

DISTRICT 19 SCORING METHODOLOGY
Natural Resources Assistance Council

Applicant Name: _____
Applicant Contact: _____
Rating Team: _____

PART I: PRELIMINARY SCREENING -- Required

YES NO

_____ _____ Applicant is eligible entity
_____ _____ Complete application received by deadline

Project purpose must involve at least one of the following from A. or B. below (ORC 164.24(A)(1)):

A. Open Space (Sec. 164.22 A)

_____ acquires land for parks
_____ acquires land for public forests
_____ acquires land for wetlands preservation or restoration
_____ acquires land for natural areas protecting 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 & useable by the general public

B. Riparian Corridors or Watersheds (Sec. 164.22 B)

_____ 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 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?

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

If projects meets Preliminary Scoring Requirements move on to Page 2

District 19 NRAC shall consider all the following in approving or disapproving a grant (ORC 164.24(A)(1) & (A)(7)): Does the project emphasize (document in application) the following pursuant to Section 164.22, ORC? One point for each, 24 points maximum. Please refer to Glossary of Terms.

1. ____ protects habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species
2. ____ increases habitat protection for a variety of native species
3. ____ reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals
4. ____ preserves high quality, viable habitat for plant or animal species
5. ____ restores and preserves aquatic biological communities
6. ____ preserves headwater streams
7. ____ preserves or restores functioning floodplains
8. ____ preserves or restores water quality
9. ____ preserves or restores natural stream channels
10. ____ preserves or restores streamside forests
11. ____ preserves existing high-quality wetlands or restores wetlands
12. ____ preserves or restores other natural features that contribute to quality of life and state's natural heritage
13. ____ fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to riparian corridors
14. ____ acquisition of easements protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds
15. ____ reforests land to improve water quality
16. ____ plants vegetation for filtration to improve water quality
17. ____ incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design including sensitivity to the terrain, natural resources and heritage of the property
18. ____ enhances educational opportunities and provides physical links to schools and after school centers
19. ____ supports comprehensive open space planning
20. ____ provides multiple recreational, economic and aesthetic preservation benefits
21. ____ allows proper management of areas where safe fishing, hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems
22. ____ enhances economic development that relies on recreation and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment
23. ____ one of the above checked items was previously adopted as a priority for NRAC District 19
24. ____ A second of the above checked items was previously adopted as a priority for NRAC District 19

Part II SCORE: _____

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY --Part III-- Required 34 points maximum

District 19 NRAC shall consider the following in approving or disapproving a grant in compliance with ORC 164.24:

1. **Percentage of matching funds** necessary to complete project: (no rounding) (164.24(A)(2) & 164.24(A)(3)).

_____ 25% _____ 26-32% _____ 33-43% _____ 44-49% _____ 50% or more
(Required) (3 points) (5 points) (7 points) (10 points)

2. **Level of coordination:** (.5 points each) Coordination means project carries out goals of multiple agencies, organizations (164.24(A)(4)).

_____ local political subdivisions _____ state agencies _____ federal agencies
_____ community organizations _____ conservation organizations

3. **Level of conservation coordination** with projects under the jurisdiction of other NRACs, or the Brownfield Revitalization Fund (ORC 164.24(A)(5)).

_____ is a joint project (1.5 points)
_____ carries out an adopted community, watershed or other plan overlapping another district (1 point)

4. **Community benefits:** Relative economic, social/recreational and environmental benefits the proposed project will bring to the geographical area represented by the NRAC as compared to other projects (ORC 164.24(A)(6)).

_____ economic _____ social/recreational _____ environmental
(.5 points) (.5 points) (.5 points)

5. **Extent of public access** once project is completed (ORC 164.24(A)(8)):

_____ open days and weekends (5 points)
_____ open limited, but regular hours (3 points)
_____ open by appointment or with written permission (1 point)

6. **Operation and Maintenance** once project is completed

_____ operation plan and infrastructure, if appropriate, in place (5 points)
_____ operation plan, no infrastructure (3 points)
_____ limited operation plan, volunteers available, no infrastructure (1 point)

7. **Project Management Experience** of similar or related projects

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

8. **Clean Ohio funding** necessary to complete the project: (.5 points each)

_____ cost effective for a project of its acreage or its length in stream miles
_____ cost effective for a project of its rarity
_____ cost effectively links permanently preserved areas
_____ cost effectively preserves large blocks of high-quality natural areas
_____ cost effectively protects or enhances riparian corridor

Part III SCORE: _____ + Part II SCORE _____ = Parts II & III SCORE: _____

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY -- Part IV -- Other Factors **41 points maximum** Page 4

The District 19 NRAC has adopted additional criteria which reflect local priorities that compliment and do not negate Parts I-III which carry out ORC Sec. 164.20-164.27.

1. **Community Planning:** Project is in concert with publicly adopted regional, community plan or watershed plan
_____ project identified as important in the plan (7.5 points)
_____ area identified as important in the plan (5 points)
_____ project would be consistent with plan (2.5 points)

2. **Regional Significance:** What is the regional significance of the proposed project?
_____ project will benefit a multi county area (4 points)
_____ project benefits multiple local political subdivisions within one county (2 points)
_____ project benefits single political subdivision within one county (1 point)

3. **Natural Resource Viability:** How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project?
_____ protects a globally endangered species or biological community (2.5 points)
_____ protects more than 5 state Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered species (2 points)
_____ protects 1-5 state NHI ranked rare species (1.5 points)
_____ protects a high-quality example of a regionally endangered biological community (1 point)
_____ protects a threatened biological community or important example of Ohio's natural heritage (.5 points)

4. **Readiness to proceed factors (ORC 164.24(A)(10)):**
_____ purchase all property within 6 months (12 points)
_____ purchase first property within 6 months and all property within 1 year (9 points)
_____ construction plans complete (7.5 points)
_____ purchase all property within 1 year (6 points)
_____ purchase all property within 2 years (3 points)

5. **Other Project Factors:** (Board Discretion)
_____ project addresses a situation where action must be taken for preservation now or opportunity will be lost forever (up to 10 points)
_____ other factors important to the project (up to 5 points)

TOTAL Part IV: _____ + Parts II and III _____ = TOTAL SCORE: _____

Ranking among all projects _____