

Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund Program

FY 26 (ROUND 20) Application Manual

District 8 NRAC



About the Application Manual

The purpose of this document is to provide eligible applicants with 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](#).

Legal Disclaimer: The Director of the Ohio Public Works Commission is responsible for the development of the application for projects and approval of methodologies as mandated by Chapter 164 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). In the event of any discrepancies or conflicts arising between the supplemental materials provided by the Natural Resource Assistance Council, Ohio Public Works Commission policies, and the relevant sections of the ORC and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), the provisions of the ORC and OAC shall prevail. Any reliance or action taken based on information contained in the supplemental materials shall be at the applicant's own risk, and the Ohio Public Works Commission disclaims any liability for inaccuracies or inconsistencies therein.

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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 the Ohio Public Works Commission's (OPWC) or the 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 the 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 applications 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. NRAC 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 - Application for Financial Assistance (completed on WorksWise)
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 FY 26 (ROUND 20) cannot be submitted before July 1, 2025.

Applications for NRAC 8 FY 26 (ROUND 20) are due by 11:59 p.m. on October 20, 2025.

Project submittals will be digital through the OPWC Works Wise site. Information about the Works Wise site, training, and assistance can be found [here](#).

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 that the NRAC develops.

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. Authorizing Legislation
4. Resolutions of Support;
5. Agreements and Letters of Support;
6. Draft of [Declaration of Deed Restrictions](#), with Use and Improvement Restrictions section filled out;
7. [Restricted or Full Appraisal Report Prepared by ODOT Certified Appraiser](#);
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 the 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 the current project in relation to previous project(s).
 - 4) 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.

5) 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.

Naming Conventions for File Uploads

Applications must be submitted in the OPWC Works Wise site. The electronic files uploaded to WorksWise must use the following NRAC Eight format and file naming:

- [Project Name] _ CoverLetter.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Attachment B.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Authorizations.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Resolutions of Support.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Agreements.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Letters of Support.pdf
- [Project Name] _ Declaration of Deed Restrictions.pdf
- [Project Name] _ 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 SCHEDULE

CLEAN OHIO FUND - DISTRICT 8 FY 26 (ROUND 20) SCHEDULE

Clean Ohio Fund Program
District 8:
Summit County

District 8 Liaison:
Gabriel Durrant
(330) 643-8361
gdurrant@summitoh.net

All District 8 NRAC Meetings are open to the public.

Important Dates for FY 26 – ROUND 20

Round 20 Clean Ohio Funds Available	July 1, 2025
District 8 Annual Meeting	April 17, 2025 & July 17, 2025
Applications Made Available	July 22, 2025
Full Applications Due	October 20, 2025 – 11:59 PM
Site Visits by District 8 NRAC Committee	October 27, 2025
NRAC Scores sent to District Liaison	November 12, 2025
Scoring Meeting / Applicants Receive Scores	November 19, 2025 – 9 AM
NRAC slates due to OPWC	November 30, 2025

FULL AND CORRECTED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 11:59 PM ON **OCTOBER 20, 2025.**

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. Nonprofits 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](#)

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 usable by the general public.

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

⁴ [ORC 164.22](#)

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

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

3.5 Appraisals

Appraisal Reports are due at the time of application.

A purchase price cannot exceed 105% of the appraised value. Justification must be provided to the NRAC for any acquisition above the appraised value. Appraisal Reports must follow [OPWC's appraisal standards](#)

Construction or Enhancement of facilities:

Access improvements to make open space accessible and usable by the general public must promote passive recreation and educational opportunities. OPWC lists various [eligible improvement](#) costs that 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.

3.6 Permits, Advertising, And Legal Documents

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

3.7 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 Eight NRAC awards additional points to projects if more than 25% match is provided. See [OPWC's In-kind Instructions](#) for more information.

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.

3.8 Project Submission, Review, And Scoring Process

Projects are submitted in WorksWise 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 needed, 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.

3.8.1 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 not meeting a **minimum score of 55% of the total points available (67 points)** will not be funded. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the scoring methodology to understand the NRAC evaluation point(s) allocated for each item based on all documents.

3.8.2 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 1 of the District 8 NRAC's Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet
2. The highest percentage of Local Match

4.0 ATTACHMENT B INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 District 8 NRAC Eligibility Screening - INSTRUCTIONS

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

Each applicant must clearly demonstrate that 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](#)).

4.2 PROJECT EVALUATION SCORING WORKSHEET - PART 1 THROUGH 3 - INSTRUCTIONS

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 is used to rank the projects in order to determine project recommendations to OPWC.

All Parts have questions with varying point ranges. Some questions require documents to support the points. **If the requested documents are not included with the submittal, no points will be awarded.** Pay attention to the maximum points allowed for each question. Part 1 has a total of 8 questions with a maximum of 64 points possible. Part 2 has a total of 9 questions with a maximum of 45 points possible. Part 3 has a total of 2 questions with a maximum of 13 points possible. Total possible points is 122.

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 are included with the application. The following items are required:

- A certified copy of the authorization by the governing body of the applicant authorizing a designated official to submit this application and execute contracts with the commission.
- 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.
 - Project Schedule.
 - A specific, clear project description with intended goals and expected result.
- 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: **Appraisal Reports are due at the time of application.** The purchase price included in the application cannot exceed 5% above the appraised value. Any difference greater than 5% must be paid for with other funding outside the project. 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 9Element 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

FY 26 (Round 20) Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Contact: _____

PRELIMINARY SCREENING – REQUIRED

Please indicate in either Section A or Section 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 usable 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 the ability to secure a Nationwide Permit (or other appropriate stream restoration permit) from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Other applicable permits, such as a 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 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

64 Points Maximum

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

Part 1-A – Environmental Benefits (up to 57 points)

1. _____ (up to 15 pts) Protects habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species (as defined by the Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves or Ohio Division of Wildlife, See Glossary) on the project site or on a contiguous site with a verifiably high likelihood that these species would then inhabit the project site. **ORC 164.22(A)(3), (4), and (6)**

Rare, threatened, and endangered species (10 points maximum)

- ___ 10 Points - Multiple rare, threatened, or endangered species on the project site
- ___ 8 Points - Multiple rare, threatened, or endangered species on contiguous property with a verifiably high likelihood that these species would then inhabit the project site
- ___ 6 Points - Single rare, threatened, or endangered species on the project site
- ___ 4 Points - Single rare, threatened, or endangered species on contiguous property with a verifiably high likelihood that these species would then inhabit the project site
- ___ 2 Points - Locally uncommon species on the project site or on contiguous property with a verifiably high likelihood that these species would then inhabit the project site

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

Habitat protection (1 point each up to a maximum of 5 points for habitat attributes) ORC 164.22 (B)(1)

- ___ Protects category 3 wetlands, bog, or fen
- ___ Protects >1,000' of natural stream channel
- ___ Protects natural pond or lake > 0.5 acre
- ___ Protects mature forest or interior forest > 20 acres (interior forest starts at 300' from forest edge)
- ___ Includes less than 10% cover by monocultures of invasive species
- ___ Surrounding land use is protected natural habitat
- ___ Includes notable geology, including steep slopes, rock outcroppings, or cliffs
- ___ Protects or restores other natural features that contribute to the quality of life and to the state's natural heritage

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

2. (up to 17 pts) Protects and/or restores natural stream channels, headwater streams, functioning floodplains, and/or streamside forests. **ORC 164.22(A)(6)**

Stream Quality (Using Ohio EPA Beneficial Use Designations, QHEI or HHEI) (8 points maximum) ORC 164.22 (B)(5)

- 1 point for every 100' of cold-water habitat, or Class III HHEI, stream length
- 0.5 point for every 100' of exceptional warmwater habitat, or Class II HHEI, stream length (round to closest full point)
- 0.25 point for every 100' of warmwater habitat stream length (round to the closest full point)
- 0.1 point for every 100' of state-designated wild, scenic, or recreational river habitat, as designated by ODNR, stream length (round to closest full point)

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

Natural Stream Restoration (4 points maximum) ORC 164.22(A)(6)

- 4 points – restores >500' of stream channel within the project site
- 2 points – restores 250' - 499' of stream channel within the project site
- 1 point – restores 50' - 249' of stream channel within the project site

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

Functioning Floodplain/Streamside Forest (5 points maximum) ORC 164.22 (B)(4)

- 5 points – protects >200' wide native floodplain and/or streamside forest buffer along both sides of streams within the project area
- 4 points – protects 100' - 200' wide native floodplain and/or streamside forest buffer along both sides of streams within the project area
- 3 points – protects intermittent native floodplain and/or streamside forest buffer along either side of streams within the project area
- 2 point – protects floodplain and/or streamside forest buffer along either side of streams within the project area

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

3. _____ (up to 15 points) Protects or restores existing high-quality wetlands or aquatic biological communities. **ORC 164.22(A)(4), (7) and ORC 164.22 (B)(6)**

Wetland Quality and Quantity (use ORAM)

- ___ 15 points – Protects >100 acres of category 3 wetlands within the project area
- ___ 13 points – Protects 50 - 99 acres of category 3 wetlands within the project area
- ___ 11 points – Protects 25 - 49 acres of category 3 wetlands within the project area
- ___ 9 points – Protects 5 - 24 acres of category 3 wetlands within the project area
- ___ 7 points – Protects <5 acres of category 3 wetlands within the project area
- ___ 5 points – Protects category 2 wetlands within the project area > 25 acres
- ___ 3 points – Protects category 2 wetlands within the project area 10 - 24 acres
- ___ 1 point – Protects category 2 wetlands within the project area on <10 acres

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

4. _____ (up to 10 points) Protects a relatively large block of land and/or is contiguous with other permanently conserved land.

Project Area Size (5 points maximum)

- ___ 5 points – project area >150 acres
- ___ 4 points – project area >125 acres
- ___ 3 points – project area >100 acres
- ___ 2 points – project area >50 acres
- ___ 1 point – project area >25 acres

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

Contiguous Adjacent Block of Conserved Land including the Project Site (5 points maximum)

- ___ 5 points – project is part of a block of permanently conserved land >300 acres
- ___ 4 points – project is part of a block of permanently conserved land >200 acres
- ___ 3 points – project is part of a block of permanently conserved land >150 acres
- ___ 2 points – project is part of a block of permanently conserved land >100 acres
- ___ 1 point – project is part of a block of permanently conserved land >50 acres

Please explain and/or note the attachment number (on the next page):

Part 1-B – Social and Economic Benefits (up to 7 points) Please answer the following questions and provide a detailed explanation with supporting documents (if necessary) and refer to the Glossary of Terms.

5. 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) **(Up to 2 points)**

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

*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]

6. Will the project include pedestrian/bicycle linkages to other open space preserves and population centers? **(Up to 2 points)**

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

7. 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.) **(Up to 2 points)**

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

8. 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? **(Up to 1 point)**

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet – Part Two

45 Points Maximum

1. Percentage of Local Matching Funds to Be Provided for the project. Local match may include a bargain sale, where the seller provides a price reduction below fair market value as a matching contribution. **(Maximum 5 Points) (ORC 164.24(A)(2)(3))**

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

2. What is the level of coordination? Coordination means the project carries out the 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) (ORC 164.24(A)(4))**

Points - One (1) Point for each

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------|
| _____ | Local political subdivisions | (1 point) |
| _____ | State agencies | (1point) |
| _____ | 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, 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 another plan overlapping another NRAC district. (1 point)

Please explain and/or note the attachment number (on the next page):

****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. Comprehensive Plan. Project has the support of comprehensive plan(s) and/or watershed plan(s) and incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design **(Maximum of 2 points) (ORC 164.22(A)(1) ORC 164.22 (B)(2))**

___ 1 point per plan up to 2 maximum

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

5. 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? **Maximum of 5 points**

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 (on the next page):

6. Public access once the project is completed. **(Maximum 5 points) (ORC 164.24(A)(8))**

- ☐ 5 points – open to the public for daily, year-round physical access
- ☐ 3 points – open to the public for intermittent or permit-only at no charge physical access
- ☐ 1 point – visual access only (e.g. Conservation easement)

Please explain and/or note the attachment number:

7. Is this a previously funded Clean Ohio Greenspace acquisition project being submitted that is limited to related development as defined in ORC 164.22A? **(Maximum 10 points)**

- ☐ No (10 points)
- ☐ Yes (0 points)

8. Land Management Plan **(Maximum 2 points)**

- ☐ 2 points – site-specific land management plan that includes a natural resources inventory, stewardship plans, and a site use concept plan
- ☐ 1 point – site-specific land management plan missing a natural resources inventory, stewardship plans, or a site use concept plan

Explain and/or note the attachment number:

9. Project management experience with similar or related projects **(Maximum 3 points)**

- ☐ 3 points – applicant/partners demonstrate high ability/experience to complete projects
- ☐ 2 points – applicant/partners demonstrate moderate ability/experience to complete projects
- ☐ 1 point – applicant/partners demonstrate limited ability/experience to complete projects

Explain and/or note the attachment number:

Project Evaluation Scoring Worksheet – Part Three

13 Points Maximum

1. Readiness to proceed – Acquisition of Open Space (**Maximum 3 Points**) (ORC 164.24 (A)(10))

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

_____ 6 months or less (3 points)

_____ within one (1) year (1 point)

Explain and/or note the attachment number:

2. Other project factors (**Maximum 10 Points**) (ORC 164.24(A)(11))

Explain any other relevant factors that haven't been addressed yet

_____ **The applicant certifies that the project will comply with all of the requirements established in sections 164.20 to 164.27 of the Revised Code (ORC 164.24(A)(9))**

For additional assistance, please contact:

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