

NRAC DISTRICT 11 PRIORITIES

Used to select projects for Clean Ohio Conservation Funding

Goal: To provide environmental, economic, and social community benefits through preservation and/or restoration of natural features that contribute to the quality of life and the state's natural heritage.

Contributing Factors:

- ❖ Endorse projects that acquire lands that protect and enhance open space and riparian corridors.

- ❖ Protect and enhance open space and riparian corridors by supporting projects that increase habitat and aquatic biological community protection.

- ❖ Recover and maintain water quality by supporting projects that preserve and/or restore riparian corridors.

- ❖ Advocate comprehensive open space planning by prioritizing projects that incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design.

DISTRICT ELEVEN SCORING METHODOLOGY
Ohio Natural Resources Assistance Council
Revision: Adopted April 28, 2006

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Contact: _____

Rating Team: _____

PART I: PRELIMINARY SCREENING -- Required

YES NO

_____ Applicant is eligible entity

_____ Complete application received by deadline

_____ In the case of acquisition and easement projects proof that applicant and property owner have had contact was included

_____ Submitted 2 and no more than 3 letters of support from local political subdivisions and community organizations

_____ Applicant agrees to post a permanent sign at the project site stating the project was made possible through a Clean Ohio Fund grant

Project purpose must involve 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

_____ constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make the acquired open space area accessible & useable by the general public

_____ the cost of the open space acquisition must be equal to or greater than the other costs, such as costs for access or improvements to the acquired land.

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? (If YES to any below in C, the project is ineligible according to Section 164.22)

YES NO

_____ Would the project initiate or perpetuate hydromodification projects such as dams, ditch development or channelization?

_____ Would the project fund current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances?

_____ Would project fund facilities other than those required to provide public access to or use of open space?

_____ Would the project fund facilities for active recreation, such as tennis courts, ball fields or recreation centers

_____ Is the project recognized as a trail in the ODNR Statewide Trail Plan?

If a project meets Preliminary Scoring Requirements move on to Page 2

NRACs shall consider all the following in approving or disapproving a grant: Does the project emphasize (document in application) the following pursuant to Section 164.22, ORC? One point to projects that have less than 50% coverage of the characteristic and Two points to projects that have at least 50% coverage of the characteristic. Please refer to Glossary of Terms and provide a proof for each item.

1. ____ protects habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species
2. ____ increases habitat protection
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 flood plain and stream side forest function
8. ____ preserves or restores water quality
9. ____ preserves or restores natural stream channels
10. ____ preserves or restores functioning floodplains
11. ____ preserves or restores wetlands
12. ____ perserves or restores stream side forests
13. ____ preserves or restores other natural features that contribute to quality of life and state's natural heritage
14. ____ fee simple purchase or acquisition of easements to provide access to riparian corridors or watersheds
15. ____ fee simple purchase or acquisition of easements to protect and enhance riparian corridors or watersheds
16. ____ reforestation of land
17. ____ planting vegetation for filtration
18. ____ incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design
19. ____ enhances educational opportunities and provides physical links to schools and after school centers
20. ____ acquisition of connecting corridors
21. ____ supports comprehensive open space planning
22. ____ provides multiple recreational, economic and aesthetic preservation benefits
23. ____ allows proper management of areas where safe fishing, hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems
24. ____ enhances economic development that relies on recreation and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment

Part II SCORE: _____

FUNDING ANALYSIS

1. Percentage of Clean Ohio matching funds necessary to complete project:

_____ 75% _____ 74-70% _____ 69-65% _____ 64-60% _____ 61-51% _____ <50%
(required) (3 points) (6 points) (9 points) (10 points) (12 points)

2. Clean Ohio Fund Requested

_____ \$ 0 - \$100,000 (8 points)
_____ \$ 100,001 - \$200,000 (6 points)
_____ \$ 200,001 - \$300,000 (4 points)
_____ \$ 300,001 - \$400,000 (2 points)
_____ \$ 400,001 - \$500,000 (1 points)
_____ \$ above - \$500,000 (0 points)

3. Level (list: % and in \$) of funding provided by other sources, both funding and in kind:

Private\$ _____ % _____ Federal\$ _____ % _____
_____ (1 point for attracting significant [more than 5% Private or Federal] non Clean Ohio Fund funding)

4. Applicants FINANCIAL readiness to proceed:

_____ Applicant has provided proof that all match has been set aside or guaranteed for project at the date of application (5 points)
_____ Applicant has provided plan that all match will be available at the date of contract (3 points)
_____ Applicant anticipates that the match will be in place at the date of contract (1 point)

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

PROJECT SUPPORT AND PLANNING

1. Level of conservation coordination with other Open space, Riparian Corridor, Trails, Farmland Protection or Urban Revitalization Projects under the Clean Ohio Fund.

_____ is a joint project (2 points)

_____ carries out an adopted community, watershed or other plan overlapping another district (1 point)

2. Community benefits: Relative economic, social/recreational and environmental benefits the proposed project will bring to the geographical area.

_____ economic

_____ social/recreational

_____ environmental

(1 point)

(1 point)

(1 point)

3. Community Planning: Project is in concert with publicly adopted regional, community plan or watershed plan. (plan dated within last 5 years)

_____ project identified as important in the plan (1.5 points)

_____ area identified as important in the plan (1 point)

_____ project would be consistent with plan (.5 point)

4. Regional Significance: What is the regional significance of the proposed project?

_____ project will benefit a multi county area (2 points)

_____ project will benefit primarily one county within the NRAC (1.5 points)

_____ project benefits multiple local political subdivisions within one county (1 point)

_____ project benefits single political subdivision within one county (.5 points)

5. 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 (3 points)

_____ protects more than 5 state Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered species (2.5 points)

_____ protects 1-5 state NHI ranked rare species (2 points)

_____ protects a high quality example of a regionally endangered biological community (1.5 points)

_____ protects a threatened biological community or important example of Ohio's natural heritage (1 point)

6. Other Project Factors:

_____ project addresses a situation where action must be taken now or opportunity will be lost forever (1 point)

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

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

1. Extent of public access once project is completed:

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

2. 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)

3. Readiness to proceed factors:

- Contract with the owner and evidence from seller that closing will take place within
- _____ 6 months or less (1.5)
 - _____ within 1 year (.50 points)

4. Open space related facilities construction readiness:

- _____ construction to begin in less than 6 months (.5 points)

5. First time applicant

- _____ Applicant's county has not had a Clean Ohio Conservation project funded in District 11 in previous rounds. (1 point)

6. Prioritization of project by applicant

_____ deduct a point for each project ranked higher by applicant submitted in Round 3 by same applicant. (unlimited deductions)
 (example: An applicant submits 3 applications: the applicants first priority has 0 deductions, second priority has 1 deduction and third priority has 2 deductions.)

TOTAL Part V: _____ **+ Parts II, III and IV** _____ **= TOTAL PRELIMINARY SCORE:** _____

COMMITTEE AWARDED BONUS POINTS: (0-5)	
Average of 0-5 points based on NRAC member individual ballots	_____
FINAL SCORE:	_____
THIS PROJECT'S RANKING AMONG ALL DISTRICT PROJECTS	_____

*****IN THE EVENT OF A TIE THE TIE BREAKER WILL BE COST PER ACRE*****