



Black Fork Planting Validation Report

Document Prepared by City Forest Credits

July 29, 2024

PROJECT OVERVIEW

<i>Project Name</i>	Black Fork Planting Project
<i>Project Registry Number</i>	056
<i>Project Type</i>	Afforestation/Reforestation
<i>City Forest Credits Protocol Version</i>	Version 11, February 24, 2023
<i>Project Start Date</i>	November 14, 2023
<i>Project Location</i>	Mifflin Township, Richland County, Ohio
<i>Project Operator</i>	Western Reserve Land Conservancy

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.

This Validation Report is for the initial crediting after planting.

The Project Operator, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, planted 5,538 trees in both upland (62 acres) and wetland (26.4 acres) areas within Mifflin Township, Richland County, Ohio, which is within the Richland County Regional Planning Commission jurisdiction. The cluster planting design and quantification method was used for the project, with a goal to help restore the land to forest as it was previously systematically cleared and drained for agriculture. The project goals are to contribute to the larger restoration effort on this land, enhance the region’s water quality via reducing runoff, and improve biodiversity and wildlife benefits by planting a variety of oak and hickory species.

The project occurred within a 480-acre protected property owned by Natural Areas Land Conservancy, a supporting organization of Western Reserve Land Conservancy, with conservation restrictions held by Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

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

Western Reserve Land Conservancy, a 501c3 nonprofit corporation, is the Project Operator. To demonstrate that it is an entity organized and licensed under the laws of its jurisdiction, they provided their IRS Tax Exemption Letter, to City Forest Credits.

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 December 14, 2023 and all crediting documents were submitted by June 7, 2024, which was acceptable as the Registry granted the PO an extension. The date of planting the last project tree (November 14, 2023).

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

Western Reserve Land Conservancy and City Forest Credits signed a Project Implementation Agreement on January 10, 2024, for the Black Fork Planting Project (Project Registry Number 056). The project has a 26-year duration under City Forest Credits Afforestation and Reforestation Protocol Version 11.

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. 704 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 within the planning area for the Richland County Regional Planning Commission (RCRPC), which meets protocol criteria Section 1.4D. The Project Operator has provided maps as supporting evidence, including 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 5,538 planting sites over a seven-month period. The trees were planted between April 26, 2023, and November 14, 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

Natural Areas Land Conservancy (NALC), a supporting organization of Western Reserve Land Conservancy, is the landowner for the Black Fork Planting Project. NALC has granted the Project Operator the right to receive potential credits, meeting protocol criteria Section 1.7. The Project Operator provided an Agreement to Transfer Credits, signed by NALC and the Project Operator on January 25, 2024, 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 (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);
- Project Operators must sign and comply with a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry that requires a 26-year Project Duration.

Issue Validated

Project Operator has met the Legal Requirements Test that the trees were not planted due to an enacted ordinance or law. Project Operator used the Registry’s performance standard baseline in adherence with the WRI GHG Protocol, which is attached to the Project Design Document. Project Operator signed a Project Implementation Agreement with the Registry for a 26-year Project Duration.

Project Operator has signed an Attestation of Additionality that confirms the above, as well as stating 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 signed by Western Reserve Land Conservancy on January 25, 2024.

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, 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. The Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm was signed by Western Reserve Land Conservancy on January 25, 2024.

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 Cluster 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. Project Operator provided an Attestation of Planting Affirmation signed by Williams Forestry & Associates on February 26, 2024.

The Carbon Quantification Summary is as follows:

Total number of trees planted	5,538
Project area (acres), if applicable	88.4
Total number of trees per acre, if applicable	62.65
Credits attributed to the project (tCO ₂ e)	20,106.1
Credits after mortality deduction (default is 30%)	13,370.6
Contribution to Registry Reversal Pool Account (5%) (tCO ₂ e)	704
Total credits to be issued to the Project Operator (tCO₂e)	13,371
Total credits requested to be issued in Year 1 (10% of above)	1,337

GHG Assertion: Project Operator asserts that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 13,371 tons CO₂e. Per Protocol guidelines, 10% of the Project GHG emissions mitigation is issued after initial tree planting, or 1,337 tons CO₂e.

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.

Ecosystem Services	Resource Units	Value
Rainfall Interception (m ³ /yr)	34,377.88	\$246,113.43
Air Quality (t/yr)	1.0013	\$4,636.51
Energy: Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	944,323.10	\$71,674.12
Energy: Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	13,744,090.91	\$133,795.04
Grand Total (\$/yr)		\$456,219.10

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 CO2e 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. Monitoring will take place via staff members walking the Project Area regularly to ensure that the trees and restored wetlands are maintained and functioning as designed. The Project Operator will submit aerial imagery to show the growth progress of the planted trees, as well.

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 July 29, 2024 by Morgan Anya, Project Manager, 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 11.

Approved by City Forest Credits on July 29th in 2024.