

**Ohio Public Works Commission
District 2 Natural Resources Assistance Council
Clean Ohio Conservation Program**

**Scoring Methodology for Grant Applications
10/27/2020**

Project Name: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Contact: _____ **State Code:** _____

Rating Team: _____

Part One - Preliminary Screening

Yes No

- () () Applicant is eligible entity (per ORC Section 164.24(A)(9)).
- () () Complete application received by deadline.
- () () Includes a soils map and topographical map.
Soil maps are available through Hamilton Co. Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) 1325 E. Kemper Road #115, Cincinnati, OH 45246 or call for a free Soil Survey book at 513-772-7645, or can be accessed at: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/soils/surveydata/tabid/9090/Default.aspx>
Topographic maps are available at the Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office, 128 E. Court St., Room 700, Cincinnati, OH 45202, and at the Hamilton Co. SWCD, or at www.trails.com/maps.aspx
To obtain a flood map visit the Hamilton Co. Public Works Dept., 128 E Court St., Room 800, Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-946-4750 or Hamilton Co. SWCD
- () () Includes a signed letter of intent **or purchase agreement** from the seller, indicating their willingness to sell the subject property (or conservation easement on it) for preservation purposes, and that this land or easement acquisition will be completed within twelve (12) months of receiving project agreement.
- () () Includes a certified appraisal report performed by an ODOT prequalified appraiser. This must either be submitted with the original application submission, or it may be submitted to the NRAC District 2 Liaison Officer within 21 calendar days following the application deadline. The certified appraisal must be a recent appraisal dated no older than 12 months. **NOTE:** This appraisal shall be conducted at the request of the applicant (and not the seller of the subject property). A list of ODOT prequalified appraisers is found in the Appendices section of the Applicant Guidelines, can be found at www.OPWC.state.oh.us/GSCdefault.html. Click on Green Space Conservation bar at top of screen. Then under the links on the left side of page, click on Application for Assistance. Then, under appraisal information, click on ODOT Prequalified Appraisers link. **For NRAC review purposes only, a restricted appraisal report will be accepted but must be followed up with a full appraisal report to OPWC before Approval to Proceed will be granted.**

- () () Acquisition will be completed within 12 months of grant acceptance; Site Improvements will be completed within 24 months after acquisition is completed (per ORC Section 164.24(A)(10)).
- () () NRAC funds are not to be used to cover administrative costs.
- () () Includes 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.
- () () Includes documentation to support scoring for Part 2, 3 & 4, including referencing each answer by page number next to the line item, noting where the documentation is to be found.

If any statement is answered NO, the project must be considered ineligible for review and funding!

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

A. Open Space (per ORC 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
- Acquires land that results in recreational, social, economic, or aesthetic preservation benefits
- Open space acquisition
- Permanent conservation easement
- Constructs or enhances facilities required to make open space accessible & useable by the public

B. Riparian Corridors or Wetlands (per ORC 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 wetlands or watersheds/sub-watersheds must be identified).

C. Would the project:

- | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Initiate or perpetuate hydro-modification projects such as dams, ditch development or channelization? (District 2 NRAC will review each project to determine if proposed hydro-modification improvements support open space acquisition and/or the protection and enhancement of riparian corridors and watersheds.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fund current legal obligations, such as fines, penalties, litigation, expenses, mitigation or reclamation under state or federal laws or local ordinances? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fund facilities other than those required providing public access to, or using of, open space? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fund facilities for active recreation such as, but not limited to tennis courts, ball fields, fountains or recreation centers? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fund any part of the project outside the boundaries of Hamilton County, while seeking funding solely through the District 2 NRAC? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fund demolition that is greater than ten percent (10%) of the total project cost? |

If any statement in Section C is answered YES, this project is ineligible for funding.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fund trail development or trail work (District 2 NRAC will review each project to determine if proposed trails meet the requirements of the OPWC, including any accessibility or environmental requirements) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|

If the above statement is answered YES, this project may be ineligible for funding.

Trail Review Comments and Eligibility Recommendation:

Does the project meet Part One (Preliminary Screening) eligibility requirements?

- Yes Continue to Parts Two, Three & Four
- No Project ineligible for review and consideration at NRAC Scoring Meeting

Any applicant submitting false or misleading documentation in any application shall be excluded from funding consideration in the 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 Two - Project Emphasis

The District 2 NRAC shall consider whether the project emphasizes the following factors
(documented in application) pursuant to ORC Section 164.22; 164.24(A)

Up to two (2) points each (20 points maximum) - Please refer to Glossary of Terms

Open Space

- ____ 1. Reduces or eliminates non-native, invasive species of plants and regenerates with native species. (Documentation must include a planting & maintenance plan)
- ____ 2. Preserves or increases high quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species where the forest canopy or native vegetation covers greater than 50% of the area. (2 points)
OR
Preserves or increases high quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species where the forest canopy or native vegetation covers less than 50% but greater than 25% of the area. (1 point)
- ____ 3. Provides linkage to other parks, open space/green space preserves.
- ____ 4. Provides or enhances areas where safe fishing, hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems.
- ____ 5. Provides access to areas that result in recreational, economic, social, or aesthetic preservation benefits. (Documentation must include either a map, such as a census map, or a narrative description that demonstrates evidence of these benefits)

Riparian Corridor

- ____ 6. Preserves or restores functioning floodplains, including groundwater recharge areas. (A floodplain map must be provided as documentation)
- ____ 7. Preserves or restores natural stream channels.
- ____ 8. Preserves or restores streamside forests, native vegetation or adjacent habitat.
- ____ 9. Preserves existing high quality wetlands or restores wetlands. (Documentation must be provided including a wetlands map and/or written documentation by a certified professional)
- ____ 10. Permanent acquisition of riparian corridors, watersheds, forested hillsides, or green space linkage.
- ____ 11. Plants vegetation/reforests land for filtration, improving the quality of, or controlling storm water runoff.

Part Two Score _____

Part Three - NRAC Scoring Methodology

- ____ 1. Percentage of Clean Ohio matching funds necessary to complete the project (ORC 164.24(A)(2), (3)). Local match can include bargain sales, where the seller provides a reduction below fair market value as a matching contribution, and up to 90% of demolition costs borne by applicant, if applicable.
- 75% (required) 74-70% 69-65% 64-60% less than 60%
- 0 points 2 points 6 points 8 points 10 points
- ____ 2. Level of collaborative participation (ORC 164.24(A)(4), (5)). Participation means active involvement through funding or in-kind services as defined by the District 2 NRAC (A letter documenting how support will be provided is required). 1 point will be awarded for each of the following that are participating, up to a total of six (6) points.
- Local political subdivision Federal agency(s) State agency(s)
- Community organization(s) Conservation organization(s)
- Local business group(s) Joint project with more than one (1) OPWC District
- ____ 3. Extent of public access once project is completed (ORC 164.24(A)(8)). Check one of the following. (Maximum of 2 points)
- The project includes the construction or enhancement of facilities that are necessary to make an open space area accessible and useable by the general public.
- Is a fee simple acquisition of land for the purpose of making riparian corridors accessible and useable by the general public?
- ____ 4. Operation and maintenance once project has been completed. (Documentation required)
- 3 points Operational infrastructure (equipment and personnel/contractors) in place.
- 1 point Limited operational infrastructure (volunteers available). (Documentation required)
- 0 points No operational infrastructure in place
- ____ 5. Project management experience of similar and related projects including, but not limited to projects funded through Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. (Documentation required)
- 3 points Successfully completed 3-5 similar projects in last 10 years
- 2 points Successfully completed 1-2 similar projects in the last 5 years
- 1 point Has partnered on at least one similar project in the last 5 years

Part Three Score _____

Part Four - Compliance with District 2 Priorities (ORC 164.24(A)(II))

- ____ 1. **() 3 points** **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).
- ____ 2. **Natural resource viability** - How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project. **(Verifiable documentation required)** Please see appendix for species included in the State of Ohio Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI).
Check each that applies, up to a total of 7 points.
- () 3 points** Protects a federally listed endangered species or suitable habitat that supports it or biological community.
- () 2 points** Protects six (6) or more NHI identified species
- () 1 point** Protects one to five (1-5) NHI identified species
- () 1 point** Protects a high quality regional endangered biological community
- () 1 point** Protects a threatened biological community as defined by ODNR
- ____ 3. **() 3 points** **Preserves steep hillsides** - Project preserves or naturally restores steep hillsides with slopes of 20% or greater and/or preserves or naturally restores steep hillsides with slopes of 20% or greater in combination with stream bank erosion control measures.
- ____ 4. **() 3 points** **Preserves/enhances undeveloped land** - Project preserves or enhances undeveloped land along viewsheds of major highway or transportation corridors where subject property can be seen from the right-of-way.
- ____ 5. **() 3 points** Preserves headwater streams.
- ____ 6. **() 3 points** Preserves erodible land or hydric soils, as defined by soil survey.
- ____ 7. **Opportunity** - Project addresses a situation where action must be taken now or opportunity will be lost forever. **(Documentation required).**
- () 3 points** Standing offer or letter of intent from seller or developer indicating that the parcel(s) will be developed if not preserved through NRAC.
- () 2 points** Site development or subdivision plan that has been approved by local jurisdiction that is awaiting a developer.
- () 1 point** Site development or subdivision plan that has not been approved by local jurisdiction.
- ____ 8. Size of acquisition is less than 5 acres or length of conservation/restoration area is less than 4,000 linear feet of stream bank.
 () 4 points

Part Four Score _____

Subtotal Scores

Part 2 _____

Part 3 _____

Part 4 _____

Total Score _____

Note: Minimum score requirement of 20 points to be considered for funding.