



Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program - 2021 Validation Report Year 4

Document Prepared by City Forest Credits

1/28/2025

PROJECT OVERVIEW

<i>Project Name</i>	Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program - 2021
<i>Project Registry Number</i>	014
<i>Project Type</i>	Tree Planting
<i>City Forest Credits Protocol Version</i>	Version 9, February 7, 2021
<i>Project Start Date</i>	February 22, 2021
<i>Project Location</i>	Travis County, TX
<i>Project Operator</i>	TreeFolks, INC

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.

Between January 26th, 2021, and February 22nd, 2021, TreeFolks planted 23,491 woody seedlings on 35.91 acres of private and public land, throughout Travis County, Texas, using the Area Reforestation planting design and quantification method. Trees comprised 37 unique species, averaging 654 trees/acre.

Due to mowing and overlapping project areas, the total project area was decreased to 34.58 acres instead of 35.91 acres and the total number of saplings planted to 22,641, reducing 870 trees.

For the Year 4 credit issuance, the Project Operator used high-resolution aerial imagery to assess canopy establishment across the Project Area.

ELIGIBILITY

Additionality (Section 4)

Criteria

The City Forest Credits Standard and Tree Planting 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.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has signed an Attestation of Additionality on November 19, 2024 that confirms that the trees were not planted due to an enacted ordinance or law, as well as stating that Project Operator used the Registry’s performance standard baseline in adherence with the WRI GHG Protocol, that the Project Operator signed a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry for a 26-year Project Duration,

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 trees within the prior 10 years.

The Attestation of Additionality was not required in Protocol Version 9, the protocol version under which the Project Operator registered this Project. However, to comply with current best practice and align with current Protocol requirements, the Project Operator signed the attestation.

No Double Counting and No Net Harm

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.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has submitted an Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm, signed October 14, 2021. In addition, the Project Operator reviewed their list of planted properties against those of other urban forest carbon planting projects. During the Year 4 verification of the preceding project, Travis County Floodplain Restoration Program (Project ID 008), it was observed that minor overlaps were documented in the planting areas of three sites with separate areas registered to each project. These overlapping areas were removed from the shapefiles used in verification for this report and collectively accounted for a 0.203-acre deduction in the total planting area registered to this project.

DATA COLLECTION AND CARBON QUANTIFICATION

Carbon Quantification (Section 10 and Appendix A)

Criteria

Project Operator must follow the data collection and quantification methods outlined in Appendix A of the Protocol.

Issue Validated

Project Operator used the Area Reforestation planting design and quantification method, per Protocol criteria in Appendix A. Project Operator used random point sampling of high-resolution aerial imagery to assess tree canopy establishment at Year 4, described in further detail below:

- To be consistent with current Registry requirements, Project Operator calculated canopy cover at both baseline and Year 4 timepoints.
- High-resolution aerial imagery at the appropriate leaf-on timepoints for baseline (Summer 2021) and Year 4 (Summer 2024) were accessed through the Upstream Tech Lens platform.
- The Project Operator followed methods consistent with i-Tree Canopy’s methodology to recreate an i-Tree Canopy assessment on ArcGIS Pro, using the Upstream Tech Lens imagery. The imagery was assessed in ArcGIS Pro. For each site, on baseline and Year 4 images:

- Point Sampling locations were generated via the Create Random Points tool in ArcGIS Pro Random points were sampled until standard error was below 5%.
- Sampling consisted of manual assignments to “Tree” or “Non-Tree” class.
- Based on sampling, tree canopy was calculated per formulas provided in the i-Tree Canopy documentation.
- Canopy at baseline and Year 4 was summarized for all sites.
- 16.63% of the revised project area was classified as “Tree” at baseline (Summer 2021). At Year 4 (2024), 21.14% of the project area was classified as “Tree,” totaling a 4.51% increase in canopy coverage, exceeding the 2.8% canopy growth requirement for Year 4 Verification.

Compared to Initial Crediting, the following changes occurred:

- The Project Area decreased by 1.3 acres, to 34.58 acres, due to overlap with a previous project, and a landowner mowing the site. This reduced the amount of area eligible for crediting, leading to a decrease in credit issuance.
- To be consistent with current Registry practice, the credit issuance was adjusted to account for the existing baseline tree canopy of 16.63% at Year 0.
- The Project Area reduction and accounting for the existing baseline tree canopy reduced the overall credit total by 19.64%.

The Carbon Quantification Summary is as follows:

	Initial Crediting	Year 4
Total number of trees planted	23,491	22,621
Project area (acres), if applicable	35.91	34.58
Total number of trees per acre, if applicable	654	654
Tree Canopy	16.63%	21.14%
Credits attributed to the project (tCO ₂ e)	3,832	3,076
Credits after mortality deduction (N/A for area reforestation)	N/A	N/A
Contribution to Registry Reversal Pool Account (5%) (tCO ₂ e)	192	154
Total credits to be issued to the Project Operator (tCO₂e)	3,640	2,922
Total credits requested to be issued in Year 4 (40% of above)	1,456	1,169

GHG Assertion: Project Operator asserts that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 3,076 tons CO₂e over the 26-year Project Duration. Project Operator asserts that per Protocol guidelines, 40% of Project GHG emissions mitigation is issued at Year 4, or 1,169 tons CO₂e.

This project’s total GHG emissions reduction was adjusted from the initial project report to account for the reductions in acreage registered under this project and for incongruent information regarding baseline canopy coverage of 16.63% baseline canopy cover, compared to 0% used during the initial reporting. The tree canopy increased by 4.51%, more than the required 2.8% at year 4.

Co-Benefits Quantification (Section 12 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.

Ecosystem Services	Resource Units	Value
Rainfall Interception (m ³ /yr)	827.8	\$2,165.16
Air Quality (t/yr)	0.1891	\$457.73
Energy: Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	8,712	\$661.22
Energy: Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	4,599	\$47.78
Grand Total (\$/yr)		\$3,331.89

VERIFICATION REPORT

CFC reviewed the Verification Report 1/28/25 by Dan Hintz to ensure it accurately reflects the documentation contained in the Year 4 Project Design Document Amendment 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 Tree Planting Protocol Version 9.

Approved by City Forest Credits on January 28, in 2025.