



City Forest Credits

Afforestation and Reforestation Project Application

1. Project Name

Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 2023

2. Project Operator

Organization/Entity: TreeFolks

Address: P.O Box 1395

City: Del Valle

State: Texas

Zip: 78617-1395

Contact(s): Valerie Tamburri, Andrew Smiley

Phone: 512-443-5323

Email: Valerie@treefolks.org, Andrew@treefolks.org

3. Project Location

Project must be in or adjacent to one of the following. Describe which one of the criteria the project meets and provide name of city, town, or jurisdiction where project is located.

- *“Urban Area” per Census Bureau maps*
- *An incorporated or unincorporated city or town*
- *A planning area for a regional metropolitan planning agency or entity*
- *Land owned, designated, and used by a municipal or quasi-municipal entity for source water or watershed protection*
- *A transportation or utility right of way through one of above*

The project is located within a planning area for a metropolitan planning agency or entity, Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG). CAPCOG was formed, pursuant to the Regional Planning Act of 1965, as a voluntary organization, and its geographic boundaries are coextensive with the State of Texas Planning Region 12, which comprises the counties of Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson. TreeFolks’ Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Program currently serves seven of these ten counties (Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson).

The project includes a total of 11 sites (9 private and 2 public) located in these Central Texas counties.

4. Project Description

Provide short narrative of the overall project goals, location where trees will be planted, land ownership or eligibility to receive credits, approximate number of trees or acres, main tree species, and project timeframe.

TreeFolks' Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Program, CTFRP, restores degraded riparian forest buffers along creeks, streams and rivers within the 100-year floodplains of Travis, Hays, Bastrop, Caldwell, Williamson, Blanco and Burnet counties. The CTFRP service area was expanded this year from six counties to seven, and now includes all counties surrounding Travis county. This program is a partnership between TreeFolks, the City of Austin Office of Sustainability, the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department, the City of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Through this project, TreeFolks planted 66,956 trees on 68.42 acres of public and privately owned parcels in Blanco, Travis, Hays, Caldwell, and Bastrop counties, between January 21, 2023 and February 14, 2023. Tree seedlings were planted less than 10 feet on center in order to provide canopy coverage in these degraded riparian zones. Carbon Credits, generated from this project with the agreement of public and private landowners, will be sold to local businesses and the City of Austin to help meet the city's carbon neutrality goals. 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.

In addition to tree planting, the City of Austin Watershed public site was seeded with a riparian recovery seed mix, composed of native grasses and wildflowers. In addition to herbaceous seeds, 8,330 native woody seeds were collected by staff and volunteers throughout the Austin area and scattered at this site in order to contribute to the seedbank.

5. Project Impacts

Provide a short narrative of the environmental, social, and health impacts this project will achieve. Examples include how the project addresses increased access to green spaces for under-resourced communities, flood control or watershed protection, benefits for human health and wellbeing, improved recreation opportunities, or protection of bird and wildlife habitat.

The tree planting projects will increase canopy cover and diversity in an ecosystem that has been degraded for over a century, due to farming and ranching, as well as mismanaged/manicured riverfronts by private landowners. The City of Austin Watershed Protection Department recently concluded that diverse wooded corridors along creeks and riparian zones in Travis county are rare. Reestablishing riparian forest corridors throughout Central Texas has many benefits including the protection of watersheds, erosion control, flood mitigation, increased groundwater infiltration, interception, and filtration of stormwater run-off into sensitive waterways, regional cooling, and creation of vital wildlife habitat. This project ensures the protection of the planting areas for a minimum of 26 years.

The reforestation project also serves to engage local community members with the environment, complementing Austin's participation in the Biophilic Cities Network and the Children and Nature collaborative, and aligning with the citywide green infrastructure efforts. Reforesting local stream corridors will create lasting change, both within the city limits and across Central Texas.

TreeFolks worked with professional planting crews and volunteers to plant native tree saplings and grasses, while also supporting local nurseries and collecting native tree seeds to be grown out for future plantings. Reforestation services were provided to private landowners free of charge, including trees, planting services, site consultations, and educational materials on best management practices in riparian zones. Landowners allow TreeFolks to generate Carbon+ Credits in exchange for free reforestation

services, which in turn, ensures reliable funding to help offset program costs and ensure the continuation of reforestation projects in Central Texas.

6. Planting Design and Quantification Method

Provide short narrative about the planting design and quantification method you will use for the project. Refer to Protocol Appendix A for more detail.

- *Single Tree Quantification Method: trees planted in a dispersed or scattered design that are planted at least 10 feet apart (i.e., street trees). This method requires tracking of individual trees and tree survival for sampling and quantification.*
- *Clustered Quantification Method: trees planted at least 10 feet apart but are relatively contiguous and designed to create canopy over an area (i.e. park-like settings). This method requires tracking change in canopy, not individual tree survival.*
- *Area Reforestation Quantification Method: tree planting areas greater than 5 acres and where many trees are planted closer than 10 feet. Higher tree mortality is expected and the goals are to create canopy and a forest ecosystem. Project Operators have several quantification models to choose from, all of which produce a carbon index on a per-acre basis.*

TreeFolks followed the Area Reforestation Quantification Method for this project. 66,956 seedlings were planted at densities ranging from 5' x 5' spacing to 8' x 8' spacing. In total 53 different species of trees were planted.

7. Additional Information

Provide additional information about your project. If the Project is part of a larger program or planting effort, include one sentence with more information. Examples include collaboration with other partners or how this project fits into a regional initiative.

Partnerships: Strong partnerships with the City of Austin, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Travis County, Bastrop County, Blanco County, and Hays County have meant regular and substantive support as we go about implementing the program. We have had the support of County and City administrations and have secured multi-year program funding from the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department through contracts and grant funding from Texas Parks and Wildlife through the Habitat and Angler Access Program. The City of Austin's Office of Sustainability continues its support through the purchase of carbon credits, which in turn serves the Austin Climate Equity Plan's goal of net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. This project marks the continuation of project plantings on public land with the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department and includes one public site owned by the City of Wimberley, who TreeFolks has partnered with for many years through previous post-flood reforestation efforts.

Outreach: Data from County Appraisal Districts was used to identify eligible parcels, due to the lack of canopy cover along riparian/floodplain area. TreeFolks' reforestation team presented on multiple occasions to regional partners and networking groups to create program awareness and communicated directly with leaders of Parks & Recreation Departments and County Parks departments within the seven-county service area. A partial list of community groups and partners include the International Society of Arboriculture Texas Chapter (ISAT), San Marcos Parks & Rec, Texas Riparian Association, Texas Forest Service, Regional Forestry Network, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, Hill Country Conservation Network, Hill Country Conservancy, Hill Country Alliance, Wilbarger Creek Conservation Alliance, Pines

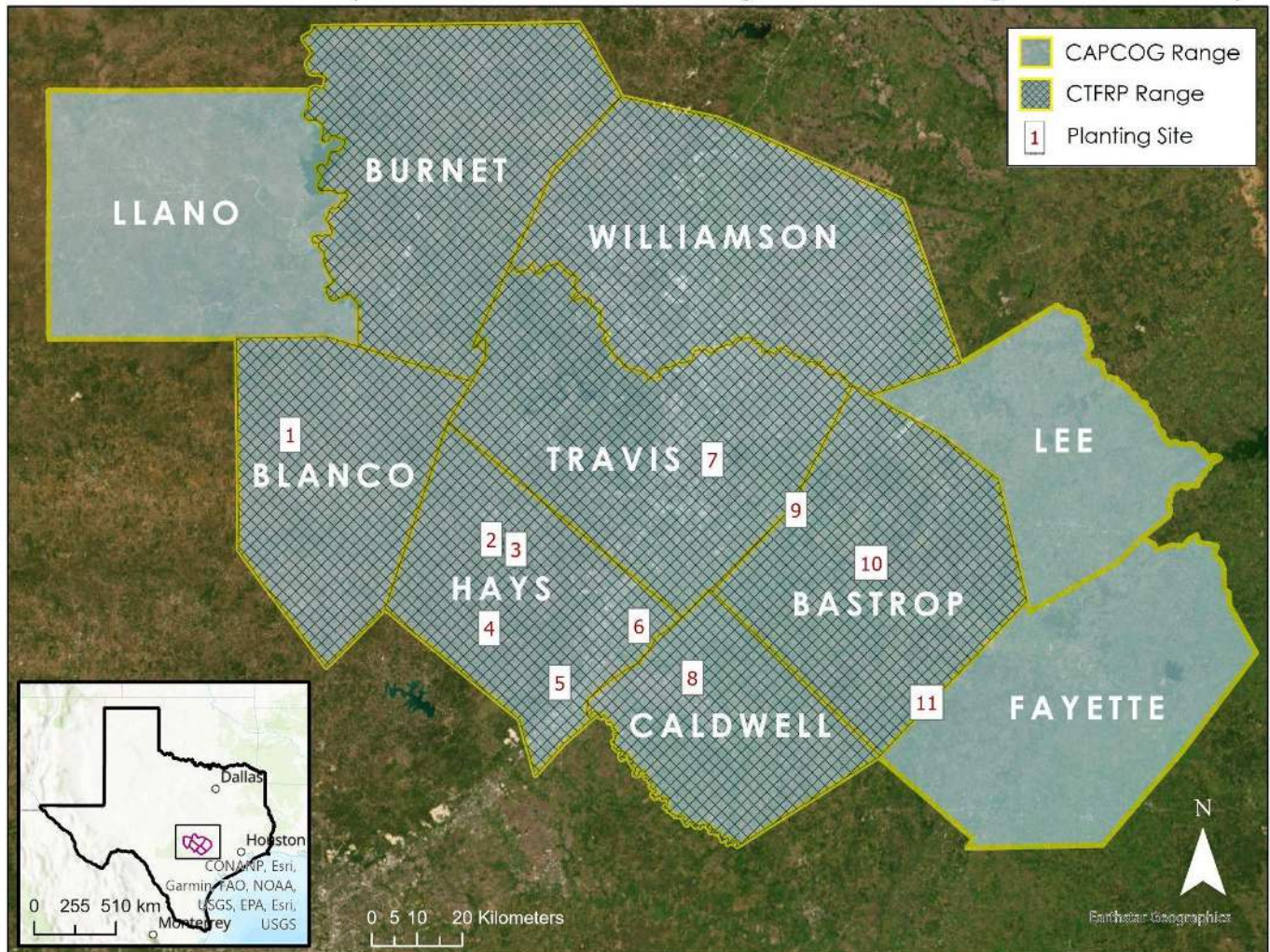
and Prairies Land Trust, Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership, City of Bastrop Parks & Rec, Bastrop County, City of Elgin Parks & Rec, Elgin Farmers Market, Austin Wildlands, and Travis County Parks.

Outreach methods also included advertising through TreeFolks' newsletter and social media channels, local news outlets and word-of-mouth.

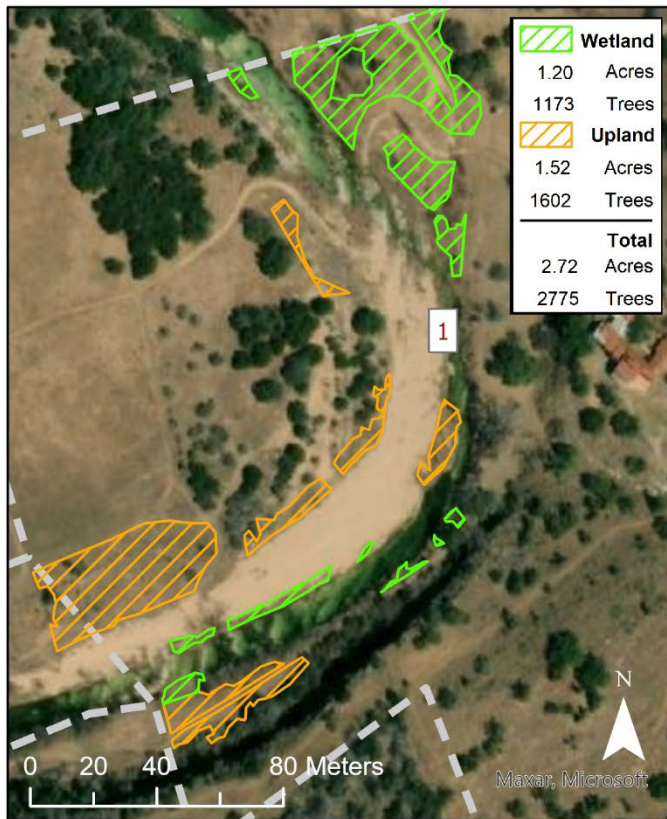
8. Map

Provide a map of the Project Area.

Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 22-23: Regional Site Map



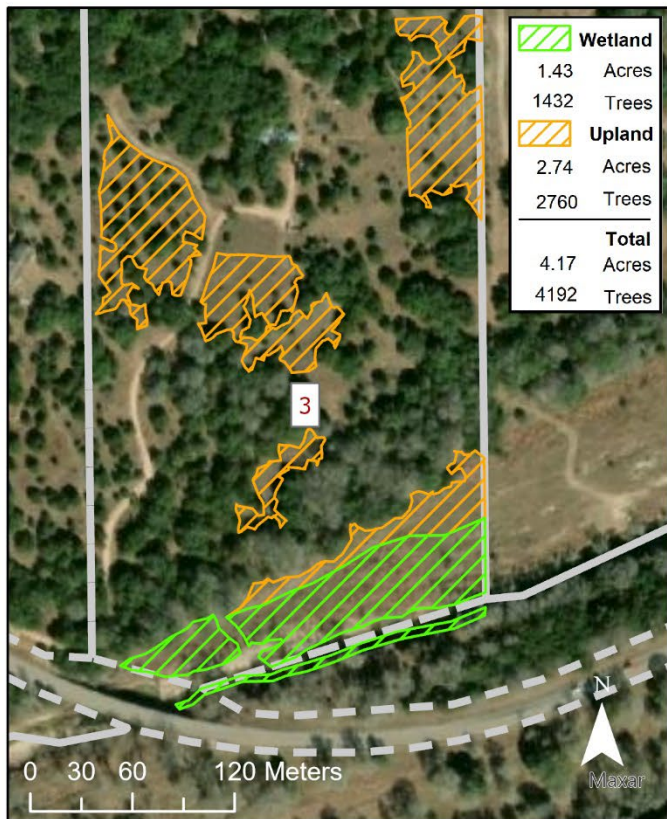
Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 22-23: Sites 1 - 4



Site 1: PID 18673 & 18674, Blanco County. Privately owned. Coordinates: 30.3345, -98.4853.



Site 2: PID R120992, Hays County. Privately owned. Coordinates: 30.1558, -98.0865.



Site 3: PID R11113, Hays County. Privately owned. Coordinates: 30.1450, -98.0478.

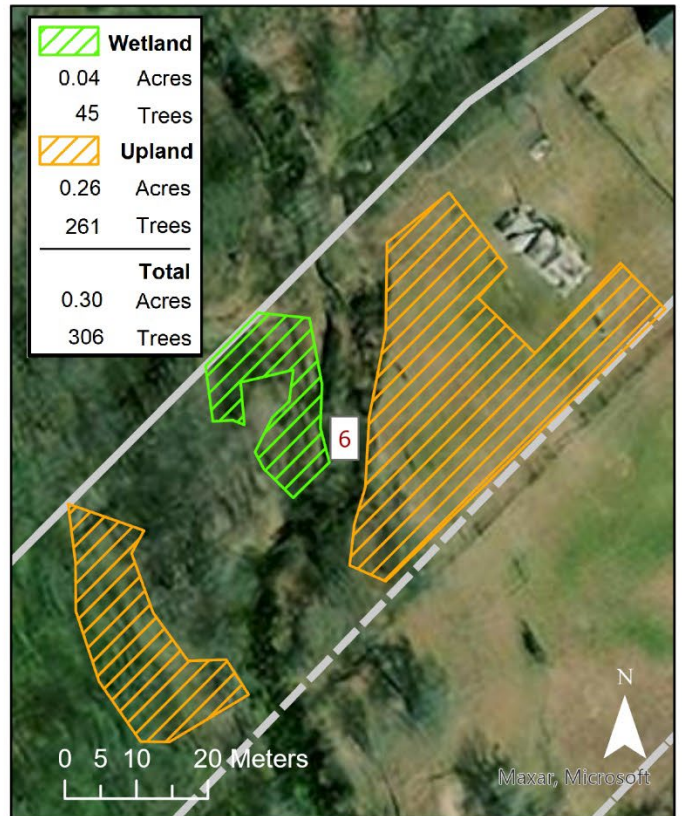


Site 4: PID 15756, Hays County. Publicly owned, Blue Hole Regional Park. Coordinates: 30.0038, -98.0907.

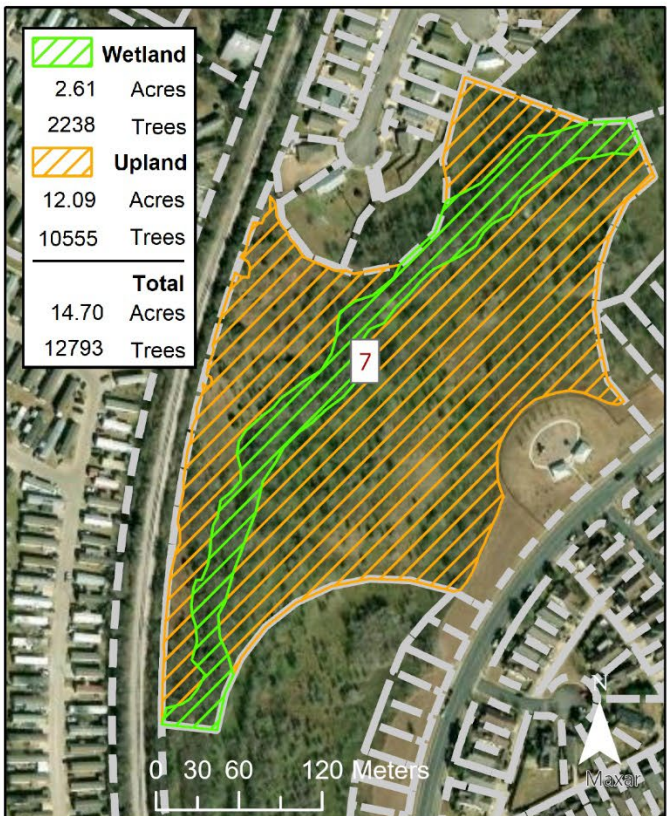
Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 22-23: Sites 5 - 8



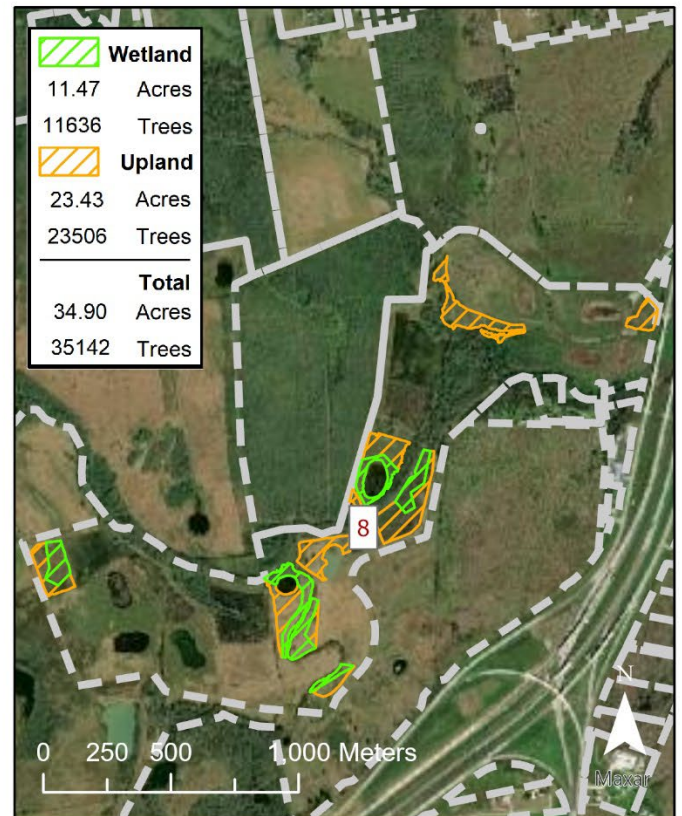
Site 5: PID 181529, Hays County. Privately owned. Coordinates: 29.9104, -97.9506.



Site 6: PID R105462, Hays County. Privately owned. Coordinates: 30.0079, -97.7939.



Site 7: PID 214123, Travis County. Publicly owned, Agave Neighborhood Park. Coordinates: 30.2921, -97.6483.

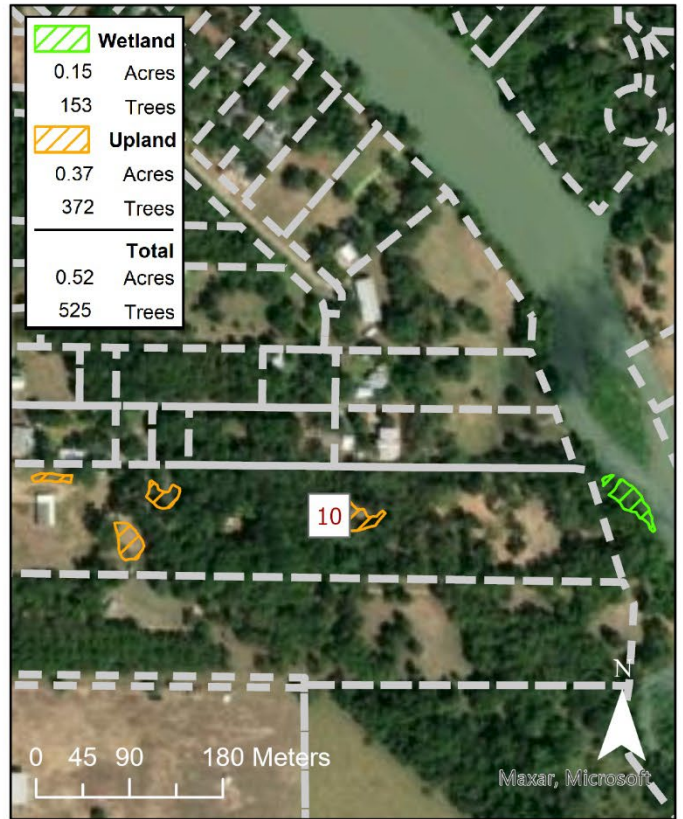


Site 8: PID 61214, Caldwell County. Privately owned, Plum Creek Preserve. Coordinates: 29.9192, -97.6876

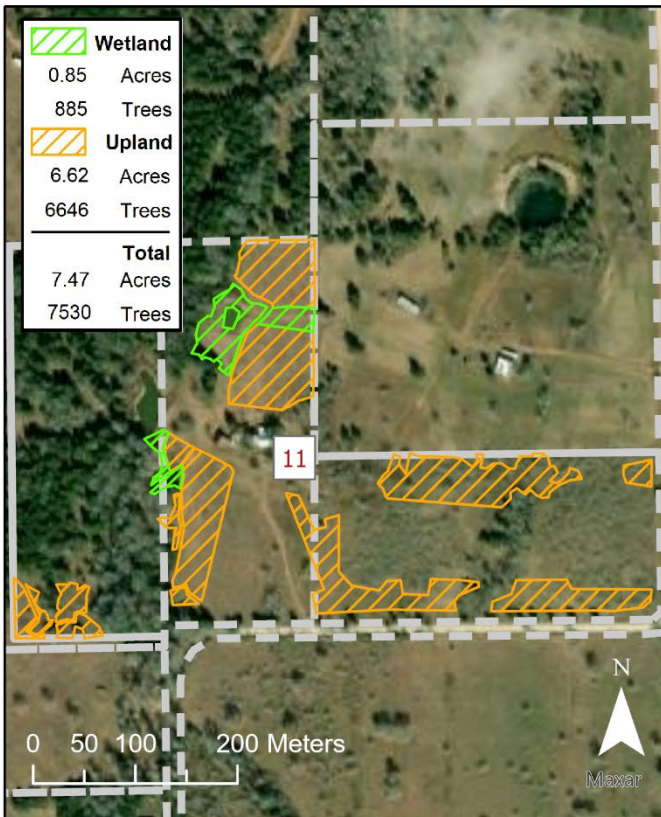
Central Texas Floodplain Reforestation Project 22-23: Sites 9 -11



Site 9: PID 11666, Bastrop County. Privately owned. Coordinates: 30.2065, -97.4822.

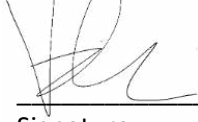


Site 10: PID R36848, Bastrop County. Privately owned. Coordinates: 30.1157, -97.3333



Site 11: PID 86733, 87222, & 88045, Bastrop County. Privately owned. Coordinates: 29.8769, -97.2230

Signed on March 31 in 2023, by Valerie Tamburri, Director of Reforestation and Lead Arborist, for TreeFolks.



Signature

Valerie Tamburri

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