

# Verification Report

## Year 4

Travis County Reforestation Program – 2021 – Year 4

City Forest Credits Project Number 014

January 27, 2025

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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Dan Hintz (a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) acting as a third-party verifier) was engaged to verify the Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program – 2021 (Project) in Travis County, Texas, for the issuance of credits at the Year 4 interval based on the applicable protocol. The goal of the Year 4 verification is to ensure that the GHG assertion is materially correct, and that the sampling process and carbon quantification by the project are well documented and appropriate.

## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

TreeFolks planted 23,491 saplings on 35.91 acres of land between January and February 2021. Approximately 654 trees were planted per acre on average in a grid-like pattern, ranging from 5'x8' to 7'x10'. After a reduction of 1.12 acres from mowing in one of the planting areas and geospatial inconsistencies that created minor overlaps between this project and the previous project (PJ008), the total acreage for the project was reduced to 34.58 acres, and the total tree count included in the revised project was reduced to 22,621 saplings.

By following this Rapid Riparian Revegetation method, as developed by Guillozet et al. in 2014, the objective was to create full canopy coverage in the planting areas by year 26 through a combination of intentional plantings and natural recruitment by the cessation of mowing within planting areas. This project utilized the Area Reforestation planting method for quantifying carbon storage.

Per Registry guidance, updated satellite imagery sampling was conducted to assess the canopy at baseline (2021) and Year 4 (2024) conditions. We performed these analyses using the imagery database Lens by Upstream Tech. After conducting the baseline and Year 4 samplings on each individual site, it was found that there was 16.63% canopy cover across the planting sites in the baseline year. By the summer of 2024, the percentage of canopy cover increased to 21.14%, a 4.51% increase for the total project area.

## 1.2 CONTACT INFORMATION

### Project Operator

TreeFolks, INC

P.O. Box 1395

Del Valle, TX 78617-1395

Contact: Valerie Tamburri, Director of Reforestation and Lead Arborist, (512) 443-5323,

[carbon@treefolks.org](mailto:carbon@treefolks.org)

### Verifier

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### 1.3 OBJECTIVE

The goal of this GHG emission removal verification at Year 4 is to ensure that the GHG assertion made by the Project is materially correct, that the sampling process and data 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 Tree Planting Protocol per International Standards Organization 14064-3. Specifically, the Registry adopts and utilizes the following standards from ISO 14064-3:

- Upon receiving a Year 4 Project Design Document Amendment with sampling data, 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 Tree Planting Protocol, version 9, February 7, 2021.

### 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 Travis County Texas, specifically described in the Project Design Document.
- The verification is for the issuance of credits at the Year 4 interval.
- 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 that the dates when the tree canopy imagery was analyzed were subsequent to the Request for Credit Issuance date, February 23, 2024.
- 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 mapping, sample imagery, tree data spreadsheets for all six planting sites, and attestations. Verifier reviewed the accuracy of process for sampling and data collection, including: iTree methodology for canopy cover (both Year 0 baseline and Year 4), sample size calculations, sample imagery of sites with sample locations, and planting site boundaries and locations.
- 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 3,076 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e over the 26-year Project Duration. Verifier reviewed the Project Operator's assertion that per Protocol guidelines, 40% of Project GHG emissions mitigation is issued at Year 4, or 1,169 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Verifier submitted to the Project Operator a request for clarification on why there was a small amount of acreage double counted between the 2019 and 2021 TCFRP projects, discussed if there were any concerns with the measured reductions in tree canopy at sites 2 and 5, and recommended site photos to be taken with future sampling efforts.

## 4.2 CITY FOREST CREDITS TREE PLANTING PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS AT YEAR 4

Verifier reviewed the Project against all CFC Tree Planting Protocol requirements and confirmed the following:

- Project Design Document (Section 3): Verifier reviewed and confirmed Project Design Document is complete and accurate.
- Project Documentation (Section 3 and Appendix A): Verifier confirmed all required project documentation present.
- Additionality (Section 4): Verifier reviewed for additionality as follows:
  - Verifier reviewed the completed and signed Attestation of Additionality
- Quantification (Section 10 and Appendix A):
  - Verifier confirmed Project Operator utilized the Area Reforestation CFC quantification methodology described in Appendix A.
  - Verifier reviewed the accuracy of the data collection process and the data integrity for the Year 4 sampling and quantification methodology.
  - Verifier reviewed spreadsheets with data from all six planting sites for carbon quantification, as well as canopy assessments from iTree, mapping data, aerial imagery with sample data points, and Area Reforestation carbon quantification calculator.
- Co-Benefits (Appendix A): Verifier confirmed the calculation of ecosystem co-benefits as set forth in the City Forest Credits quantification tool.

## 5 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

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Verifier reviewed the changes to the carbon quantification or Project Area, including the reduction of project area by 1.12 acres. Verifier determined that the updates were accurate and appropriate.

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 and Tree Folks, INC.

## 6 VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

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This verification of the Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program - 2021 for the Year 4 issuance 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 Year 4 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 (20%) (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 at Year 4 (mtCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
Travis County Floodplain Reforestation Program - 2021 – Year 4	3,076	N/A	2,922	1,169

**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 (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	827.8	\$2,165.16
Air Quality (t/yr)	0.1891	\$457.73
Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	8,712	\$661.22
Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	4,599	\$47.78
<b>Grand Total (\$/yr)</b>		<b>\$3,331.89</b>

**Verifier Signature**




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**Daniel J Hintz**