

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 the 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 soils map and a topographic map (soil maps are available through Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation (SWCD) District 29 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 2901 Sharonville, OH 45246 or call for a free Soil Survey book at (513) 772-7645, or you can access the map at: <a href="http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/soils/survey_data/tabid/9090/default.aspx">http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/soils/survey_data/tabid/9090/default.aspx</a> Topographic maps are available at the Hamilton County Engineer’s Office, 138 East Court St., Room 700, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, & at the Hamilton County SWCD, or at <a href="http://www.trails.com/maps.aspx">www.trails.com/maps.aspx</a> , or <a href="http://www.cagis.org">www.cagis.org</a> . To obtain a flood map visit the Hamilton County Public Works Dept. 138 East Court St., Room 800, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (513) 946-4750)
_____	_____	Applicant has 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 certified appraisal. This must either be submitted with the original application submission, or it may be submitted to the NRAC District 2 Liaison Office within 21 days following the application deadline date.
_____	_____	Project funded during this round will be completed with 24 months of grant acceptance (or funding may be revoked)
_____	_____	NRAC Funds are <b>NOT</b> used to cover administrative costs (If yes, please list specific costs)

YES	NO	
_____	_____	Applicant is ready and able to complete project (if the project is not initiated within 6 months the grant may be revoked)
_____	_____	Applicant has included a copy of the draft deed restrictions covering the property (provided in Exhibit 1) as they will be submitted to the State if said project is approved

*(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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Open space acquisition
- \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent conservation easement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make open space accessible and usable 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 hydro-modification 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 open space
_____	_____	Fund facilities for active recreation, such as (but not limited to) tennis courts, ball fields, fountains or recreation centers

**YES**                      **NO**

\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_                      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 funds solely through the NRAC District 2

*If **YES** to any of the above in Section C, this project is ineligible (Section 164.22 ORC)  
If project meets Part I requirements (Preliminary Screening), continue to Part II, III & 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 (24 POINT MAXIMUM)**. Please refer to Glossary Terms.

**OPEN SPACE**

1.        \_\_\_\_\_                      Reduces or eliminates non-native, invasive species of plants (and regenerates 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 forest canopy or native vegetation covers greater than 50% of the area (less than 50% but more than 25% - 1 point).
3.        \_\_\_\_\_                      Includes linkage to other parks, open space/green space preserves, and/or lower income areas.
4.        \_\_\_\_\_                      Supports open space/green space planning, and preserves lands as recommended within previously identified panning or natural resource management areas.
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).

- 11. \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent acquisition of riparian corridors, watersheds, forested hillsides, or green space linkages.
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_ Plants vegetation or reforests lands for filtration to improve quality, or to control storm water 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 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%
(0 points) required	(2 points)	(6 points)	(8 points)	(10 points)

- 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 points.

_____ Local political subdivision	_____ State agencies	_____ Federal agencies
_____ Community organizations	_____ Conservation organizations	
_____ Local business groups		

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Is a joint project in more than one OPWC district (2 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Is a joint project in this particular OPWC district (1 point)

\_\_\_\_\_ Carries out an adopted community, watershed or other plan overlapping another district (If yes, 2 points)

- 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 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is a fee simple acquisition of lands for the purpose of making riparian corridors accessible and useable by the general public (2 points)

6. Operation and maintenance once project is completed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Operational infrastructure (including equipment, personnel and/or contracted services) in place (3 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Limited operational infrastructure – volunteers available (please document volunteer support (1 point)
- \_\_\_\_\_ No operational infrastructure in place (0 points)
7. Project management experience of similar and related projects (DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED IN APPLICATION)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Successfully completed 3-5 similar projects in last 10 years (3 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Successfully completed 1-2 similar projects in last 5 years (2 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has partnered on at least on similar project in the last 5 years (1 point)

**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 I – III which carry out ORC Section 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 green space plan (may include adoption by governing bodies, planning commissions, park districts or similar boards or commissions appointed b the governing body of a political jurisdiction (3 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_
2. Natural Resources 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 mare than 5 State Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered species
- \_\_\_\_\_ Protects 1-5 State NHI 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.
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 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_
4. Project preserves or enhances undeveloped land along viewsheds of major highway and transportation corridors (3 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_

