

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

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION PROGRAM
Scoring Methodology for Grant Applications - 2006

(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.

___ ___ 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).

___ ___ 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 tennis courts, ball fields or recreation centers.
- ___ ___ fund bridges other than foot bridges, walk/bike trails (with NRAC funds)

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).
2. ___ preserves or increases high quality, viable habitat for plant or animal species, including native species.
3. ___ preserves or restores other natural features that contribute to quality of life and state's natural heritage.
4. ___ incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design including sensitivity to the terrain, natural resources and heritage of the property.
5. ___ enhances educational opportunities and provides physical links to schools and after school centers.
6. ___ includes linkages to other parks, openspace/greenspace preserves, population centers, and lower income areas.
7. ___ supports openspace/greenspace planning, and preserves lands as recommended within previously identified planning or natural resource management documents.
8. ___ provides access to natural areas that result in recreational, economic, or aesthetic preservation benefits.
9. ___ provides or enhances areas where safe fishing, hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems.
10. ___ enhances economic development that relies on recreation and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment

RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

12. ___ preserves or restores functioning floodplains, including groundwater recharge areas.
13. ___ preserves or restores water quality and/or aquatic biological communities.
14. ___ preserves or restores natural stream channels.
15. ___ preserves or restores streamside forests, native vegetation or adjacent habitat.
16. ___ preserves existing high quality wetlands or restores wetlands.

PART II. Continued

- 17. ____ permanent acquisition of riparian corridors, watersheds, forested hillsides, or greenspace linkages.
- 18. ____ plants vegetation or reforests lands for filtration to improve water quality, or to control stormwater runoff.
- 19. ____ preserves headwater streams.

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).

____ 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 protects highly erodable lands or hydric soils (3 pts).
6. 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)

PART IV SCORE: _____

SUMMARY SCORE:

PART II _____
PART III _____
PART IV _____
TOTAL _____

RANKING AMONG ALL PROJECTS: _____
