

Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund Program

Scoring Methodology

Program Year 2020-2021

Ohio Public Works Commission - District Six
Ohio Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC)

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
City Center One Building
100 E. Federal Street, Suite 1000
Youngstown, OH 44503

Clean Ohio Fund- District Six NRAC Scoring Methodology

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Contact: _____

Project Title: _____

Date Application Received: _____

Project Reviewer: _____

Clean Ohio Funds Available for this Round	\$
Clean Ohio Funds Requested	\$
Total Project Cost	\$
Total Points (182 maximum points)	
Project Ranking	

*Is the amount of Clean Ohio Funds requested from District Six NRAC available? _____

*If not, is the applicant willing and able to lower their request for Clean Ohio Funds and/or change the scope of the project and still complete the project? (*Attachment B # 13*) _____

District 6 NRAC Project Action: (Check only one)

Project Approved as submitted

Project held for future consideration pending clarification of:

1. _____

2. _____

Project Disapproved

PART I: PRELIMINARY SCREENING

YES NO

___ ___ Applicant is an eligible entity

___ ___ Complete application received by deadline

Applicant must clearly demonstrate that the primary purpose of the project involves at least one of the following from A. or B. below:

A. Open Space (Sec. 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

___ ___ acquires land for connecting corridors for natural areas

___ ___ open space acquisition

___ ___ permanent conservation easement

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 man made or engineered hydromodification projects not primarily designed To protect or enhance water quality and /or natural features? Such projects include, but are not limited to, dams, ditch development, channelization, dredging, sedimentation, and stream bank erosion control by use of riprap or wall construction, bank clearing, bank armoring or bank hardening of any kind.

___ ___ 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?

___ ___ accelerate the runoff of untreated water?

___ ___ encourage invasive nonnative plant and animal species?

If YES is checked for any of the above in C, the project is ineligible. If the project meets Preliminary Scoring Requirements move on to Page 3.

ATTACHMENTS/COMPLETENESS REVIEW:

NRAC SCORING ELIGIBILITY:

IN ORDER TO SCORE A PROJECT, THE PROJECT APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN EACH OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AS THEY RELATE TO THE PROJECT. THE DISTRICT 6 NRAC REQUIRES THAT ALL SIGNED DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED INCLUDE THE ORIGINAL SIGNATURE.

- A certified copy of the authorization by the governing body of the applicant authorizing a designated official to sign and submit this application and execute contracts with the commission. This individual should sign under 6.0, Applicant Certification, below.
Included ____ Not Included ____
- A certification signed by the applicant's chief financial officer stating all local share funds required for the project will be available on or before the dates listed in the Project Schedule section. **If a non-local source, an entity other than the applicant, provides funding towards the project, the applicant must obtain a letter of commitment from the non-local entity source and submit it with the application.** ¹
Included ____ Not Included ____
- A cooperation agreement, (if the project involves more than one entity) which identifies the fiscal and administrative responsibilities of each participant.
Included ____ Not Included ____
- Resolution of Support (please refer to section 164.23(B)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code for guidance).
Included ____ Not Included ____
- Information concerning the coordination of the project among local political subdivisions, state agencies, federal agencies, community organizations, conservation organizations, and local business groups.
Included ____ Not Included ____
- Supplemental Documentation: Include the following materials listed in Section 3.0(8)(b) of the Application Manual:

All applications should include the following Individual Project Maps:

- 1) Project watershed location² with county boundaries shown.
Included ____ Not Included ____
- 2) Project location with respect to its location within the county/township/municipality.
Included ____ Not Included ____
- 3) Project location with respect to the OH-PA 2010 Urbanized Area, if applicable.³
Included ____ Not Included ____
- 4) Topographic map with property boundary indicated.
Included ____ Not Included ____

¹ OPWC requires an applicant to obtain commitments from their sources if funded.

² See Ohio EPA's [Water Quality Assessment Unit Summary GIS map](#) for watershed information.

³ Urbanized Boundary map if 50 % or more of the project is located within an urbanized boundary, Eastgate's [2010 Urban Boundary](#) link will help determine applicability.

ATTACHMENTS/COMPLETENESS REVIEW...continued:

5) Aerial view maps(s)⁴ of project indicating:

- Major roadways
- Major/Minor Streams
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Other permanently protected lands
- If part of a phased or an expansion of a previous Clean Ohio project (s), indicate current project with relation to previous project(s).

Included ____ Not Included ____

6) Acquisition Conceptual Site Design indicating:

- Public access point(s);
- Proposed Parking area(s)
- Proposed trail(s); and
- Other eligible improvements.

Included ____ Not Included ____

6) For restoration projects include items 1-4 from above and the following Conceptual Site Design information indicating:

- Stream/wetland project boundary;
- Tributaries;
- Riparian area;
- Location of and description of restoration activity(s),
- Location of and description of revegetation activity(s);
- Proposed public access point(s);
- Proposed trail(s); and
- Other eligible improvements.

Included ____ Not Included ____

- For Land Acquisition Projects: Applicants MUST provide documentation of either a Signed Purchase Agreement or Letter of Intent to Sell.

Included ____ Not Included ____

- For Restoration Projects: Applicants MUST provide documentation of one of the following: Stamped Preliminary plans by architect, landscape architect, or other qualified professional; Documentation of Secured Appropriate Permits or Permitting Process; Project Schedule.

Included ____ Not Included ____

- Conceptual site plan and map indicating where public access points, trails, parking, etc. will be located within the project.

Included ____ Not Included ____

- Proposed Declaration of Restrictions; also include restrictions for any other funding sources.

Included ____ Not Included ____

⁴ Applicant may provide several, separate maps with the information listed so as not to clutter a single map.

ATTACHMENTS/COMPLETENESS REVIEW...continued:

- Identification of any participation by agencies or organizations that may have expertise regarding the project and may provide assistance with respect to the project.
Included _____ Not Included _____
- Appraisals: **An appraisal report OR restricted appraisal report is due at the time of application.** Applications with a purchase price that is more than 5% above the appraised value must show that local share is meeting the additional costs. Justification must be provided to the District Six NRAC for any acquisition above the appraised value.
Included _____ Not Included _____
 - Appraisal Type: _____ Appraisal Report _____ Restricted Appraisal Report

****PLEASE REVIEW THE DISTRICT SIX NRAC'S SCORING METHODOLOGY TO ENSURE YOU ADDRESSED ALL APPLICATION COMPONENTS. PROPOSED PROJECTS THAT DO NOT OBTAIN A MEAN MINIMUM SCORE OF AT LEAST 40% (Total Points x .4) OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MAXIMUM POINTS AWARDED BY DISTRICT SIX NRAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL ONLY BE FUNDED IN FULL OR PART UPON A FAVORABLE VOTE OF 8 COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND BE CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING AVAILABILITY.**

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – Part II

NRAC’s shall consider all the following in approving or disapproving a grant: The project should emphasize (document in application) the following pursuant to Section 164.22, ORC. Points are allocated to the areas listed below as long as the applicant has provided thorough written justification. The primary, secondary, and tertiary areas of emphasis listed in *Attachment A* of the application are repeated in the table below, but points are not allocated for those areas. **(70 Max Points)**.

Yes /No	Project Emphasis	Points Allocated (0-5)
	1. Supports comprehensive open space planning; Incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design	
	2. Enhances economic development that relies on recreational and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment and lower incomes	
	3. Protects habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species or the preservation of high quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species	
	4. Preserves existing high quality wetlands or other scarce natural resources	
	5. Enhances educational opportunities and provides physical links to schools and afterschool centers	
	6. Preserves or restores water quality, natural stream channels, functioning floodplains, wetlands, and/or stream side forests. Preserves or restores other natural features that contribute to the quality of life and to state’s natural heritage	
	7. Reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals	
	8. Allows proper management of areas where safe hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve a balanced natural ecosystem	
	9. Increases habitat protection	
	10. Included as part of a stream corridor-wide or watershed-wide plan	
	11. Provides multiple recreational, Economic, and aesthetic preservation benefits	
	12. Preserves or restores flood plain and stream side forest functions	
	13. Preserves headwater streams	
	14. Restores or preserves aquatic biological communities	

Part II SCORE: Total all allocated points ____ / 70 (max points)

The Clean Ohio Greenspace Glossary of terms provides a description of supporting documentation and materials that may be useful to NRAC members as you score this section. Please refer to the following link as you score each project,

<https://pwc.ohio.gov/Project-Administration/Clean-Ohio#594102-greenspace-glossary>.

Comments:

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – Part III

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

FISCAL AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

1. Percentage of Clean Ohio matching funds necessary to complete project: *(Application 1.2)*

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 75%
(Required) | <input type="checkbox"/> 74-70%
(1 point) | <input type="checkbox"/> 69-65%
(2 points) | <input type="checkbox"/> 64-60%
(3 points) | <input type="checkbox"/> <60%
(4 points) |
|--|--|---|---|---|

2. Readiness to proceed factors: If project contains acquisition and restoration check appropriate factors in both (maximum is 20 points if both acquisition **AND** restoration) *(Application Section 2.0)*

Land Acquisition Projects: Applicants must provide documentation of a pending land transaction:

- Signed purchase contract (10 points) Letter of intent to sell (5 points)

Restoration Projects: Applicants must provide **AT LEAST ONE** of the following:

- Stamped preliminary plans by architect, landscape architect, or other qualified professional (6 points)
- Documentation of appropriate permits secured or permitting process (3 points)
- Project schedule (1 points)

3. Level of Collaborative Participation: Participation means **active** involvement with or towards the project through in-kind services and/or funding (written documentation required; minimum cash donation of \$500).

Applicant **MAY NOT** count itself as a participant. (1 point for each category; maximum 2 points) *(Attachment B #3)*

- Local political subdivisions/Park district State/county agencies Federal agencies
 Community organizations Conservation/watershed organizations Local business groups

4. Level of coordination: Coordination means project carries out goals of an agency/organization or multiple agencies/organizations (written documentation required). *(Attachment B #4) (Check All That Apply)*

(1 point each, maximum 2 points)

- Local political subdivisions/Park district State/county agencies Federal agencies
 Community organizations Conservation/watershed organizations

5. Operation and Maintenance once project is completed. *(Application Section 3.0-E and Refer to Attachment B #5) (Check ONE)*

- Operation & maintenance plan and resources, if appropriate, in place (plan documentation required)
(5 points)
- Operation plan only (3 points)
- Limited/no operation plan, volunteers available, no resources (1 point)

Points: _____ / 33

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – Part III...continued

LOCAL PRINCIPLES AND COORDINATION

6. Level of Community Planning with other Open Space, Riparian Corridor, Trails, Farmland Protection or Urban Revitalization Projects under the Clean Ohio Fund within the District or in other Public Works Commission districts. Applicant **MUST** provide supporting documentation of plan/plans **AND** cite where within the plan/plans project and/or project components are discussed. (Application Section 1.4) (Attachment B # 6) (Check All That Apply)

- Carries out an adopted community plan (2 points)
- Carries out a watershed plan (2 points)
- Carries out other adopted plan that follows in the spirit of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund (2 points)

7. **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. (2 points each, max 6 points) (Attachment B #7)

- Economic (2 points)
- Social/recreational (2 points)
- Environmental (2 points)

8. **Public Access once project is completed:** (Application Section 3.0 D) (Attachment B #8) (Check ONE)

- Physical Access (3 points)
- Visual Access (0 points)

9. **Applicant Priority:** What is the applicant priority for this project? (Check one) (Attachment B #9A)

- #1 (5 points)
- #2 (3 points)
- #3 (1 points)

10. The Median Household Income (MHI) for the community where the project is located is in what percent of the State of Ohio's MHI? (Attachment B #10) (Refer to [State of Ohio MHI table](#))

- BELOW 70% (5 points)
- 70% to 79.9% (4 points)
- 80% to 89.9% (3 points)
- 90% to 99.9% (2 points)
- 100% and over (0 points)

11. Is the majority (50% or more) of the project located within an Urbanized Area? Provide map of Urbanized Area with project location noted. Please refer to [Urbanized Boundary Map](#) on Eastgate's website. (Attachment B #11)

- Yes (5 points)
- No (0 points)

Points: ____ / 30

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – Part III...continued

GENERAL CONCERNS

12. Natural Resource Viability is how important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project. The project identifies and protects: (*Attachment B #12*) (*Check All That Apply*) (Applicant **MUST** provide supporting documentation)

- Applicant has supporting evidence of federally listed, extinct, extirpated, or newly identified species found in Ohio **(7 Points)**
- State Endangered **(5 points)**
- State Threatened **(3 points)**
- State Potentially Threatened **(2 points)**
- State Concern **(1 points)**

13. Property Rights: Applicant has explained and provided proper documentation of the property rights, with regards to mineral rights and extraction that will be conveyed in the purchase agreement or conservation easement, including the date of any pre-existing lease or similar agreement on the mineral rights, including oil, gas and/or extraction leases. Clean Ohio Funds cannot be used to purchase parcels that will be timbered. (*Attachment B #13*)

Please provide the following documentation for the property being acquired:

1. Property Rights (please check the applicable line):
 - Applicant will retain property AND mineral rights and prohibits future mineral extraction lease agreements.
 - Property has an existing mineral extraction lease agreement, but applicant will retain property AND mineral rights.
 - Applicant retains ONLY property rights. Mineral rights have been severed from the property for future mineral extraction allowance.

2. Please indicate if there are legal restrictions prohibiting surface disturbance within the property. If yes, documentation must be provided.
 - Yes **(8 points)**
 - No **(0 points)**

Points: _____ / 26

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – Part III...continued

14. Other Project Factors:

- _____ Project addresses a situation where action must be taken now or opportunity may be lost forever **(0-5 points)** (*Attachment B #14*)

- _____ Project is contiguous with an existing preserved open space or riparian areas **(0-5 points)** (*Attachment B #15*)

- _____ Land involved in the project
 - 200 or more acres **(4 points)**
 - 100-199 acres **(3 points)**
 - 50-99 acres **(2 points)**
 - Less than 50 acres **(1 point)**

- _____ Amount of Clean Ohio 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)**

15. NRAC Member priority points (0-5 points): _____

OPTIONAL: Please use the following space to discuss priority point(s) awarded

Points: _____ / 23

Part III SCORE: Total all points on each page _____/ 112 (max points)

TOTAL SCORE: Add all scores from Part II and Part III

Part II Score + Part III Score = Total Score (max 182 points)

+ =

PROPOSED PROJECTS THAT DO NOT OBTAIN A MEAN MINIMUM SCORE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF AT LEAST **40% (73 Points)** OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MAXIMUM POINTS THAT COULD BE AWARDED BY DISTRICT SIX NRAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL ONLY BE FUNDED IN FULL OR PART UPON A FAVORABLE VOTE OF 8 COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND BE CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING AVAILABILITY.