About the Application Manual

The information in this document relates directly to the District One NRAC Project Evaluation Methodology. The NRAC evaluation process utilizes the evaluation criteria outlined in ORC Section 164.24. The NRAC assigns points and weight factors to each of the evaluation criteria to determine which projects should be recommended for Clean Ohio Conservation funding.
# Table of Contents

CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM .......................................................... 2
CUYAHOGA COUNTY GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES ........................................... 2
DISTRICT ONE NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE COUNCIL .................................................. 3
NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE COUNCIL ........................................................................... 4
PROGRAM YEAR 2020 GUIDELINES .......................................................................................... 6
   APPLICATION DUE DATE ........................................................................................................... 6
   APPLICATION MATERIALS ....................................................................................................... 6
PY 2020 SCHEDULE .................................................................................................................. 7
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS ............................................................................................................... 8
PROJECT TYPES ....................................................................................................................... 8
   OPEN SPACE ............................................................................................................................ 8
   RIPARIAN CORRIDORS ............................................................................................................ 9
FUNDING .................................................................................................................................. 10
PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS ............................................................................................... 11
PY 2019 APPLICATION SUPPLEMENT INSTRUCTIONS .......................................................... 13
   APPLICANT INFORMATION ................................................................................................... 13
   SECTION ONE - PROJECT EMPHASIS .................................................................................. 13
   SECTION TWO - PROJECT DESCRIPTION ............................................................................ 13
   SECTION THREE - COUNTY PRINCIPLES .......................................................................... 15
   SECTION FOUR - PROJECT BENEFITS ................................................................................. 15
   SECTION FIVE - NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT ........................................................................... 16
   SECTION SIX - OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS ..................................................................... 17
EVALUATION POINTS ................................................................................................................ 20
CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION 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 Program. This program provides grants for open space and watershed conservation, farmland preservation and recreational trails. Information on these Clean Ohio Programs can be obtained at http://clean.ohio.gov/.

The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program provides funds to preserve open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors. The Ohio Public Works Commission (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 One Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) is responsible for administering the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program in Cuyahoga County and is responsible for:

1. Promoting the development and improvement of Cuyahoga County’s open space and the protection and enhancement of riparian corridors and watersheds; and
2. Evaluating and selecting applications from local jurisdictions within Cuyahoga County for financial assistance from the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES

The District One NRAC considers the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program a unique opportunity for advancing environmental conservation and improving the quality of life in Cuyahoga County. The five principles listed below reflect the essential needs of Cuyahoga County. Successful applicants should ensure that their project(s) accomplishes these essential elements:

1. **Preserve** natural areas or open space.
2. **Restore** landscapes that have been degraded or destroyed.
3. **Enhance** the quality of natural areas or open space.
4. **Link** natural areas to each other or to county cultural and civic heritage areas.
5. **Provide** public access to natural areas and/or county cultural and civic heritage areas.

Cuyahoga is the largest and most urbanized of Ohio’s eighty-eight counties – approximately ninety percent (90%) of its land developed, and only ten percent (10%) of this land is considered designated open space. These open spaces are fragmented and offer limited public access. Some are degraded and destroyed by pollution and mismanagement; others remain abandoned by outmigration and/or poor planning.

Open space is an important and vital part of daily life in urban areas – it can improve the social health of our communities, the environmental quality of our ecosystems, and the economic viability of our
region. Protecting and restoring natural systems—their biodiversity, habitats, and aesthetics will result in a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Cuyahoga County.

It is the NRAC’s intent to ensure that the open space and riparian corridor projects that are selected for funding are visible, accessible, and instructional to the general public.

**DISTRICT ONE NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE COUNCIL**

The District One Public Works Integrating Committee (DOPWIC), as directed in the Ohio Revised Code Section 164.21, appoints the members of the Cuyahoga County Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC). The NRAC consists of eleven (11) members, with one (1) member being from the appointing integrating committee (DOPWIC) and one (1) member from the Soil and Water Conservation District located in Cuyahoga County.

The other nine (9) members are appointed from categories of organizations, units of government or agencies as prescribed in ORC 164.21(A)(1). There must be at least one representative from each group:

- **Group 1**: County, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, regional or joint district or unit of government, or regional or joint political subdivision located in the geographical jurisdiction of the DOPWIC.

- **Group 2**: Conservation or environmental advocacy organization, an organization with a primary interest in watershed protection and restoration, the department of natural resources, the environmental protection agency, or the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- **Group 3**: A city park system or metropolitan park system or a board of park commissioners located within the geographical jurisdiction of the appointing integrating committee, a statewide parks and recreation organization, or the U.S. National Park Service.

- **Group 4**: A statewide organization representing agriculture, an organization representing forestry interests, the department of agriculture, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- **Group 5**: An organization representing business, local realtors, or a planning agency, including a port authority, located within the geographical jurisdiction of the appointing integrating committee.
NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

Mr. Rich Cochran
President and Chief Executive Officer
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
3850 Chagrin River Road
Gates Mills, OH 44022
Phone: 440.528.4150
Email: rcochran@wrlandconservancy.org

Ms. Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Chair
Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
3900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
Phone: 216.881-6600
Email: dreyfuss-wells@neorsd.org

Mr. Mike Foley
Director, Office of Sustainability
Office of the Cuyahoga County Executive
2079 East 9th Street, Suite 8-300
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Phone: 216.443.3055
Email: mfoley@cuyahogacounty.us

Ms. Jessica Gift
Manager of Park/Recreation & Research/Planning
City of Cleveland
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 8
Cleveland, OH 44114
Phone: 216.664.6012
Email: JGift@city.cleveland.oh.us

Ms. Claire Kilbane
Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District
860 Brick Mill Run
Westlake, OH 44145
Phone: 216.509.3965
Email: cmkilbane@gmail.com

Group 2 (Environmental) Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2016 - October 14, 2019

Group 2 (Environmental) Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2018 - October 14, 2021

Group 1 (Government) Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2017 – October 14, 2020

Group 3 (Park) Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2016 - October 14, 2019

Soil & Water Conservation Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2018 – October 14, 2021
Ms. Jill Koski
President and Chief Executive Officer
Holden Forests and Gardens
11030 East Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44113
Phone: 440.602.3800
Email: jkoski@holdenarb.org

Honorable Michael Procuk
Mayor, Village of Brooklyn Heights
345 Tuxedo Avenue
Brooklyn Heights, OH 44131
Phone: 216.749.4300
Email: mprocuk@brooklynhts.org

Ms. Kimberly Rassi-Gollin, Secretary
Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau
371 Park Drive
Brooklyn Heights, OH 44131
Phone: 216.276.9405
Email: vinatagealpacas@aol.com

Honorable Susan Renda
Mayor, Village of Moreland Hills
4350 SOM Center Road
Moreland Hills, OH 44022
Phone: 440.248.1188
Email: srenda@morelandhills.com

Mr. Joseph Roszak
Chief Operating Officer
Cleveland Metroparks
4101 Fulton Parkway
Cleveland, OH 44144
Phone: 216.635.3200
Email: jvr@clevelandmetroparks.com

Mr. Chris Urban
Director, Physical Development
Greater Cleveland Partnership
1240 Huron Road East, Suite 300
Phone: 216.592.2444
Email: CURban@gcpartnership.com

Group 2 (Environmental) Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2018 – October 14, 2021

Group 1 (Government) Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2017 – October 14, 2020

Group 4 (Agricultural) Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2017 – October 14, 2020

DOPWIC Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2018 – October 14, 2021

Group 3 (Park) Representative
Term of Appointment:
April 18, 2019 - October 14, 2019

Group 5 (Business/Planning) Representative
Term of Appointment:
October 15, 2018 – October 14, 2021
PROGRAM YEAR 2020 GUIDELINES

APPLICATION DUE DATE
To be considered for financial assistance, applications must be submitted by:

4:30 p.m. Friday, October 11, 2019 to the
Cuyahoga County Planning Commission
2079 East 9th Street, Suite 5-300
Cleveland, OH 44114
(216) 443-3700

APPLICATION MATERIALS
The Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program evaluation process utilizes the OPWC Application in conjunction with the NRAC Application Supplement and supporting documentation. Please provide supporting documentation in the appropriate attachments separated by a cover page. The application materials must be submitted as follows:

1. OPWC Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Application
2. District One NRAC Application Supplement,
3. Authorizations and Resolutions of Support,
4. Agreements and Letters of Support,
5. Maps and Photos,
6. Natural Resource Information, and
7. Property Information (Parcel #).
   • Conservation Easements
   • Letters of Intent/Memorandum of Understanding
   • Purchase Agreements
   • Deeds and Proposed Deed Restrictions
   • Property Value - Appraisals and County Fiscal Office

The required application materials must be submitted in two (2) formats:

1. One (1) original hard copy, noted as such in the upper right-hand corner of the first page, containing the required original signatures, and one (1) copy of same.

2. A compact disc or flash drive with an electronic copy must also be included. Please utilize the following District One NRAC Standard application format and naming convention:
   [Project name]_Application.pdf
   [Project name]_Supplement.pdf
   [Project name]_Attachment_Authorizations.pdf
   [Project name]_Attachment_AgreementsLOS.pdf
[Project name] _Attachment_MapsPhotos.pdf
[Project name] _Attachment_NaturalResources.pdf
[Project name] _Attachment [Parcel #] _PropertyInfo.pdf, to include:
  Conservation Easements
  Letters of Intent/Memorandum of Understanding
  Purchase Agreements
  Deeds and proposed Deed Restrictions
  Property Value - Appraisals and County Fiscal Office

It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all the documents are accurate, complete and in accordance with the requirements, terms, and conditions set down by the OPWC and the NRAC. Failure to meet these conditions will result in the disqualification of a project. Due to the competitive nature of this grant program, Resolutions of Support are due with the application materials.

INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE EVALUATED BY THE NRAC.

PY 2020 SCHEDULE

The NRAC has established the following schedule for evaluating and selecting projects for PY 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE*</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, July 8, 2019</td>
<td>PY 2020 Applications Materials made available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 18, 2019, and Thursday, July 25, 2019</td>
<td>Applicant Workshops (Attend One Workshop Only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 11, 2019</td>
<td>Clean Ohio Applications Due by 4:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14 – October 18, 2019</td>
<td>Preliminary screening of submitted applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 23, &amp; Thursday, October 24, 2019</td>
<td>Site Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18 – December 13, 2019</td>
<td>NRAC Evaluation and Preliminary Scoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 6, 2019</td>
<td>NRAC Meeting – Applicant Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 9, 2020</td>
<td>NRAC Meeting - Review Scores**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, February 7, 2020</td>
<td>NRAC Meeting - Vote on Final Project Ranking**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 2020</td>
<td>Deadline to Submit Recommendations to OPWC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All Dates subject to change.
** Vote on Final Project Ranking may occur at January 9th Score Review Meeting
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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

Non-Profit Corporations – A non-profit corporation is eligible to apply if it is exempt from Federal income taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C 501 (a) one of its designated activities is directly related to the purposes for which Clean Ohio Conservation grants are issued.

PROJECT TYPES

OPEN SPACE
Open Space projects should promote the following:

- Comprehensive open space planning.
- Aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design.
- Economic development that promotes local economic development and/or community development initiatives in high unemployment and/or low-income areas.
- Protection of rare, threatened and endangered species habitats.
- Protection of high quality, viable habitats for plant and animal species.
- Preservation of wetlands or other scarce natural resources.
- Pedestrian or bicycle linkages.
- Educational opportunities.
- Quality of life and the natural heritage of the state.
- Reduction or elimination of nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals.
- Balancing the natural ecosystem.

Eligible 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, on properties purchased with Clean Ohio funds, to make open space accessible and usable by the general public.

**Not Eligible** – Acquisition of open space for “active recreation” like baseball diamonds, tennis courts, or other similar facilities.

**RIPARIAN CORRIDORS**
Riparian Corridor projects should promote:

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

Eligible Riparian Corridor projects include:

• Reforestation of land or the planting of vegetation for filtration purposes.
• Fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to riparian corridors or watersheds.
• Acquisition of easements for the purpose of protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds.

**Not Eligible** - Riparian corridor projects that initiate or perpetuate hydromodification such as dams, ditch development or channelization.

The following activities are eligible for both Open Space and Riparian Corridor projects:

**ACQUISITION**

• Fee Simple Purchase
• Easement Purchase
• Transfer of Conservation Easement

**PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

• Certified Appraisal – which must be performed by an ODOT Prequalified Appraiser credentialed in value analysis
• Closing Costs
• Title Search
• Environmental Assessments
• Design
• Restoration
CONSTRUCTION OR ENHANCEMENT OF FACILITIES
Access improvements to make open space accessible and useable by the general public that promote passive recreation and educational opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Trails
- Pedestrian Bridges
- Observation Decks
- Kiosks/Signs
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Invasive Species Removal and Plantings for Restoration for the first time.
- Parking Lots
- Fencing

PERMIT, ADVERTISING, AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Not Eligible - Administrative services incurred by the applicant.

FUNDING

The funding available for PY2020:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PY 2020 Allocation</td>
<td>$3,324,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PY 2019 Carry Over Balance</td>
<td>$189,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Available</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,514,227</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRANTS: 75% of the estimated total project cost: a minimum 25% local match is required.

ELIGIBLE LOCAL MATCH SOURCES:

- Contributions of money by any person, local political subdivision, or the federal government.
- Contributions in-kind through the purchase or donation of equipment, land, easements, interest in land, labor and materials necessary to complete the project.
PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

The NRAC has established a three-phase process to select the projects that will be recommended to the OPWC for final evaluation and approval.

PHASE 1: ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and initial site visits will be scheduled. Applications deemed ineligible will not be evaluated by the NRAC (see the NRAC Policy Manual). Point values will be assigned by NRAC staff for the following categories:

- Local Match
- Readiness to Proceed based on documentation for land acquisition projects only.

PHASE 2: PRELIMINARY PROJECT EVALUATION

2.1 Applications will be reviewed by the NRAC members for compliance with OPWC and NRAC policies and procedures.

2.2 Using the Evaluation Criteria, the NRAC members evaluate each application and assign a preliminary score in each of the evaluation categories. Documents used by the NRAC are the OPWC Application, the NRAC Application Supplement and any other documentation supplied by the Applicant.

2.3 Applicant interviews give the NRAC and the applicant an opportunity to clarify issues and highlight aspects of the project that could not be conveyed through the application.

Each applicant will be given five (5) business days after the Applicant Interviews to respond to any requests for additional information regarding the submitted items. If the Applicant does not respond, the project will be scored using the original information.

2.4 NRAC members submit preliminary scores. The District 1 NRAC has prioritized the criteria into three categories: High, Medium and Low. Criteria that is of High interest will have a weight of 3; Medium interest a weight of 2; and Low interest a weight of 1 (see the Evaluation Points on page 20). Weight factors will be applied, and preliminary project rankings will be determined.

PHASE 3: PROJECT SCORING AND SELECTION

3.1 NRAC members will meet to review and discuss the project rankings and to allow any interested applicants the opportunity to raise questions. The NRAC can choose to adopt the project rankings as final and close PY 2019 at this first review meeting.
3.2 If NRAC members need to reconsider or refine their scores and submit new scores, the NRAC will reconvene to review and discuss the revised Project Ranking and adopt the PY 2019 Final Project Ranking.

3.3 To be considered for recommendation to OPWC, a project must receive a minimum evaluation score of 156 points, or sixty percent (60%) of the total points available.

3.4 In the case of a tie between two or more projects, the NRAC through discussion will attempt to re-score the projects. If the discussions do not result in a tie-breaker, then the project with the highest percentage of local match will be selected.

3.5 If the last qualified project on the funding list cannot receive its full funding request, the NRAC will consider a request for partial funding along with a revised budget and project scope.

3.6 All final NRAC scores will be posted online and the PY 2019 results will be submitted to the OPWC for final project review and funding determination.
APPLICANT INFORMATION

Project Name:
Name of the project. Please use the same name stated on the OPWC application.

Sponsoring Organization:
Indicate the name of the Applicant. Projects involving multiple applicants must designate a lead agency.

Other Sponsoring Organization:
Indicate the name(s) of any other organizations that are participating in the project.

Contact Person:
Provide the name of the individual who can best answer or coordinate the response to questions about the project.

Phone, Fax and Email Address:
Enter the daytime telephone number, and the email address (if available) of the contact person.

SECTION ONE - PROJECT EMPHASIS

Depending upon the type of project submitted, open space or riparian corridor; check each factor that will be achieved by the project.

For example: If an open space project will incorporate aesthetically-pleasing and ecologically-informed design, protect high quality viable habitats for plant and animal species and will provide educational opportunities, then all four factors should be checked.

SECTION TWO - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Name: Enter the project name as listed in Applicant Information (see above).

Type of Project for which funds are being requested: Check one of the types of projects:

1. Acquisition of land and facilities enhancement;
2. Open Space Development or Enhancement of Clean Ohio Properties; or

3. Riparian corridor project.

**Appraisal or Conservation Value and Property Information**

**For Acquisition Projects:**

Indicate the value of the land by providing both:

1. A certified appraisal performed by an ODOT Prequalified Appraiser who is credentialed in value analysis. The list of approved ODOT appraisers can be found at [http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Engineering/Consultant/Consultant/prequal-row.pdf](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Engineering/Consultant/Consultant/prequal-row.pdf)

2. Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer’s property valuation.

**For Open Space Development Projects:** Provide the required documentation, which is the executed settlement statement, recorded deed and deed restrictions, or conservation easement.

**For Riparian Corridor Projects:** Provide conservation agreement or recorded deed and proposed deed restrictions.

**Project Description:** Provide a project description and attach a map showing the project location(s) and the local context. Explain the following, if applicable:

1. Whether the project is part of a phased project. If so, briefly explain the larger project and the specific phase that is included in the application.

2. The project’s links in the Cuyahoga County Greenprint, which is available at [http://www.countyplanning.us/projects/cuyahoga-county-greenprint/](http://www.countyplanning.us/projects/cuyahoga-county-greenprint/)

3. The current conditions and any site improvements that will be made as part of the project. Please include an itemized estimate of probable costs for all improvements utilizing Clean Ohio funds; provided by an architect, landscape architect, or other qualified professional, in the Natural Resource Information Attachment.

4. Whether there are existing structures on the property. If so provide the appraised value of the structure, proportion of value to the overall value, and the intended actions (e.g. demolition, re-use, rehabilitation or other).
SECTION THREE - COUNTY PRINCIPLES

Scoring: Up to 10 points per principle - maximum of 50 points.

The five (5) principles are the foundation upon which the evaluation methodology was developed. The NRAC’s intent is to select projects that advance these principles. Each NRAC member will assess to what degree a principle is met.

- **Principle 1**: Preserve natural areas or open space.
- **Principle 2**: Enhance the quality of natural areas or open space.
- **Principle 3**: Restore landscapes that have been degraded or destroyed. *
- **Principle 4**: Link natural areas to each other or to cultural and civic heritage areas within the county.
- **Principle 5**: Provide public access to natural areas and/or cultural and civic heritage areas within the county.

* To be eligible for restoration points, the project must include restoration as a portion of the project scope, budget, or local match. Provide supporting documentation.

Applicants should identify the principle(s) that will be advanced by their project, and provide a description in the appropriate section.

SECTION FOUR - PROJECT BENEFITS

Scoring: Up to 10 points per benefit

Studies have shown that conservation projects can provide value beyond those associated with environmental benefits. Indeed, the existence of open space and watershed projects can provide economic and social benefits to all members of society. Indicate the applicable benefits that are anticipated as a result of this project. Check the appropriate boxes.

**ECONOMIC BENEFITS**
- Supports a priority local economic and/or community development initiative.
- Catalyzes other improvements.
- Increases the value of adjacent or nearby land.
- Reduces annual municipal service costs (e.g., public safety, public service).
- Develops or redevelops vacant, underutilized parcels/ acres.
- Other economic benefits.

**SOCIAL BENEFITS**
- Provides public access.
- Creates a gathering place.
- Provides educational opportunities.
• Provides bicycle and pedestrian linkages.
• Removes a blighted image.
• Improves public health and safety.
• Enhances the cultural and civic heritage of the area.
• Incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design.
• Other social benefits.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
• Balances the built environment with the natural environment.
• Enhances environmental health or reduces ecological risks.
• Converts degraded parcels/ acres to a natural area and/or open space.
• Creates habitats or other natural areas and/or open space.
• Improves biodiversity.
• Protects a rare, threatened or endangered species classified as regionally endangered or included in the State Natural Heritage Inventory (See OPWC Glossary of Terms).
• Protects high quality or regionally significant biological communities.
• Reduces the quantity or improves the quality of stormwater runoff.
• Restores floodplain functions.
• Other environmental benefits.

Check all the economic, social and environmental benefits that apply to the project. Please explain other benefits not listed. Provide supporting documentation, as necessary, to support the stated benefits in the Natural Resources Attachment. The supporting documentation may be in the form of specific citations to relevant studies or plans.

SECTION FIVE - NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT
Scoring: 0-10 points

Cuyahoga County needs an integrated system of key natural areas that will provide benefits to all residents, particularly those residents that reside in areas that lack greenspace and/or the ability to enjoy the benefits of these areas.

Explain how the project:
• Is part of an adopted regional, county, and community or watershed plan. Provide project plan documentation.
• Is of regional or county significance.
• Provides a key linkage to an existing or proposed greenway.
• Preserves or restores an example of the county’s natural heritage.
• Serves an underserved population.
• Serves a low-income and/or minority neighborhood.
SECTION SIX - OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS

6.1 Other Project Funding

*Scoring: 0-10 points*

Projects will be awarded points in this category based on the total match provided. Please provide a breakdown of the local match (e.g. federal and state grants) and specify all sources.

The higher the percentage of local match, the higher the points that will be awarded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Local Match</th>
<th>Proposed PY 2020 Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥95</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.2 Level of Coordination

*Scoring: 0 - 10 points*

Projects that involve more than one agency or organization will be given extra consideration. The level of coordination can be financial contributions, the donation of property, assistance in planning and implementing the project, or responsibility for completing a part of the project. If applicable, explain:

- The agencies and organizations that have been involved in the planning and preparation of this project application.
- The level of coordination that each agency or organization has provided.
- Attach Letters of Support.
6.3 Readiness to Proceed  
*Scoring: 0 - 10 points*

*Projects not scheduled for acquisition within 12 months from the date of the Project Agreement will be rejected by OPWC.*

Acquisition Projects must provide documentation of a pending land transaction:
- A fully executed contract with the owner (signed purchase agreement) will receive 10 points
- A contract/purchase agreement that does not have all the signatures or a letter/memorandum of understanding will receive 5 points.

In the case of riparian corridor and open space development projects that do not include land acquisition, the NRAC members will assign points based on the following:
- Project Schedule
- Itemized estimate of probable costs for all improvements by architect, landscape architect, or other qualified professional
- Documentation of appropriate permits or permitting process.

6.4 Immediacy  
*Scoring: 0 - 10 bonus points*

Applicants should indicate and explain if the project area is vulnerable to being developed as something other than open space (e.g. commercial development) and how this development would be detrimental to the community.

6.5 Mineral Rights  
*Scoring: 0 - 10 bonus points*

In accordance with the OPWC guidelines regarding gas and oil leasing, projects that acquire properties, with no active gas and oil wells, and maintain available mineral, oil, gas and/or extraction rights; will be awarded the full 10 bonus points.

For projects with existing oil and gas wells, Applicants must demonstrate the effectiveness of limiting disturbance through legal agreements that minimize the impacts of existing oil and gas leases, through narrowing the lease area, minimizing surface impacts, and requiring restoration following disturbance.

The applicant must provide the following information on the property being acquired:

1. The date, if applicable, of any pre-existing lease or similar agreement on the mineral rights, including oil, gas and/or extraction leases, and if the lease or agreement allows for surface disturbance within the property.
2. Indicate the Mineral Rights that apply to the Project:

- The current landowner will retain the mineral rights
- The mineral rights will be purchased and transferred to another entity;
- The mineral rights will be purchased and maintained, with no active gas or oil wells; and
- The Applicant will obtain legal agreements with Lessee to minimize the impact of the mineral rights lease. Explain how the agreement will limit disturbances to sensitive natural resource areas from current oil and gas wells.
A minimum score of 156 points, 60% of total points available, is required to be considered for funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>MAXIMUM POINTS</th>
<th>WEIGHT FACTOR</th>
<th>MAXIMUM WEIGHTED POINTS</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Principles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserves</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restores</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhances</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links areas</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>45.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>23.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs of the District</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Relevant Factors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Project Funding</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Coordination</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readiness to Proceed</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediacy (bonus)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Rights (bonus)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
<td>260</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>