

Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund Program

Program Year 2023 - 2024 Application Manual

District 8 NRAC



About the Application Manual

The purpose of this document is to provide eligible applicants guidance when applying for Clean Ohio Greenspace Program Funds. Links and Information within this document directly correlate to the Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund Program and the District 8 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC) application process. The application process follows the guidelines established by OPWC and evaluation criteria established by the District 8 NRAC and outlined in [Ohio Revised Code \(ORC\) Section 164.24](#).

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is meant to provide guidance for applicants to the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund. The instructions in this document directly relate to the District 8 NRAC Project Scoring Methodology. There are electronic links integrated throughout this document that when clicked will direct you to either Ohio Public Works Commission's (OPWC) or Clean Ohio Greenspace Fund Program website.

Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund Program

In 2000, the State of Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the state to sell bonds and other obligations for the [Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund Program](#). The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program is dedicated to environmental conservation including acquisition of green space and the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors. Grant recipients agree to maintain the properties in perpetuity so that they can be enjoyed and cherished for generations to come.

The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program provides funds to preserve open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors. The [OPWC](#) is responsible for administering the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program through districts set up in the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP).

The District 8 NRAC is responsible for administering the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program in Summit County. Members of the NRAC are responsible for reviewing complete Clean Ohio Applications and recommending any final project application for OPWC funding.

District 8 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC)

The District 8 Natural Resource Assistance Council is established per [ORC 164.21](#) with the purpose of reviewing, evaluating, and selecting applications from eligible entities within their district for financial assistance from the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program. Each NRAC consists of 11 members of which one must be a member of the appointing integrating committee and one must represent a soil and water conservation district located within the geographical jurisdiction of the NRAC. The other 9 members are appointed from categories of organizations, units of governments, or agencies prescribed in ORC 164.21(A)(1). At least one representative from each of the categories and an additional 4 at large members need to be appointed to serve as a member of the NRAC. See the above-mentioned ORC section for the categories.

Members' terms of office are three years, with each term ending on the same day of the same month as did the term before it, except that the term may not extend beyond their terms as an elected or appointed official. Appointments must be three years; other appointments are not accepted.

Application Package - List of Required Items- Overview

1. District 8 Project Eligibility Screening– [Attachment B](#) (REQUIRED) **COMPLETE THIS FIRST**
If the project IS eligible per Attachment B, the application will comprise the following:
2. Clean Ohio Fund- Green Space Conservation Program- Application for Financial Assistance
3. District 8 NRAC- Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet, Parts 1, 2 & 3

4. Supplemental materials – See 3.0

IMPORTANT: Review District 8 NRAC Minimum Score Policy ([3.7.1](#))

2.0 IMPORTANT APPLICATION DUE DATES

Applications for the 2023-2024 program year cannot be submitted before May 15, 2023.

All applications for the District 8 NRAC 2023-2024 program year are due by 11:59 p.m. on August 30, 2023.

**Project submittals will be digital through the OPWC Works Wise site. Information about the Works Wise site, trainings, and assistance can be found at:
<https://pwc.ohio.gov/WorksWise-Training>.**

Applications arriving after 11:59 p.m. will not be accepted.

3.0 FINAL APPLICATION MATERIALS- DETAIL

Applications made to the Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program must follow the OPWC Application in conjunction with supplemental materials the NRAC develops. Please submit a cover letter with an index of the submitted files:

1. District 8 NRAC Attachment B- Project Eligibility Screening, Required ([Attachment B](#))
2. District 8 NRAC Project Evaluation Scoresheet Part 1, 2, and 3 ([Attachment B](#))
3. Authorizations and Resolutions of Support;
4. Agreements and Letters of Support;
5. Draft of [Declaration of Deed Restrictions](#);
6. [Restricted Appraisal Report Prepared by ODOT Certified Appraiser](#);
7. Index to Supplemental Information; and
8. Supplemental Documentation:
 - a) Photographs of the project.
 - b) Individual Project Maps¹ showing:
 - 1) Project watershed location² with county boundaries shown;
 - 2) Project location with respect to its location within the county/township/municipality;
 - 3) Topographic map with property boundary indicated;
 - 4) Aerial view maps(s)³ of project indicating:
 - Major roadways
 - Major/Minor Streams & Riparian Setbacks
 - 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).
 - 5) Acquisition Conceptual Site Design indicating:
 - Public access point(s);
 - Proposed Parking area(s)
 - Proposed trail(s); and
 - Other eligible improvements.

¹ List of maps is not limited. Applicant may separate maps in order to provide clarity or provide maps relevant to the project with the intent of provide additional environmental information.

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

³ Applicant may provide several, separate maps with the information listed so as not to clutter a single map.

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

Application Submittal

Applications must be submitted in the following format:

An electronic version submitted to the OPWC Works Wise site. Information about the Works Wise site, trainings, and assistance can be found at: <https://pwc.ohio.gov/WorksWise-Training>. The electronic copy must use the following District Eight application format and file naming:

- [Project Name] _ CoverLetter.pdf
- [Project Name] _ OPWCApplication.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Attachment B.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Authorizations and Resolutions of Support.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Agreements and Letters of Support.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Declaration of Deed Restrictions.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Restricted Appraisal Report.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Supplemental Documentation.pdf

First time applicants are encouraged to reach out to the District 8 Liaison and/or OPWC District Representative at any time to discuss potential project ideas and guidance prior to submitting a final project application.

3.1 Program Year Schedule

CLEAN OHIO FUND- DISTRICT 8 PROGRAM YEAR 2023-2024 SCHEDULE

Clean Ohio Fund Program
District 8:
Summit County

District 8 Liaison:
Stephen Knittel
(330) 643-2551
sknittel@summitoh.net

All District 8 NRAC Meetings are open to the public.

Important Dates for Program Year 2023 -2024	
Round 16 Clean Ohio Funds Available	July 1, 2023
District 8 Annual Meeting	January 19, 2023
Applications Made Available	June 20, 2023
Full Applications Due	August 30, 2023
Site Visits by District 8 NRAC Committee	September 2023
NRAC Scores Projects	September 27, 2023
Applicants receive scores	September 29, 2023
NRAC slates due to OPWC	November 30, 2023
FULL AND CORRECTED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 11:59 PM ON THE SCHEDULED DUE DATE.	

*In response to the COVID-19 and social distancing practices, the District 8 PY 2023 - 2024 meetings may be held via webinar. Information to attend can be found on <https://co.summitoh.net/committee-pages/District-8-Public-Works-Integrating-Committee.html#nav-custom3>

3.2 Eligible Applicants

Local Political Subdivisions

- Counties
- Municipalities
- Villages
- Townships
- Conservancy Districts
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Joint Recreation Districts
- Park District/Authority

Non-Profit Corporations⁴

Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply if they are exempt from federal income taxation and a designated activity is related to the purposes for which Clean Ohio Conservation grants are awarded. Non-Profits must have their eligibility confirmed through OPWC by obtaining a subdivision code. For more information about Non-Profit eligibility, see OPWC's [Subdivision Applicant Code](#) advisory.

3.3 Eligible Costs

OPWC's website lists eligible and ineligible costs: <https://www.pwc.ohio.gov/Programs/Clean-Ohio-Application#591122-eligible-costs>

3.4 Eligible Project Types⁵

3.4.1 Open Space

Open Space projects should promote:

- Comprehensive open space planning
- Protection of rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species
- Protection of high quality, viable habitats for plant and animal species
- Preservation of wetlands or other scarce natural resources
- Balancing the natural ecosystem
- Educational opportunities
- Reduction or elimination of nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals

Open Space projects include:

- Acquisition of open space
- Acquisition of easements
- Acquisition of land or rights in land for parks, forests, wetlands, or natural areas that protect an endangered plant or animal population
- Connecting corridors for natural areas.
- Construction or enhancement of facilities to make open space accessible and useable by the general public.

⁴ [ORC 164.20](#)

⁵ Projects promoting active recreation such as baseball diamonds, tennis courts, and similar facilities **are not eligible**.

3.4.2 Riparian Corridor

Riparian Corridor projects should promote:

- Habitat protection
- Stream corridor-wide or watershed planning
- Recreations, economic and aesthetic preservation benefits
- Floodplain and Streamside forest functions
- Headwater stream preservation
- Restoration and preservation of aquatic biological communities

Riparian Corridor projects include:

- Reforestation of land or revegetating riparian corridors for the purpose of filtration.
- Fee simple acquisitions of land to connect riparian corridors or watersheds.
- Acquisition of easements to protect and enhance riparian corridors or watersheds.

3.4.3 Eligible activities for both Open Space and Riparian Corridor projects:

Acquisition:

- Fee Simple Purchase
- Easement Purchase
- Transfer of Conservation Easement

Planning and Implementation:

- Certified Restricted Appraisal Report performed by a prequalified [ODOT appraiser](#).
- Closing costs
- Title search
- Environmental assessments
- Design
- Restoration

- **Restricted Appraisal Reports are due at the time of application.** Applications with a purchase price more than 5% above the appraised value must show a local share meeting the additional costs. Justification must be provided to the NRAC for any acquisition above the appraised value. Restricted Appraisal Reports must follow [OPWC's appraisal standards](#).

Construction or Enhancement of facilities:

Access improvements to make open space accessible and useable by the general public must promote passive recreation and educational opportunities. OPWC lists various [eligible improvement](#) costs applicants can use Clean Ohio funds towards. However, the list is not meant to be exhaustive and applicants are encouraged to reach out to the district's OPWC representative to determine eligibility.

3.5 Permit, Advertising, And Legal Documents

- Eligible: permits, advertising and legal expenses.
- Not eligible: Administrative services incurred by the applicant.

3.6 Funding

The funding for Program Year 2023 - 2024

Funding with Admin costs removed: **will be updated when announced *

3.6.1 Local Match

A minimum 25% local match is required. The local match is any non-OPWC funds. A 25% match can be achieved using federal, state, or local funds. Local “pre-pays” for engineering or [in-kind work](#) may be used towards an applicant’s local match. The District Six NRAC awards additional points to projects if more than 25% match is provided⁶. See [OPWC’s In-kind Instructions](#) for more information.

Eligible Local Match Sources⁷

Eligible match sources can include:

- Contributions of money by any person, local political subdivision, or federal government.
- [In-kind contributions](#) through the purchase or donation of equipment, land, easements, interest in land, labor and materials necessary to complete the project.
- Bargain Sale/Donated Property- Projects for which the purchase price is less than the appraised value, and the value will be utilized for the purpose of creating match or recognized as a gift for tax or charitable purposes, shall be considered a Bargain Sale. Any project where a Bargain Sale will be used for match will be required to have the appraisal reviewed by a second, certified general who is also a prequalified ODOT Review Appraiser.

3.7 Project Submission, Review, And Scoring Process

Projects are submitted to the District 8 Liaison by the time and date indicated in [Section 3.1](#).

The district liaison and NRAC Chairperson review each application for completeness using the *Attachment / Completeness Review* checklist, located in [Section 5.0](#) of this manual. If errors are found, clarification is need, and/or items are missing from an application the liaison notifies the applicant of those items. Each applicant is awarded one week to provide the missing information and/or correct any errors. Once the application is made complete, applications are distributed to NRAC members for review.

3.7.1 Project Scoring

The District 8 NRAC reviews each complete application using the District’s adopted scoring methodology. The scoring follows the information requested in the District 8 NRAC ‘s *Eligibility Screening- Attachment B* and *Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet, Parts 1,2 & 3*. Application criteria presented in these documents are awarded varying points based on the applicant’s information provided. Projects with a minimum score of 55% of the total points available will only be funded in full or in part⁸ based upon a favorable vote of 7 NRAC members. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the scoring methodology to understand the NRAC evaluation point(s) allocated for each item based on all documents.

⁷ A list of [possible examples](#) can be found on OPWC’s website.

⁸ Full/partial funding is contingent upon funding availability and whether or not the round is competitive. A competitive round is one in which the amount of funding requested from applicants meeting the minimum score is greater than the district funding available.

3.7.2 Score Tie Breaking

If projects are awarded the same score the following tie breaking process will be followed, listed in priority order:

1. The highest score on Part 3 of District 8 NRAC's Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet
2. The highest percentage of Local Match

4.0 CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION FUND

4.1 Full Application Package Information

Each application is required to be submitted to OPWC's WorksWise system.

4.2 OPWC Application for Financial Assistance

Each application is required to be submitted to OPWC's WorksWise system.

4.3 District 8 NRAC Eligibility Screening - Attachment B

Each applicant is required to complete the District 8 NRAC's Eligibility Screening ([Attachment B](#))

Each applicant must clearly demonstrate the primary purpose involves at least one of the following items listed in: *A. Open Space* ([Sec.164.22 A](#)) or *B. Riparian Corridors or Watersheds* ([Sec. 164.22 B](#)). Depending upon the type of project, *Open Space/ Riparian Corridors or Watersheds*, select each factor achieved by this project. More than one factor may be selected for Open Space projects.

For project ineligibility factors, answer "yes" or "no" to the statements listed. If you answer "yes" to any of the questions, the project is ineligible ([ORC Section 164.22](#)).

4.4 OPWC Project Emphasis – Via WorksWise

Applicants must clearly demonstrate the project's primary emphasis following the directions and using the space provided on the WorksWise Site.

4.5 PROJECT EVALUATION SCORING WORKSHEET - PART 1

The District 8 NRAC assigns points to questions included in Parts 1, 2 & 3 to demonstrate the focus on environmental importance to this NRAC. The criteria are evaluated by District 8 NRAC and the total points for each part add to the total which are used to rank the projects in order to determine project recommendations to OPWC.

Part 1 questions are each worth 2 points. Some questions have required documents to support the points. **If the requested documents are not included with the submittal, no points will be awarded.** Part 1 has a total of 23 questions with a maximum of 46 points possible.

4.6 PROJECT EVALUATION SCORING WORKSHEET - PART 2

Part 2 questions have varying point ranges. Points will not be awarded without the narrative and supporting information requested with each question. Pay attention to the maximum points

allowed for each question. Part 2 has a total of 7 questions with a maximum of 70 points possible.

4.7 PROJECT EVALUATION SCORING WORKSHEET - PART 3

Part 3 questions have varying point ranges. Points will not be awarded without the narrative and supporting information requested with each question. Pay attention to the maximum points allowed for each question. Part 3 has a total of 10 questions with a maximum of 50 points possible.

5.0 ATTACHMENTS / COMPLETENESS REVIEW

The District 8 NRAC Liaison reviews each application to determine if it is complete. An application is considered complete when all the required documents and original signatures are included with the application. The following items are required and must contain an 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 is required to sign and print their name, list their title, and provide the date of signature in Section 6.0, *Applicant Certification*, of the OPWC application.
- A certification signed by the applicant's chief financial officer (CFO) stating all local share funds and/or private contributions pertaining to the project will be available on or before the dates listed in the Project Schedule section. If the applicant is not providing local share funds, a letter stating other committed funds/private contributions must be signed and submitted by the applicant's CFO in lieu of the certification.
- A cooperation agreement, (if the project involves more than entity) which identifies the fiscal and administrative responsibilities of each participant.
- Resolution of Support (please refer to [ORC Section 164.23\(B\)\(1\)](#) for guidance).
- Information concerning the coordination of the project among local political subdivisions, state agencies, federal agencies, community organizations, conservation organizations, and local business groups.
- Supplemental Documentation: Materials such as additional project description, photographs, and/or other information to assist your District 8 NRAC in ranking your project. A list of Supporting documentation can be found in [Section 3.0\(8\)](#).
- For Land Acquisition Projects: Applicants MUST provide documentation of either a Signed Purchase Agreement or Letter of Intent to Sell.
- 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.

- Include a conceptual site plan and map indicating where public access points, trails, parking, etc. will be located within the project. Stating that public access will be allowed is not sufficient.
- All applications must include the Individual Project Maps listed in [Section 3.0\(8\)\(b\)](#).
- Acquisition costs must be supported by a purchase contract, letter of intent, or other acceptable documentation. Site Improvement costs must be supported by a formal estimate provided by an architect, landscape architect, or other professional. Costs may also be supported by quotes.
- Proposed Declaration of Restrictions; also include restrictions for any other funding sources.
- Identification of any participation by state agencies that may have expertise regarding the project and may provide assistance with respect to the project.
- Appraisals: **Restricted Appraisal Reports are 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 8 NRAC for any acquisition above the appraised value.

6.0 OTHER INFORMATION RESOURCES

The [Clean Ohio Greenspace Glossary of Terms](#) is provided here for your convenience. This list provides a beneficial description of supporting documentation and materials that may be useful to applicants and NRAC members. All applicants are encouraged to consult the glossary to determine how their project may provide additional benefits beyond those listed.

Other helpful links include:

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)- Division of Wildlife
[State Listed Wildlife Species](#)- Wildlife species can be queried by County.
[Invasive Species in Ohio](#)- ODNR provides information about invasive plants, animals, aquatic animals and insects found in Ohio.
- State of Ohio Endorsed Watershed Action Plans- Beginning in 2016 Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) abandoned the guideline for developing Watershed Action Plans under the Appendix 8 guidelines. The Ohio EPA has since adopted the development of 9-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategic Plans (NPS-IS). The NPS-IS plans are similar to watershed action plans but are specific to smaller drainage areas, called Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC), and nonpoint sources of pollution. For more information about NPS-IS plans visit the [Ohio EPA's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program's](#) website.

The Ohio EPA created an interactive [GIS map](#) identifying all the 9-Element NPS-IS Plans. Please consult the link to determine if your project is located within a HUC-12 watershed with an endorsed NPS-IS plan.

7.0 LIST OF ACRONYMS

CFO: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

EPA: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

HUC: HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE

NPS-IS: NONPOINT SOURCE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

NRAC: NATURAL RESOURCE ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

ODNR: OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ODOT: OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OPWC: OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

ORC: OHIO REVISED CODE

Q&A: QUESTION AND ANSWER

SCIP: STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

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

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:

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Additional information is available at the County of Summit Department of Community & Economic Development website <https://co.summitoh.net/committee-pages/District-8-Public-Works-Integrating-Committee.html#nav-custom3> or the Clean Ohio Fund website <https://www.pwc.ohio.gov/Programs/Clean-Ohio-Application>