

# Clean Ohio Conservation Program – Round Five

## NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part I

### *Preliminary Screening*

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rating Team:** \_\_\_\_\_

	Yes	No
<i>Applicant is eligible entity</i>	_____	_____
<i>Complete application received by deadline</i>	_____	_____

*Project purpose must involve at least one of the following from either A or B below:*

**A. *Open Space (ORC Section 164.22A)***

- \_\_\_\_\_ acquires land for parks
- \_\_\_\_\_ acquires land for forests
- \_\_\_\_\_ acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration
- \_\_\_\_\_ acquires land for natural areas protecting rare, threatened, or endangered species
- \_\_\_\_\_ acquires land for other natural areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ acquires land for connecting corridors for natural areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ openspace acquisition
- \_\_\_\_\_ permanent conservation easement
- \_\_\_\_\_ constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make open space area accessible and useable by the general public

**B. *Riparian Corridors or Watersheds (ORC Section 164.22B)***

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 open space?	_____	_____
Fund facilities for active recreation (such as tennis courts, ball fields, or recreation centers)?	_____	_____

***If Yes to any in C above, the project is ineligible - ORC Section 164.22  
If project meets Part I requirements (Preliminary Screening), proceed to Part II.***

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## NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part II: Select Either Section A or Section B

*Total Possible Points: 24*

*(Two points for each Section A or Section B question)*

*The NRAC shall consider all the following in approving or disapproving a grant: Does the project, as documented in the application, emphasize the following pursuant to ORC Section 164.22. Please refer to Glossary of Terms. NRAC shall review applications for projects that propose to do either Section A or Section B of the following:*

**Section A: Open space acquisition and related development of those open spaces:** Open space acquisition (land or rights) projects: parks, forests, wetlands, natural areas for rare, other natural areas, connecting corridors for natural areas and/or Related development of those open spaces (including acquisition of easements) include projects for the construction or enhancement of facilities that are necessary to make an open space area accessible and useable by the general public.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ protects or restores breeding habitat for endangered (S1), threatened (S2) or rare (S3) species (as defined by the Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves or Ohio Division of Wildlife) on the project site or on a contiguous site with a verifiably high likelihood that these species would then inhabit the project site
2. \_\_\_\_\_ preserves native plant communities, park lands, or linkages to other natural areas
3. \_\_\_\_\_ reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals
4. \_\_\_\_\_ preserves high quality, viable habitat for plant or animal species
5. \_\_\_\_\_ preserves existing high quality wetlands or restores wetlands
6. \_\_\_\_\_ includes pedestrian/bicycle linkages to other openspace preserves and population centers
7. \_\_\_\_\_ included or defined in existing comprehensive openspace plan
8. \_\_\_\_\_ enhances environmental and conservation educational opportunities or provides physical links to schools and after-school centers
9. \_\_\_\_\_ allows proper management of areas where safe fishing, hunting, or trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve or restore balanced natural ecosystems
10. \_\_\_\_\_ enhances economic development that relies on nature-based recreation and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment
11. \_\_\_\_\_ fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to open space
12. \_\_\_\_\_ acquisition of permanent conservation easements protecting open space (conservation easements defined in Glossary of Terms)

**NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part II (cont'd):**

**Select Either Section A or Section B**

*Total Possible Points: 24*

*(Two points for each Section A or Section B question)*

**Section B: Protect and enhance riparian corridors or watersheds** including protection and enhancement of streams, rivers, lakes, and other waters of the state. Projects may include reforestation or re-vegetation, fee simple purchase or conservation easements to provide access to riparian corridors/watersheds or for protection/enhancement of riparian corridors/watersheds.

13. \_\_\_\_\_ preserves or restores breeding habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species (as defined by the Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves or Ohio Division of Wildlife) on the project site or on a contiguous site with a verifiably high likelihood that these species would then inhabit the project site
14. \_\_\_\_\_ preserves headwater streams or high-quality riparian wetlands
15. \_\_\_\_\_ preserves or restores functioning floodplains
16. \_\_\_\_\_ preserves or restores water quality, including groundwater recharge areas
17. \_\_\_\_\_ preserves or restores natural stream channels
18. \_\_\_\_\_ preserves or restores streamside forests to improve water quality
19. \_\_\_\_\_ fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to riparian corridors
20. \_\_\_\_\_ acquisition of permanent conservation easements protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds (conservation easements defined in Glossary of Terms)
21. \_\_\_\_\_ reduces or eliminates non-native, invasive species of plants or animals
22. \_\_\_\_\_ plants native vegetation for filtration to improve water quality
23. \_\_\_\_\_ provides multiple recreational, economic, and/or aesthetic preservation benefits
24. \_\_\_\_\_ enhances economic development that relies on nature-based recreation and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment

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## NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part III

*Total Possible Points: 31*

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

1. **Percentage of Local Matching Funds To Be Provided For The Project:** Local match may include bargain sales, where seller provides a price reduction below fair market value as a matching contribution. **(Maximum 5 points)**

25% (required)  
 26-32% (1 point)  
 33-38% (2 points)  
 39-44% (3 points)  
 45-50% (4 points)  
 >50% (5 points)

2. **Level of Collaborative Participation:** Participation means substantive involvement towards the completion of the project through in-kind services or funding (written documentation required; minimum cash donation of \$500). **(1 point for each category; maximum 2 points)** **Applicant may not count itself as a participant.**

local political subdivisions       state agencies       federal agencies  
 community organizations       conservation organizations       local business groups  
 other private participation

3. **Level of Coordination:** Coordination means project carries out goals of multiple agencies or organizations (written documentation required). **(1 point for each category; maximum 2 points).** **Applicant may not count itself as a participant.**

local political subdivisions       state agencies       federal agencies  
 community organizations       conservation organizations

4. **Level of Conservation Coordination with other Openspace, Riparian Corridor, Trails, Farmland Protection or Urban Revitalization Projects under the Clean Ohio Fund in other Public Works Commission districts. (Maximum 1 point)**

represents a joint project and carries out an adopted community, watershed, or other plan overlapping another NRAC district (1 point)

**NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part III (cont'd)**

*Total Possible Points: 31*

**5. Public Access Once Project Is Completed. (Maximum 5 points)**

\_\_\_ physical access (up to 5 points)

\_\_\_ visual access (up to 3 points)

**6. Land Management Plan. (Maximum 3 points)**

\_\_\_ existing land management plan (must be project or site specific)

**7. Project Management Experience With Similar or Related Projects. (Maximum 3 points)**

\_\_\_ applicant/partners demonstrate high ability/experience to complete project (3 points)

\_\_\_ applicant/partners demonstrate moderate ability/experience to complete project (2 points)

\_\_\_ applicant/partners demonstrate limited ability/experience to complete project (1 point)

**8. Readiness To Proceed. (Maximum 6 points) - Applicant has provided evidence with application (Ex: purchase agreement, option to purchase, letter of intent from applicant's counsel, permit applications, or construction schedule) that acquisition will take place or construction will commence within:**

\_\_\_ 0-6 months (6 points)

\_\_\_ within one year (3 points)

***PLEASE NOTE: All projects must be completed within 24 months of the applicant's signed agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission. Failure to meet project schedule may result in termination of agreement for approved projects.***

**9. Amount of NRAC 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)

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## NRAC District 7 Scoring Methodology Part IV

*Total Possible Points: 30*

*Questions 1, 2, and 3 pertain to the proposed project in comparison to the other proposed projects:*

- 1. Community Benefits: Relative economic, social/recreational and environmental benefits the proposed project will bring to the geographical area represented by the NRAC. (Maximum 10 points)**  
\_\_\_\_ economic (0-1 point) \_\_\_\_social/recreational (0-3 points) \_\_\_\_environmental (0-6 points)
  
- 2. Cost Effectiveness of Clean Ohio funding necessary to complete the project. (Maximum 6 points)**  
\_\_\_\_ *When evaluating this item, the NRAC will consider whether a project is:*
  - a. cost effective for a project of its acreage
  - b. cost effective for a project of its length in stream miles
  - c. cost effective for a project of its rarity
  - d. cost effectively links permanently preserved areas
  - e. cost effectively preserves large blocks of high quality natural areas
  - f. cost effectively provides access to the public
  - g. other considerations
  
- 3. Natural Resource Rarity: How important is the project to the protection of the natural resources affected by the project? (Maximum 9 points)**  
\_\_\_\_ protects a globally endangered species or biological community (4 points)  
\_\_\_\_ protects a high quality example of a state endangered or threatened biological community or an important example of Ohio's natural heritage (3 points)  
\_\_\_\_ protects 1-5 state Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) ranked rare species (2 points)
  
- 4. Project addresses a situation where action must be taken now or opportunity will be lost forever - documenting evidence as to how opportunity will be lost must be submitted (Maximum 5 points)**