

Hamilton County Natural Resources Assistance Council
Ohio Public Works Commission - District 2

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION PROGRAM
Scoring Methodology for Grant Applications

(For definition of terms, refer to attached Ohio Conservation Fund Glossary of Terms)

Project Name: _____
Applicant Name: _____
Applicant Contact: _____ State Code: _____
Rating Team: _____

PART I: PRELIMINARY SCREENING

YES NO

___ ___ Applicant is eligible entity (Note: NRAC Committee may require documentation of cost-effectiveness)

___ ___ Complete application received by deadline

___ ___ Applicant has included a soils map and a topographic map (soils maps are available through Hamilton Co. Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) District 29 Triangle Park Dr, Ste 2901 Sharonville, OH 45246 or call for a free Soil Survey book at 513/772-7645, or you can access these maps at:
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/soils/surveydata/tabid/9090/Default.aspx>

Topographic maps are available at the Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office, 138 E. Court St, Room 700, Cincinnati, OH 45202 513/946-4250, & at the Hamilton Co. SWCD, or at www.trails.com/maps.aspx, or www.cagis.org. To obtain a flood map visit the Hamilton Co. Public Works Dept., 138 E Court St, Room 800, Cincinnati, OH 45202 513-946-4750).

___ ___ Applicant has a signed letter of intent from seller, indicating he/she is willing to sell the subject property (or sell a conservation easement on it) for preservation purposes, and that this land or easement acquisition will be completed within 6 months of receiving grant (or funding may be revoked)

___ ___ Applicant has a certified appraisal. This must either be submitted with the original application submission, or it may be submitted to the NRAC District 2 Liason Office within 21 days following the application deadline date.

___ ___ Project funded during this round will be completed within 24 months of grant acceptance (or funding (may be revoked).

___ ___ NRAC Funds are **NOT** used to cover administrative costs (If yes, please list specific costs).

___ ___ Applicant is ready and able to complete project (if the project is not initiated within 6 months the grant may be revoked)

(if NO to any of the above statements then this project may be considered ineligible for review and funding)

Project purpose must involve at least one of the following from A. or B. below:

A. Open Space (per Ohio Revised Code Section 164.22 A)

___ acquires land for parks

___ acquires land for public forests

___ acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration

___ acquires land for natural areas protecting endangered species

___ acquires land for other natural areas, including hillsides and valleys

- _____ acquires land for connecting corridors for natural areas
- _____ openspace acquisition
- _____ permanent conservation easement
- _____ constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make open space area accessible & useable by the general public

B. Riparian Corridors or Watersheds (per Ohio Revised Code Section 164.22 B)

- _____ Protects or enhances riparian corridors and watersheds, including the protection and enhancement of streams, rivers and other waters of the state. (Affected watersheds or sub-watersheds must be identified)

C. Would the project:

YES NO

- _____ _____ initiate or perpetuate hydromodification projects such as dams, ditch development or channelization?
- _____ _____ fund current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation, expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances?
- _____ _____ fund facilities other than those required to provide public access to or use of openspace?
- _____ _____ fund facilities for active recreation, such as (but not limited to) tennis courts, ball fields, fountains or recreation centers.
- _____ _____ fund bridges (other than foot bridges) paved walks and bike trails (with NRAC funds)
- _____ _____ is any part of the project outside the boundaries of Hamilton County, while seeking funding solely through the NRAC District 2?

If Yes to any of the above in Section C, the project is ineligible (Section 164.22, ORC).

If project meets Part I requirements (Preliminary Screening), continue to Part II, III and IV.

Any applicant submitting false, misleading documentation in any application shall be excluded from funding consideration in the particular program year being applied for. Furthermore the applicant shall be penalized in future funding years up to 5 points a year for a maximum of 2 years.

PART II: PROJECT EMPHASIS

NRAC's shall consider all the following in approving or disapproving a grant: Does the project emphasize (document in application) the following pursuant to Section 164.22, ORC? TWO (2) POINTS EACH (36 POINT MAXIMUM). Please refer to Glossary of Terms.

OPEN SPACE

1. _____ reduces or eliminates non-native, invasive species of plants (and revegetates with native species). Documentation must include a planting and maintenance plan.
2. _____ preserves or increases high quality, viable habitat for plant or animal species where the forest canopy or native vegetation covers greater than 50% of the area (less than 50% but more than 25% - 1pt).
3. _____ includes linkages to other parks, openspace/greenspace preserves, and/or lower income areas.
4. _____ supports openspace/greenspace planning, and preserves lands as recommended within previously identified planning or natural resource management documents.
5. _____ provides access to natural areas that result in recreational, economic, or aesthetic preservation benefits.
6. _____ provides or enhances areas where safe fishing, hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems.

RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

7. _____ preserves or restores functioning floodplains, including groundwater recharge areas (documentation must be provided through a flood plain map).
8. _____ preserves or restores natural stream channels.
9. _____ preserves or restores streamside forests, native vegetation or adjacent habitat.
10. _____ preserves existing high quality wetlands or restores wetlands (documentation must be provided including a wetlands map, and/or written documentation by a certified professional).

PART II. Continued

11. _____ permanent acquisition of riparian corridors, watersheds, forested hillsides, or greenspace linkages.
12. _____ plants vegetation or reforests lands for filtration to improve water quality, or to control stormwater runoff.

PART II SCORE: _____

PART III: NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY - Required

NRAC's shall consider the following in approving or disapproving a grant:

1. Percentage of Clean Ohio matching funds necessary to complete project
(Local match can include bargain sales, where seller provides at least a 25% price reduction below fair market value as a matching contribution). **Local match cannot include any demolition costs, and demolition costs will not be funded with Clean Ohio Fund money.**

_____ 75 % _____ 74-70% _____ 69-65% _____ 64-60% _____ <60%
(required-0 pts) (2 pts) (6 pts) (8 pts) (10 pts)

2. Level of collaborative participation: Participation means active involvement through in-kind services or funding as defined by District 2 NRAC (LETTER OF SUPPORT IS REQUIRED). (give 1 point if any of the following are met up to a maximum of 3 pts):

_____ local political subdivisions _____ state agencies _____ federal agencies

_____ community organizations _____ conservation organizations _____ local business groups

3. Level of conservation coordination with other Openspace, Riparian Corridor, Farmland Protection or Urban Revitalization Projects under the Clean Ohio Fund in this or other Public Works Commission districts (PLEASE DOCUMENT).

_____ is a joint project in more than one district (2 pts)

_____ is a joint project in this district (1 pt)

_____ carries out an adopted community, watershed or other plan overlapping another district (1 pt)

4. Community benefits: documentable economic, social/recreational or environmental benefits the proposed project will bring to the geographical area represented by the NRAC as compared to other projects. (If yes, 2 points)

5. Extent of public access once project is completed (if applicable check one, maximum 2 pts)

_____ The project includes the construction or enhancement of facilities (not funded by NRAC) that are necessary to

make an open space area accessible and useable by the general public (2 pts).

_____ Is a fee simple acquisition of lands for the purpose of making riparian corridors accessible and useable by the general public (2 pts).

6. Operation and Maintenance once project is completed

- _____ operation plan and infrastructure (including equipment, personnel and/or contracted services) in place (4 pts)
- _____ operation plan, no infrastructure (including equipment, personnel and/or contracted services) (2 pts)
- _____ limited operation plan, volunteers available (please document volunteer support) (1 pt)
- _____ no operation or maintenance plan in place (0 pts)

7. Project Management Experience of similar or related projects)DOCEMENTATION REQUIRED IN APPLICATION)

- _____ successfully completed 3-5 similar projects in the last 10 years (3 pts)
- _____ successfully completed 1-2 similar projects in the last 5 years (2 pts)
- _____ has partnered on at least one similar project in the last 5 years (1 pt)

PART III SCORE: _____

PART IV: COMPLIANCE WITH HAMILTON COUNTY PRIORITIES

The NRAC may adopt additional criteria which reflect local priorities as long as the criteria compliment, and do not negate, PARTS 1-111 which carry out ORC Sec. 164.20-164.27.

1. Community Planning: Project is in concert with publicly-adopted regional, local neighborhood or community advisory association plan, watershed plan, or greenspace plan (may include adoption by governing bodies, planning commissions, park districts or similar boards or commissions appointed by the governing body of a political jurisdiction). (3 pts).
2. Natural Resource Viability: How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project (VERIFIABLE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED) (give 1 point for each that applies, 3 point maximum):
 - _____ protects a federally listed endangered species or biological community
 - _____ protects more than 5 State Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered species
 - _____ protects 1-5 State NHI ranked rare species
 - _____ protects a high quality example of a regionally endangered biological community
 - _____ protects a threatened biological community or important example of Ohio's natural heritage. Part IV, 4
3. Project preserves or naturally restores steep hillsides with slopes of 20% or greater and/or project preserves or naturally restores steep slopes of 20% or greater in combination with stream bank erosion control measures (3 pts).
4. Project preserves or enhances undeveloped lands along viewsheds of major highway and transportation corridors (3 pts).
5. Project preserves headwater streams - include topo map - (3 pts)
6. Project protects highly erodable lands or hydric soils (3 pts).
7. Project addresses a situation where action must be taken now or opportunity will be lost forever (3 pts) (Documenting evidence as to how opportunity will be lost must be submitted)
8. Project acquisition is: a) 3-5 acres in size (3 pts)
b) less than 3 acres (5pts)

PART IV SCORE: _____

SUMMARY SCORE:

PART II _____
PART III _____
PART IV _____
TOTAL _____

RANKING AMONG ALL PROJECTS: _____
