Summary of Tree Preservation Protocol Requirements:

A Checklist for Potential Projects

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Summary of Tree Preservation Protocol Requirements

This is a checklist of requirements that urban forest preservation projects have to follow to be eligible for carbon credits.

We will be following this with Tool-Kits that describe how the protocol works, how credits are earned and awarded, how credits are sold, and the costs and benefits of doing an urban forest carbon project.

Requirements for UF Tree Preservation Projects

- ✓ **Project Operator identified**

  This is the person or entity who takes responsibility for the project.

- ✓ **Signed Implementation Agreement**

  This is the agreement between the Project Operator and the Registry for an urban forest carbon project; we'll be producing a sample of this soon.

- ✓ **Project must be in one of the following:**
  - **"Urban Area" per Census Bureau maps; see https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/2010ua.html**
  - **An incorporated or unincorporated city or town**
  - **Designated watershed or source water zone overlapping one of above**

    Must be a zone designated by a governmental body, not just a scientifically or hydrologically described watershed.
  - **A transportation or utility right of way through one of above**

- ✓ **Project Operator meets one of following:**
  - **Owns the land (and any carbon credits) upon which project trees are growing**
  - **Has an easement for right of way and accepts "ownership" of project trees**

    Intended to cover street trees; ownership means maintenance and liability and is intended to allow only street trees that a city or person accepts responsibility for.
  - **Has a written agreement with landowner to receive carbon credits**

    If the Project Operator does not own the land, he or she must have a written agreement with the owner to receive the carbon credits; we will supply a sample document for this.

- ✓ **Projects must commit to preserving trees for 40 years**. **Can preserve by easement if project is on private land, or, if on public land, by protected status or management plan**

  No specific active management requirements, but projects will want to do some management to increase carbon stock (and credits) over time and to avoid fire, disease.

- ✓ **Documentation (App. A to Protocol contains a list of documents required)**

- ✓ **Project commences on recording of easement or adoption of protected status/management plan**

- ✓ **Projects must show:**
  - **Trees now preserved by new easement or management plan/protected status, and**
  - **Trees were not preserved by easement or management plan/protected status before, and**
  - **Prior to preservation, project Area was in a zoning designated that allowed at least one non-forest use, and**
  - **Prior to preservation, land in the project area met one of the three following:**
    - **Was surrounded on at least 50% of its perimeter by developed or improved uses, or**
    - **Had been sold or assessed at greater than $10,000 per acre within three years of preservation, or**
    - **Would have had a fair market value after conversion to a developed or improved use greater than the fair market value prior to preservation**

- ✓ **Quantification of carbon stock and soil carbon leads to eligible credits**

  There are five steps in the quantification of credits generated by the Project. We have developed these to avoid the use of expensive outside consultants. This quantification process utilizes tables and tools such as iTree and can be conducted by staff moderately familiar with urban forestry or forestry:

  1. Estimate the biomass stock present, and adjust for uncertainty in the estimate to calculate the "Accounting Stock" (Section 10.1)

  2. Calculate the fraction of the Accounting Stock that likely would be emitted as a result of development, to calculate "Avoided Biomass Emissions" (Section 10.2)

  3. The Project Operator may elect to also account for growth of trees within the project area, or may choose not to count growth (Section 10.3)

  4. Calculate "Avoided Soil Carbon Emissions" (Section 10.4)

5. Calculate the number of credits generated by the Project by either (a) demonstrating that development displaced by the project can be accommodated by redevelopment of existing developed or developable parcels within the urban area, or (b) calculate a deduction in avoided emissions to account for emissions resulting from the Project displacing new development to outside the Project Area (Section 10.5)

- ✓ **Understand Reversals**

  If trees that have received credits are lost or removed, Project Operator must return those credits if the tree loss is due to intentional acts or gross negligence of Project Operator. If tree loss is not due to intentional acts or gross negligence, the Registry covers the credits lost from its Reversal Pool of credits held back from each project.

- ✓ **Verification will be performed by the Registry and a trained peer reviewer, not by Projects or third-party verifiers**

  Projects will submit quantification process and data to the Registry for verification.

- ✓ **Credits will be issued as follows:**

  - **For project areas greater than 200 acres: credits are issued 10% per year, so that all credits are issued over the first ten years (with the exception of credits issued for additional growth in carbon stock after the initial quantification of CO2)**
  - **For projects greater than 20 but less than 200 acres, credits are issued in the equivalent of 20 acres per year (so that a 60-acre project will receive all credits over the first three years)**
  - **For projects less than 20 acres, credits will be issued after project commencement and quantification of CO2**

Tool-kits and FAQs for potential projects will follow.