

**Attachment B**  
**District Eight Natural Resources Assistance Council**  
**2023-2024 Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PRELIMINARY SCREENING – REQUIRED**

**Please indicate in either Section A or B, the content of the proposed project. (ORC 164.24(A)(1))**

**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 open space area accessible and useable by the general public

**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.

**NOTE:** For projects that seek to restore streams, wetlands, and other water bodies, the applicant must demonstrate ability to secure a Nationwide Permit (or other appropriate stream restorations permit) from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Other applicable permits such as 401 Water Quality Certification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency must also be obtained. Applicants must receive permits and all necessary authorizations within one year of receiving Clean Ohio Funding and before commencement of project construction.

**C. WOULD THE PROJECT:** (Note: If YES to any of these questions, the project is  
**INELIGIBLE – Section 164.22, ORC) (ORC 164.24(A)(7))**

**YES NO**

\_\_\_\_\_ Initiate or perpetuate hydro modification 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?

### **Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet – Part One**

The District 8 NRAC will consider all of the following information to complete the District 8 Scoring Methodology. Please answer the following questions and provide a detailed explanation with supporting documents (if necessary) and refer to the Glossary of Terms.

**All questions are worth two (2) points each (46 points maximum)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project protect habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species on the subject property?  
 Explain \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project increase habitat protection for a variety of native species? For land acquisition projects, please specify the benefits to plants and wildlife (*Examples of benefits would include nesting habitat and food resources protected for wildlife? Both plant and wildlife habitat preserved against certain development practices? Restoration of plant and wildlife habitat?*) For stream restoration, will the project restore a non-compliant stream or significantly improve physical habitat and biological communities?  
 Explain \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project reduce or eliminate non-native, invasive species of plants or animals? A Management Program must be included to receive points. State the tab number where the Management Program is found in the first sentence of the explanation.  
 Explain \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project preserve an existing high quality, viable habitat for plant or animal species? A report must be included to receive points. State the tab number where the report is found in the first sentence of the explanation. Contact District 8 NRAC for agencies that can perform this service free of charge.

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project restore aquatic or terrestrial biological communities?

*NOTE: Applicants should be as specific as possible when responding to this question. Restoration projects (aquatic or terrestrial) should clearly specify the desired biological recovery (example: restoration of prairie plant community or warmwater habitat (WWH) biological communities).*

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project preserve headwater streams? (Defined in Glossary)

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project preserve or restore functioning floodplains?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project preserve or restore water quality?

*NOTE: Water quality is defined as the physical (habitat), chemical, and biological makeup of a stream or waterbody. Applicants seeking to restore streams should clearly demonstrate existing impacts and specify recovery according to these three criteria. Ohio EPA procedures for evaluating water quality should be utilized for this purpose.*

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project preserve or restore natural stream channels?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project preserve or restore streamside forests? (Reforestation plan must be included).

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project preserve existing high quality wetlands or restore wetland?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project preserve or restore other natural features that contribute to quality of life and state's natural heritage?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project provide fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to riparian corridors?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project provide acquisition of easements protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds? A Plan identifying easement location on a map must be submitted. State the tab number where the Plan is found in the first sentence of the explanation.

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project reforest land to improve water quality? A Reforestation or Woodland Management Outline that includes a planting plan must be included with the explanation. State the tab number where the Plan is found in the first sentence of the explanation.

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project plant vegetation for filtration to improve water quality?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project incorporate aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design including sensitivity to the terrain, natural resources and cultural heritage of the property? Development plans must be submitted. State the tab number where the Plan is found in the first sentence of the explanation.

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project enhance educational opportunities and provide physical links to schools and after school centers? (Physical links to include sidewalks or trails that link schools to the project area within a quarter mile radius.)

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project include pedestrian/bicycle linkages to other open space preserves and population centers?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project support comprehensive open space planning?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project provide multiple recreational, economic and aesthetic preservation benefits?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project provide proper management of areas where safe fishing or hunting or trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems?

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

23. \_\_\_\_\_ Will the project enhance economic development that relies on recreation and ecotourism

in areas of relatively high unemployment? *(Provide documentation on unemployment data – see below for Glossary Definition)*

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Areas of relatively high unemployment: A municipal corporation that has a population of at least fifty thousand or a county, that the average rate of unemployment, during the most recent five-year period for which data are available, is equal to at least one hundred and twenty-five percent of the average rate of unemployment for the United States for the same period [ORC Sec.122.16]

## Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet – Part Two

### 55 Points Maximum

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

1. What percentage of the total project cost will be Clean Ohio matching funds?(Proof that grant funding has been awarded to applicant must be included in order to count grant funding toward the local match.) **Maximum of 12 Points** (ORC 164.24(A)(2)) & (ORC 164.24(A)(3))

_____	75%	(required)
_____	<75% to 60%	(4 points)
_____	<60% to 50%	(8 points)
_____	<50%	(12 points)

Please indicate source of funds \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the level of coordination? Coordination means project carries out goals of multiple agencies or organizations. Letters of support from agencies or organizations stating that the project carries out the goals of the organization or agency must be included. **Maximum of 5 Points - One (1) Point for each** (ORC 164.24(A)(4))

_____	Local political subdivisions	(1 point)
_____	State agencies	(1 point)
_____	Federal agencies	(1 point)
_____	Community organizations	(1 point)
_____	Conservation organizations	(1 point)

List agencies \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the level of conservation coordination with other Open Space, Riparian Corridor, Trails, Farmland Protection or Urban Revitalization Projects under the Clean Ohio Fund in this or other Public Works Commission Districts? **Maximum of 3 Points** (ORC 164.24(A)(5))

_____	It is a joint project involving more than one NRAC District or multiple communities within this NRAC District.	(2 points)
_____	It carries out an adopted community, watershed or other plan overlapping another NRAC district	(1 point)

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*See Attachments/Completeness Checklist – the applicant must submit a cooperation agreement, which identifies the fiscal and/or administrative responsibilities of each participant in order to be considered a joint project.**

4. What are the 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. **Maximum of 10 Points** (ORC 164.24(A)(6))

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Is it an economic benefit?

Does the project have a significant effect on employment in District 8?

Formula: Committed Jobs + 25% of Potential Jobs = Adjusted Jobs

10 points - 5,000 or more adjusted jobs  
7 points - 2,500 to less than 5,000 adjusted jobs  
3 points - 500 to less than 2,500 adjusted jobs  
0 points - less than 500 adjusted jobs

Committed jobs must be documented by a written commitment from the employer and include both retained jobs (those that would be otherwise lost from the region) plus new jobs. Potential jobs must be documented by a professional consultant impact study.

Explain the benefits: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Is it a social/recreational benefit? **Maximum of 5 points**

Explain the benefits: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_ Is it an environmental benefit? **Maximum of 5 points**

Explain the benefits: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the extent of public access once project is completed? **Maximum of 5 Points** (ORC 164.24(A)(8))



- \_\_\_\_\_ Is it open days and weekends? (5 Points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is it open limited, but at regular hours? (3 Points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is it open by appointment or with written permission? (1 Point)

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the Operation and Maintenance once project is completed? **Maximum of 5 Points**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the project have a conservation, operation, or management plan that describes how this property will be maintained and does it have the organizational infrastructure to support it? Copies of plan and supporting documentation must be included. (5 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the project have a conservation, operation, or management plan, volunteers available, but no organizational infrastructure? Copies of plans must be included. (3 points)

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the Applicant's Project Management Experience of similar or related projects?  
**Maximum of 5 Points**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the applicant or partners successfully completed 3-5 similar projects in the last 10 years? Please list and explain. (5 Points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the applicant or partners successfully Completed 1-2 similar projects in the last 5 years? Please list and explain (3 Points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the applicant partnered on this project to provide design, project management or project oversight? Please explain and provide documentation. (1 Point)

Explain \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet – Part Three

### 50 Points Maximum

The NRAC may adopt additional criteria that reflects local priorities as long as the criteria complement and does not negate Parts I and II that carry out ORC Sec. 174.20-164.27 For the following questions, please check all that apply.

1. Community Planning: Is the project identified with an adopted Community master plan or watershed plan? **Maximum of 6 Points**

- |                          |   |            |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Is the project identified on a regional plan?   | (6 points) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Is the project identified as important in the master plan?  | (4 points) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Would the project be consistent with the watershed plan?  | (2 points) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | For stream restoration projects, does the community in which the project is located have a stream protection or riparian ordinance? | (2 points) |

Explain

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2. Regional Significance: What is the regional significance of the proposed project? **Maximum of 10 Points**

- |                          |  |             |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Will the project physically connect or span a multi-county area?                                   | (10 Points) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Will the project physically connect or span multiple local political subdivisions with our county? | (5 points)  |

Explain and provide documentation

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3. Natural Resource Viability: How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project? *(Note: Provide documentation from a recognized authority on the subject).* **Maximum of 10 Points**

- |                          |  |             |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Will the project protect more than 5 State Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered species?  | (10 Points) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Will the project protect 1-5 State NHI ranked rare species?                                      | (8 Points)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Will the project protect a high quality example of a regionally endangered biological community? | (6 Points)  |

\_\_\_\_\_ Will the project protect a threatened biological community or important example of Ohio's natural heritage? (4 Points)

4. Level of other funding: (List: Percentage of funding provided by other sources, both funding and in-kind: (4 points for attracting significant – *more than 5% Private or Federal* – non Clean Ohio Fund funding)

**Maximum 8 Points** (Note: applicants may not count their own local match contribution toward the Percentage Private).

What Percentage Private \_\_\_\_\_ if > 5 % 4 pts \_\_\_\_\_  
 What Percentage Federal \_\_\_\_\_ if > 5 % 4 pts \_\_\_\_\_  
 What Percentage Other State \_\_\_\_\_ if > 5 % 4 pts \_\_\_\_\_

Explain and provide documentation \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Readiness to proceed factors - Acquisition of Open Space **Maximum of 3 Points**

Is there a contract with the owner and evidence from seller that closing will take place?

\_\_\_\_\_ 6 months or less (3 Points)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ within one (1) year (1 Point)

Explain and provide documentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Open Space/Enhancement Related facilities construction readiness to proceed:  
 NOTE: *As stated previously, projects that propose to alter or modify a regulated natural resource require approval from various state and federal regulatory agencies. Such projects must demonstrate that the applicant has coordinated with the appropriate agency (agencies) and that these agencies agree with the specifics of the proposal (at least tentatively). Documentation from these regulatory agencies should include a statement that the project, as it is presently proposed, will not likely result in any adverse environmental impacts and will likely be permissible under their jurisdiction. Maximum of 3 Points (ORC 164.24(A)(10))*

\_\_\_\_\_ Will construction begin in 6 months or less? (3 Points)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Will construction begin within one year? (1 Points)

Explain and provide documentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Will this project employ storm water retrofits or practices that will minimize detrimental impacts to stream channels and storm water quality? (Examples – new retention and detention where non-existent before: USEPA recommended post-construction practices) **Maximum of 2 Points**

Explain and provide documentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_ Will this project serve as an innovative or unique watershed demonstration project for other urban areas? **Maximum of 2 Points**

Explain and provide documentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Will there be more than a 10% reduction in impervious area within the project boundaries? **Maximum of 2 Points**

Explain and provide documentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What are the Other project factors? **Maximum of 10 Points** (ORC 164.24(A)(11))

_____	Does the project address a situation where action must be taken now or the opportunity will be lost forever?	(4 Points)
Explain	_____	
	_____	
	_____	

\_\_\_\_\_ **The applicant certifies the project will comply with all of the requirements established in sections 164.20 to 164.27 of the Revised Code**

For additional assistance, please contact:

Stephen Knittel  
District 8 Liaison  
(330) 643-2551  
[Sknittel@summitoh.net](mailto:Sknittel@summitoh.net)

Will Gaberle  
Ohio Public Works Commission  
(614) 752-8117  
[William.Gaberle@pwc.ohio.gov](mailto:William.Gaberle@pwc.ohio.gov)

Additional information is available at the County of Summit Department of Community & Economic Development website [https://co-admin.summitoh.net/cgi-bin/protected/content/display.pl?content\\_id=15317#nav-custom3](https://co-admin.summitoh.net/cgi-bin/protected/content/display.pl?content_id=15317#nav-custom3) or the Clean Ohio Fund website <https://www.pwc.ohio.gov/Programs/Clean-Ohio-Application>