



FISCAL YEAR 2025

Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund Program

Scoring Methodology

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

EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
CITY CENTER ONE
100 E. FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 1000
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503

Clean Ohio Fund - District Six NRAC

Scoring Methodology

ORC 164.24 (B)

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 (216 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: *ORC 164.24 (C)*

(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 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Applicant is an eligible entity. (ORC 164.23 (A)) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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 (ORC 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
- improves open spaces acquired with a grant awarded under sections 164.20 to 164.27 of the Ohio Revised Code to make an open space area accessible and useable by the general public.

B. Riparian Corridors or Watersheds (ORC 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 | |
| <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 to provide public access to or use of open space? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | fund facilities for active recreation, such as tennis courts, ball fields or recreation centers? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | accelerate the runoff of untreated water? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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 4.

Eligible Activities/Improvements at NRAC's discretion:

The District Six NRAC will allow the following activities/improvements as part of a Clean Ohio application if the activity is in-line with the conservation nature within the Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program:

- Mountain Biking
- Equestrian Trails
- Disc Golf
- Dam Removal
- Demolition of structures in accordance with provisions set forth in Section 3.3.1 of District Six Application Manual

ATTACHMENTS/COMPLETENESS REVIEW:

NRAC SCORING ELIGIBILITY

IN ORDER FOR THE NRAC TO SCORE A PROJECT AND AWARD FUNDING, THE PROJECT APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN EACH OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AS THEY RELATE TO THE PROJECT. IF THE NRAC DEEMS THE PROJECT INELIGIBLE THE PROJECT WILL NOT BE SCORED AND WILL NOT BE AWARDED FUNDING. (ORC 164.23)

**** PLEASE NOTE: IF ANY ITEM LISTED BELOW IS NOT APPLICABLE FOR THE PROJECT, A PAGE DEDICATED FOR THAT ITEM MUST STILL BE SUBMITTED STATING THE ITEM IS NOT APPLICABLE. ****

1. 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 and date under 6.0, Applicant Certification. (ORC 164.23 (A)(1))
Included ____ Not Included ____
2. 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.** (ORC 164.23 (B)(2))
Included ____ Not Included ____
3. A cooperation agreement, (if the project involves more than one entity) which identifies the fiscal and administrative responsibilities of each participant. (ORC 164.23 (D))
Included ____ Not Included ____
4. Resolution(s) of Support. (ORC 164.23 (B))
Included ____ Not Included ____
 - a. As per ORC 164.23 (C), an applicant that is a park district or other similar park authority must provide documentation of consultation with the legislative authority of each county, township, and municipal corporation in which the proposed project will be located.
Included ____ Not Included ____
5. Each project must provide the following aerial maps **CLEARLY** showing/identifying: (ORC 164.23 (A)(3))
 - a. Aerial map of the project clearly identifying the project boundary.
Included ____ Not Included ____
 - b. Project location with respect to its location within the county/township/municipality.
Included ____ Not Included ____

6. **For Land Acquisition Projects:** Applicants **MUST** provide documentation of either a Signed Purchase Agreement or Letter of Intent to Sell. (*ORC 164.23 (A)*)
Included ____ Not Included ____

For Restoration Projects: Applicants **MUST** provide:

- a. Documentation of preliminary plans by a licensed landscape architect, engineer, or another qualified professional. (*ORC 164.23 (A)(4)*)
Included ____ Not Included ____
 - b. Documentation of Secured Appropriate Permits or Permitting Process. (*ORC 164.23 (A)(8)*)
Included ____ Not Included ____
 - c. Provide an itemized engineer's (budget) estimate for proposed restoration work. (*ORC 164.23 (A)(5)*)
Included ____ Not Included ____
7. Applicant provided the Project Schedule. (*ORC 164.23 (A)(12)*)
Included ____ Not Included ____
8. Proposed Declaration of OPWC Restrictions; also include other restrictions (*164.23 (B)(3)*).
Included ____ Not Included ____
9. **For Acquisition and/or Conservation Easement Projects:** **A 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 the local share is meeting the additional costs. Justification must be provided to District Six NRAC for any acquisition above the appraised value.
Included ____ Not Included ____

****PLEASE REVIEW 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.**

IN THE EVENT OF A TIE BETWEEN TWO OR MORE PROJECTS, THE TIE WILL BE BROKEN IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL MATCH.
2. THE APPLICANT WHO HAS NOT RECENTLY RECEIVED CLEAN OHIO FUNDING FROM DISTRICT SIX NRAC.

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – Part II

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

The project should emphasize the following pursuant to *ORC 164.22, 164.24(A)(1) and (A)(7)*. Points are allocated to the areas listed below as long as the applicant has provided thorough written justification in the application. (*ORC 164.22 (A)(1-8) and (B)(1-6)*) **(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 a. Preserves or restores water quality, natural stream channels, functioning floodplains, wetlands, and/or streamside forests. 6 b. 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	

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://publicworks.ohio.gov/programs/clean-ohio/greenspace/4-greenspace-glossary>.

Comments:

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

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 funds necessary to complete project: *(ORC 164.23 (A)(6)) and (ORC 164.24(A)(3)) (OPWC Application Section 1.2)*

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 75% | <input type="checkbox"/> 74-64% | <input type="checkbox"/> 63-53% | <input type="checkbox"/> 52-42% | <input type="checkbox"/> <41% |
| (Required) | (3 points) | (6 points) | (9 points) | (12 points) |

2. Readiness to proceed factors: If project contains acquisition and restoration check appropriate factors in both (maximum is 22 points if both acquisition **AND** restoration) *(OPWC Application Section 2.0)*

- a) **Land Acquisition Projects: Applicants must provide documentation of a pending land transaction:**
 - Signed purchase contract. *(ORC 164.23 (B)(3)) (10 points)*
 - Letter of intent to sell. *(ORC 164.23 (B)(3)) (0 points)*

- b) **Restoration/Improvement Projects: Applicant provided (select all that apply):**
 - Preliminary plans by a licensed: landscape architect, engineer, or another qualified professional. *(ORC 164.23 (A)(4)). (6 points)*
 - Documentation of secured permits **(5 points)** OR Documentation of permitting process. *(ORC 164.23 (A)(8)) (3 points)*
 - Project schedule *(ORC 164.23 (A)(12)) (1 points)*

3. Level of coordination: Coordination means project carries out goals of an agency/organization or multiple agencies/organizations (written documentation required). *(ORC 164.24 (A)(5)) (Attachment B #4)*
(Check All That Apply) (1 point each, maximum 2 points)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local political subdivisions/Eastgate | <input type="checkbox"/> Park district | <input type="checkbox"/> State/county agencies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Community organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation/watershed organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater District | | |

4. 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. *(ORC 164.24 (A)(5)) (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)**

Points: _____ / 42

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY -- Part III...continued

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

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

6. Public Access once project is completed: (ORC 164.24 (A)(8)) (Application Section 3.0 D) (Attachment B #8) (Check ONE)

- _____ Physical Access (10 points)
- _____ Visual Access (0 points)

7. Other Project Factors (ORC 164.24 (A)(11))

- _____ a. Project is contiguous with/adjacent to an existing preserved open space or preserved riparian areas. (Attachment B #15) (0-5 points)
- _____ b. Project protects wetlands (Applicant Must Provide ORAM Score Documentation):
 - Category 3 wetlands (15 points)
 - Category 2 wetlands (10 points)
 - Category 1 wetlands (5 points)
- _____ c. Project restores wetlands:
 - 75 or more (10 points)
 - 51-74 acres (5 points)
 - 26-50 acres (3 points)
 - 1-25 acres (1 point)
- _____ d. Stream Restoration:
 - 1000 linear feet or more (15 points)
 - 601- 999 linear feet (12 points)
 - 401- 600 linear feet (9 points)
 - 201- 400 linear feet (7 points)
 - 1-200 linear feet (5 points)

Points: _____ /61

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY -- Part III...continued

Other project factors.....Continued:

- _____ e. Land involved in the project (*OPWC Application Section 3.0*)
 - 200 or more acres (4 points)
 - 100-199 acres (3 points)
 - 50-99 acres (2 points)
 - 1-50 acres (1 point)

- _____ f. Amount of Clean Ohio Funding Requested (*ORC 164.24 (A)(2)*) (*OPWC Application Section 1.2(m)*)
 - 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)

8. **IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FACTORS** (*ORC 164.22 (A)*)

- _____ a. Project improvements include trailhead parking, hiking trails, and/or creating public access for canoe and/or kayaking. (5 points)
- _____ c. Project improvements are ADA compliant. (5 points)
- _____ b. Project connects to larger trail networks. (5 points)
- _____ d. Do the proposed surface improvements, outside of restoration areas, impact 10% or less of the property's total surface area?
 - _____ Yes (10 Points)
 - _____ No (0 Points)

NRAC Member priority points (0-10 points): _____

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

Points: _____ / 43

Part III TOTAL SCORE: Add all points on each page _____/146 (Part III max points)

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

Part II Score + Part III Score = Total Score (max 216 points)

+ =

PROPOSED PROJECTS THAT DO NOT OBTAIN A MEAN MINIMUM SCORE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF AT LEAST 40% (86 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.

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