

Clean Ohio Conservation Program – Round 15
NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part I
Preliminary Screening

Applicant Name: _____

Contact: _____

Rating Team: _____

	Yes	No
<i>Applicant is eligible entity (all statements below must apply)</i>	_____	_____
- All parcels in project are adjacent to each other, contiguous to each other or linked to each other by permanently protected parcels (applicant to provide evidence of permanent protection)		
- A Purchase agreement, option to purchase, or letter of intent from applicant’s counsel providing evidence that acquisition will take place within in one year has been provided and reflects a “readiness to proceed.”		
<i>Complete application received by deadline</i>	_____	_____
- All required forms in application must be provided and executed at submission		
- All required resolutions in application must be submitted by scoring meeting		
- All supporting documents justifying expected methodology points provided		
- Project completion date reflects a “readiness to proceed” as required in ORC 164.24(A)(10) and of no more than 2 years after project award		

If NO is checked on either of the above statements - project is not eligible to be considered

Project must obtain both a minimum overall score of 50 points in the methodology and minimum score of 12 points in Section II to be eligible for funding.

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

A. Open Space (ORC Section 164.22A)

- _____ acquires land for parks
- _____ acquires land for forests
- _____ acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration
- _____ acquires land for natural areas protecting rare, threatened, or endangered species
- _____ acquires land for other natural areas
- _____ acquires land for connecting corridors for natural areas
- _____ open space acquisition
- _____ permanent conservation easement
- _____ constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make open space area accessible and useable by the general public

B. Riparian Corridors or Watersheds (ORC Section 164.22B)

- _____ protects or enhances riparian corridors or watersheds including the protection and enhancement of streams, rivers, and other waters of the state.

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 tennis courts, ball fields, or recreation centers)?	_____	_____

If Yes to any in C above, the project is ineligible - ORC Section 164.22
If project meets Part I requirements (Preliminary Screening), proceed to Part II.

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NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part II: Select Either Section A or Section B

*Total Possible Points: 24 (minimum 12 pts required to be eligible for funding)
(Two points for each Section A or Section B question)*

The NRAC shall consider all the following in approving or disapproving a grant: Does the project, as documented in the application, emphasize the following pursuant to ORC Section 164.22. Please refer to Glossary of Terms. NRAC shall review applications for projects that propose to do either Section A or Section B of the following:

Section A: Open space acquisition and related development of those open spaces: Open space acquisition (land or rights) projects: parks, forests, wetlands, natural areas for rare, threatened or endangered species, other natural areas, connecting corridors for natural areas and/or Related development of those open spaces (including acquisition of easements) include projects for the construction or enhancement of facilities that are necessary to make an open space area accessible and useable by the general public. *(NRAC may grant 0 -2 points for each)*

1. _____ protects or restores breeding habitat for endangered (S1), threatened (S2) or rare (S3) species (as defined by the Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves or Ohio Division of Wildlife) on the project site or on a contiguous site with a verifiably high likelihood that these species would then inhabit the project site
2. _____ preserves native plant communities, park lands, or linkages to other natural areas
3. _____ reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals
4. _____ preserves high quality, viable habitat for plant or animal species
5. _____ preserves existing high quality wetlands or restores wetlands
6. _____ includes pedestrian/bicycle linkages to other openspace preserves and population centers
7. _____ included or defined in existing comprehensive openspace plan
8. _____ enhances environmental and conservation educational opportunities or provides physical links to schools and after-school centers
9. _____ allows proper management of areas where safe fishing, hunting, or trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve or restore balanced natural ecosystems
10. _____ enhances economic development that relies on nature-based recreation and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment
11. _____ fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to open space
12. _____ acquisition of permanent conservation easements protecting open space (conservation easements defined in Glossary of Terms)

NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part II (cont'd):

Select Either Section A or Section B

Total Possible Points: 24 (minimum 12 pts required to be eligible for funding)

(Two points for each Section A or Section B question)

Section B: Protect and enhance riparian corridors or watersheds including protection and enhancement of streams, rivers, lakes, and other waters of the state. Projects may include reforestation or re-vegetation, fee simple purchase or conservation easements to provide access to riparian corridors/watersheds or for protection/enhancement of riparian corridors/watersheds. *(NRAC may grant 0 -2 points for each)*

13. _____ preserves or restores breeding habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species (as defined by the Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves or Ohio Division of Wildlife) on the project site or on a contiguous site with a verifiably high likelihood that these species would then inhabit the project site
14. _____ preserves headwater streams or high-quality riparian wetlands
15. _____ preserves or restores functioning floodplains
16. _____ preserves or restores water quality, including groundwater recharge areas
17. _____ preserves or restores natural stream channels
18. _____ preserves or restores streamside forests to improve water quality
19. _____ fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to riparian corridors or natural lakeshores
20. _____ acquisition of permanent conservation easements protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds (conservation easements defined in Glossary of Terms)
21. _____ reduces or eliminates non-native, invasive species of plants or animals
22. _____ plants native vegetation for filtration to improve water quality
23. _____ provides multiple recreational, economic, and/or aesthetic preservation benefits
24. _____ enhances economic development that relies on nature-based recreation and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment

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NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part III

Total Possible Points: 46

The NRAC shall consider all the following in approving or disapproving a grant:

1. **Percentage of Local Matching Funds To Be Provided For The Project:** Local match may include bargain sales, where seller provides a price reduction below fair market value as a matching contribution. **(Maximum 5 points)**

25% (required)
 26-32% (1 point)
 33-38% (2 points)
 39-44% (3 points)
 45-50% (4 points)
 >50% (5 points)

2. **Level of Collaborative Participation:** Participation means substantive involvement towards the completion of the project through in-kind services or funding (written documentation required; minimum cash donation of \$500). **(1 point for each category; maximum 2 points)** **Applicant may not count itself as a participant.**

local political subdivisions state agencies federal agencies
 community organizations conservation organizations local business groups
 other private participation

3. **Level of Coordination:** Coordination means project carries out goals of multiple agencies or organizations (written documentation required). **(1 point for each category; maximum 2 points).** **Applicant may not count itself as a participant.**

local political subdivisions state agencies federal agencies
 community organizations conservation organizations

4. **Level of Conservation Coordination with other Openspace, Riparian Corridor, Trails, Farmland Protection or Urban Revitalization Projects under the Clean Ohio Fund in other Public Works Commission districts. (Maximum 1 point)**

represents a joint project and carries out an adopted community, watershed, or other plan overlapping another NRAC district (1 point)

NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part III (cont'd)

Total Possible Points: 40

5. Public Access Once Project Is Completed. (Maximum 5 points)

___ physical access (up to 5 points)

___ visual access (up to 3 points)

6. Land Management Plan. (Maximum 3 points)

___ existing land management plan (must be project or site specific)

7. Project Management Experience With Similar or Related Projects. (Maximum 3 points)

___ applicant/partners demonstrate high ability/experience to complete project (3 points)

___ applicant/partners demonstrate moderate ability/experience to complete project (2 points)

___ applicant/partners demonstrate limited ability/experience to complete project (1 point)

8. As of the date of OPWC-NRAC District 7 meeting to score new applications, if the applicant has outstanding projects over 24 months old from OPWC's release date, deduct 5 points per outstanding project.

Projects _____ x 5 points = _____ points deducted

9. Amount of NRAC funding requested:

___ less than \$200,000 (4 points)

___ \$200,000 - \$399,999 (3 points)

___ \$400,000 - \$599,999 (2 points)

___ \$600,000 - \$799,999 (1 point)

___ \$800,000 or more (0 points)

10. Is this a previously funded Clean Ohio Greenspace acquisition project being submitted that includes ~~for~~ related development as defined in ORC 164.22A?

___ No (15 points)

___ Yes (0 points)

11. All required resolutions were submitted by application deadline?

___ No (5 points deducted)

___ Yes (0 points)

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NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part IV

Total Possible Points: 30

Questions 1, 2, and 3 pertain to the proposed project in comparison to the other proposed projects:

- 1. Community Benefits: Relative economic, social/recreational and environmental benefits the proposed project will bring to the geographical area represented by the NRAC.**
(Maximum 10 points)
____ economic (0-1 point) ____ social/recreational (0-3 points) ____ environmental (0-6 points)

- 2. Cost Effectiveness of Clean Ohio funding necessary to complete the project. (Maximum 6 points)**
____ *When evaluating this item, the NRAC will consider whether a project is:*
 - a. cost effective for a project of its acreage
 - b. cost effective for a project of its length in stream miles or natural lakeshore miles
 - c. cost effective for a project of its rarity
 - d. cost effectively links permanently preserved areas
 - e. cost effectively preserves large blocks of high quality natural areas
 - f. cost effectively provides access to the public
 - g. other considerations

- 3. Natural Resource Rarity: How important is the project to the protection of the natural resources affected by the project?**
(Maximum 9 points)
____ protects a globally endangered species or biological community (4 points)
____ protects a high quality example of a state endangered or threatened biological community or an important example of Ohio's natural heritage (3 points)
____ protects 1-5 state Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) ranked rare species (2 points)

- 4. Project addresses a situation where action must be taken now or opportunity will be lost forever - documenting evidence as to how opportunity will be lost must be submitted**
(Maximum 5 points)