence, including geospatial data, 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 planting 6,973 trees over a six month period. The trees were planted between April 17, 2023 to September 25, 2023.

### **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 Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is the landowner for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Planting Project 2023, meeting protocol criteria Section 1.7. The Project Operator provided the Agreement to Collaborate as supporting documentation.

### **Additionality (Section 4)**

#### *Criteria*

The City Forest Credits Standard and Afforestation and Reforestation 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 (except for replacement trees planted in place of removed trees for specific reasons; 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). If the latter, the Project Operator must submit local canopy change data to support its use;
- Project Operators must sign and comply with a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry that requires a 26-year Project Duration;
- Project activities are not common practice.

The Project Operator must sign an Attestation of Additionality that attests to the above, as well as provides information on the impact of carbon revenues to project success.

#### *Issue Validated*

Project Operator has met the Legal Requirements Test in Section 1.8. Project Operator used the Registry's performance standard baseline in adherence with the WRI GHG Protocol, which is attached to the Project Design Document, and provided local canopy change data to support its use.

Based on various tree canopy cover studies completed for Minneapolis, the City has experienced canopy cover decline over the past fifteen years which supports the Performance Standard Baseline. Due to the continuous canopy loss overtime, no credit adjustment was integrated into this project.

Year	Canopy Cover %	Resource
2009	34%	<a href="#">Quickbird Satellite Imagery</a>
2015	30%	<a href="#">University of Minnesota Tree Canopy Assessment</a>
2021	28%	<a href="#">Metropolitan Council Growing Shade Tool</a>

Project Operator signed a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry for a 26-year Project Duration.

Project Operator has signed an Attestation of Additionality on May 24, 2024 that confirms the above, as well as stating how the project activities are not common practice, how the carbon revenues impact project success, 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 non-invasive trees within the prior 10 years.

Green Cities Accord and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board first started discussions regarding an urban tree carbon offset project in 2021.

### **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. Per Section 5.2 of the Afforestation and Reforestation Protocol, the Project Operator must submit documentation showing no overlap of Project Trees with any other registered urban forest afforestation and reforestation project. As part of Validation, the Registry shall use the appropriate geospatial tool to independently investigate whether there is any overlap between the Project Trees and other registered urban forest carbon projects.

#### *Issue Validated*

Project Operator has submitted a signed Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm on May 20, 2024, and the Registry sees no evidence of net harm from this project. The Registry has analyzed geospatial data of the Project Area against that of all other registered urban forest carbon

afforestation and reforestation 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, on May 22, 2024. Project Operator provided an Attestation of Planting Affirmation signed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on April 30, 2024.

The Carbon Quantification Summary is as follows:

Total number of trees planted	6,973
Project area (acres), if applicable	N/A
Total number of trees per acre, if applicable	N/A
Credits attributed to the project (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	18,583
Credits after mortality deduction (default is 20%)	14,867
Contribution to Registry Reversal Pool Account (5%) (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	743
<b>Total credits to be issued to the Project Operator (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>14,124</b>
<b>Total credits requested to be issued in Year 1 (10% of above)</b>	<b>1,412</b>

### **GHG Assertion:**

Project Operator asserts that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 14,124 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e over the 26-year Project Duration. Project Operator will provide tree survival and growth data, quantify tons CO<sub>2</sub>e, and submit documentation for validation, verification, and credit issuance at Years 4, 6, 14, and 26, per the Afforestation and Reforestation Planting Protocol and Single Tree Planting Design and Quantification Method. Project Operator asserts that, per Protocol guidelines, 10% of the Project GHG emissions mitigation is issued after initial tree planting, or 1,412 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e.

The Project Operator submitted location and species information for all trees planted. CFC has reviewed this spreadsheet for accuracy.

## **Co-Benefits Quantification (Section 10 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.

<b><i>Ecosystem Services</i></b>	<b><i>Resource Units</i></b>	<b><i>Value</i></b>
Rainfall Interception (m3/yr)	35,976	257,551
Air Quality (t/yr)	1.0442	4,220
Energy: Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	1,135,340	86,172
Energy: Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	16,012,775	155,880
<b>Grand Total (\$/yr)</b>		<b>503,823</b>

## **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 CO<sub>2</sub>e 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*

Project Operator shall 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 Section 11.

### *Issue Validated*

Project Operator has submitted a completed Carbon Project Social Impact document. The project meets protocol criteria Section 11.

## **VERIFICATION REPORT**

CFC reviewed the Verification Report on July 11, 2024 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 Afforestation and Reforestation Protocol Version 12.

Approved by City Forest Credits on July 12, 2024.