



PROGRAM YEAR 2021-2022

# Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund Program

## Scoring Methodology

Ohio Public Works Commission - District Six  
Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC)

EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
CITY CENTER ONE  
100 E. FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 1000  
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503

# Clean Ohio Fund- District Six NRAC Scoring Methodology *ORC 164.24 (B)*

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

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

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Ohio Funds Available for this Round	\$
Clean Ohio Funds Requested	\$
Total Project Cost	\$
Total Points (237 maximum points)	
Project Ranking	

\*Is the amount of Clean Ohio Funds requested from District Six NRAC available? \_\_\_\_\_

\*If not, is the applicant willing and able to lower their request for Clean Ohio Funds and/or change the scope of the project and still complete the project? (*Attachment B # 13*) \_\_\_\_\_

**District 6 NRAC Project Action:** *ORC 164.24 (C)*

(Check only one)

Project Approved as submitted

Project held for future consideration pending clarification of:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Project Disapproved

**PART I: PRELIMINARY SCREENING**

YES NO

\_\_\_\_ Applicant is an eligible entity. (ORC 164.23 (A))

\_\_\_\_ Complete application received by deadline.

**Applicant must clearly demonstrate that the primary purpose of the project involves at least one of the following from A. or B. below:**

**A. Open Space (ORC 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

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

\_\_\_\_ Protects or enhances riparian corridors or watersheds including the protection and enhancement of streams, rivers and other waters of the state.

**C. Would the project:**

YES NO

- \_\_\_\_ initiate or perpetuate man made or engineered hydromodification projects not primarily designed To protect or enhance water quality and /or natural features? (ORC 164.22 (A)(6))
- \_\_\_\_ 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?
- \_\_\_\_ accelerate the runoff of untreated water?
- \_\_\_\_ encourage invasive nonnative plant and animal species?

**If YES is checked for any of the above in C, the project is ineligible.**

*If the project meets Preliminary Scoring Requirements move on to Page 4.*

**Eligible Activities/Improvements at NRAC's discretion:**

The District Six NRAC will allow the following activities/improvements as part of a Clean Ohio application if the activity is in-line with the conservation nature within the Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program:

- Mountain Biking
- Equestrian Trails
- Disc Golf
- Dam Removal
- Demolition of structures in accordance with provisions set forth in Section 3.3.1 of District Six Application Manual

ATTACHMENTS/COMPLETENESS REVIEW:

## NRAC SCORING ELIGIBILITY

IN ORDER FOR THE NRAC TO SCORE A PROJECT AND AWARD FUNDING, THE PROJECT APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN EACH OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AS THEY RELATE TO THE PROJECT. IF THE NRAC DEEMS THE PROJECT INELIGIBLE THE PROJECT WILL NOT BE SCORED AND WILL NOT BE AWARDED FUNDING.

(ORC 164.23)

1. 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 should sign under 6.0, Applicant Certification.  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
2. A certification signed by the applicant's chief financial officer stating all local share funds required for the project will be available on or before the dates listed in the Project Schedule section. **If a non-local source, an entity other than the applicant, provides funding towards the project, the applicant must obtain a letter of commitment from the non-local entity source and submit it with the application.** (ORC 164.23 (B)(2))  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
3. A cooperation agreement, (if the project involves more than one entity) which identifies the fiscal and administrative responsibilities of each participant.  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
4. Resolution(s) of Support. (ORC 164.23)  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
  - a. As per ORC 164.23 (C), an applicant that is a park district or other similar park authority must provide documentation of consultation with consult with the legislative authority of each county, township, and municipal corporation in which the proposed project will be located.  
Included\_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
5. Each project must provide the following aerial maps **CLEARLY** showing/identifying:  
(ORC 164.23 (A)(3))
  - a. Aerial map of the project clearly identifying the project boundary.  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
  - b. Project location with respect to its location within the county/township/municipality.  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
6. **For Land Acquisition Projects:** Applicants MUST provide documentation of either a Signed Purchase Agreement or Letter of Intent to Sell. (ORC 164.23 (A)(10))  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_

**For Restoration Projects:** Applicants MUST provide:  
(ORC 164.23 (A)(10))

- a. Documentation of preliminary plans by a licensed: landscape architect, engineer, or other qualified professional.  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
- b. Documentation of Secured Appropriate Permits or Permitting Process.  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
- c. Provide an itemized engineer’s (budget) estimate for proposed restoration work.  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_

7. Applicant provided the Project Schedule. (ORC 164.23)  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_

8. Proposed Declaration of OPWC Restrictions; also include other restrictions.  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_

9. **For Acquisition and/or Conservation Easement Projects: An appraisal report OR restricted appraisal report is 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 Six NRAC for any acquisition above the appraised value.  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_

Appraisal Type: \_\_\_\_ Appraisal Report \_\_\_\_ Restricted Appraisal Report

**\*\*PLEASE REVIEW THE DISTRICT SIX NRAC’S SCORING METHODOLOGY TO ENSURE YOU ADDRESSED ALL APPLICATION COMPONENTS. PROPOSED PROJECTS THAT DO NOT OBTAIN A MEAN MINIMUM SCORE OF AT LEAST 40% (Total Points x .4) OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MAXIMUM POINTS AWARDED BY DISTRICT SIX NRAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL ONLY BE FUNDED IN FULL OR PART UPON A FAVORABLE VOTE OF 8 COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND BE CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING AVAILABILITY.**

### Supplemental Documentation

The District Six NRAC requests the following supplemental information to be included in each application, as it relates to the project (*ORC 164.23*):

- 1) Topographic map with property boundary indicated. (*ORC 164.23 (A)(3)*)  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
  
- 2) Aerial view maps(s)<sup>1</sup> of project indicating: (*ORC 164.23 (A)(3)*)
  - Major roadways
  - Major/Minor Streams
  - 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).
 Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
  
- 3) Conceptual Site Design indicating: (*ORC 164.23 (A)(3)*)
  - Public access point(s);
  - Proposed Parking area(s)
  - Proposed trail(s); and
  - Other eligible improvements.
 Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
  
- 4) For restoration projects include items 1-3 from above and the following Conceptual Site Design information indicating: (*ORC 164.23 (A)(3)*)
  - Stream/wetland 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.
 Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
  
- 5) Project location with respect to the OH-PA 2010 Urbanized Area, if applicable.<sup>2</sup>  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_
  
- 6) Identification of any participation by agencies or organizations that may have expertise regarding the project and may provide assistance with respect to the project. (*ORC 164.23 (A)(7)*)  
Included \_\_\_\_ Not Included \_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant may provide several, separate maps with the information listed so as not to clutter a single map.

<sup>2</sup> Urbanized Boundary map if 50 % or more of the project is located within an urbanized boundary, Eastgate's [2010 Urban Boundary](#) link will help determine applicability.

## NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – Part II

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

The project should emphasize the following pursuant to *ORC 164.22*. Points are allocated to the areas listed below as long as the applicant has provided thorough written justification in the application. (*ORC 164.22 (A)(1-8) and (B)(1-6)*) **(70 Max Points)**.

Yes /No	Project Emphasis	Points Allocated (0-5)
	1. Supports comprehensive open space planning; Incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design	
	2. Enhances economic development that relies on recreational and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment and lower incomes	
	3. Protects habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species or the preservation of high quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species	
	4. Preserves existing high quality wetlands or other scarce natural resources	
	5. Enhances educational opportunities and provides physical links to schools and afterschool centers	
	6 a. Preserves or restores water quality, natural stream channels, functioning floodplains, wetlands, and/or stream side forests. 6 b. Preserves or restores other natural features that contribute to the quality of life and to state’s natural heritage	
	7. Reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals	
	8. Allows proper management of areas where safe hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve a balanced natural ecosystem	
	9. Increases habitat protection	
	10. Included as part of a stream corridor-wide or watershed-wide plan	
	11. Provides multiple recreational, Economic, and aesthetic preservation benefits	
	12. Preserves or restores flood plain and stream side forest functions	
	13. Preserves headwater streams	
	14. Restores or preserves aquatic biological communities	

The Clean Ohio Greenspace Glossary of terms provides a description of supporting documentation and materials that may be useful to NRAC members as you score this section. Please refer to the following link as you score each project,

<https://pwc.ohio.gov/Project-Administration/Clean-Ohio#594102-greenspace-glossary>.

Comments:

**Part II SCORE: Total all allocated points \_\_\_\_\_ / 70 (max points)**



**NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY -- Part III**

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

**FISCAL AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT:**

*ORC 164.23 (A)(6) and 164.24 (A)(3)*

**1. Percentage of Clean Ohio funds necessary to complete project: (ORC 164.22 (A)(2)(3))**

*(OPWC Application Section 1.2)*

- |                              |                                 |                                 |                                 |                               |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 75% | <input type="checkbox"/> 74-64% | <input type="checkbox"/> 63-53% | <input type="checkbox"/> 52-42% | <input type="checkbox"/> <41% |
| <b>(Required)</b>            | <b>(3 points)</b>               | <b>(6 points)</b>               | <b>(9 points)</b>               | <b>(12 points)</b>            |

**2. Readiness to proceed factors:** If project contains acquisition and restoration check appropriate factors in both (maximum is 20 points if both acquisition **AND** restoration) *(ORC 164.24 (A)(10)) (OPWC Application Section 2.0)*

- a) **Land Acquisition Projects: Applicants must provide documentation of a pending land transaction:**  
 Signed purchase contract **(10 points)**       Letter of intent to sell **(0 points)**
- b) **Restoration Projects: Applicant provided (select all that apply):**  
 Preliminary plans by a licensed: landscape architect, engineer, or other qualified professional **(6 points)**  
 Documentation of secured permits **(5 points)** OR Documentation of permitting process **(3 points)**  
 Project schedule **(1 points)**

**3. Level of Collaborative Participation:** Participation means **active** involvement with or towards the project through in-kind services and/or funding (written documentation required; minimum cash donation of \$500).

**Applicant MAY NOT count itself as a participant.** *(ORC 164.23 (A)(7)(8)) (ORC 164.24 (A)(4))*

*(Attachment B #3) (Check All That Apply) (1 point for each category; maximum 2 points)*

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local political subdivisions/Eastgate | <input type="checkbox"/> Park district                    | <input type="checkbox"/> State/county agencies                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agencies                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Community organizations          | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation/watershed organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local business groups                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater District <sup>3</sup> |   |

**4. Level of coordination:** Coordination means project carries out goals of an agency/organization or multiple agencies/organizations (written documentation required). *(ORC 164.23 (A)(7)(8)) (ORC 164.24 (A)(4))*

*(Attachment B #4) (Check All That Apply) (1 point each, maximum 2 points)*

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local political subdivisions/Eastgate | <input type="checkbox"/> Park district           | <input type="checkbox"/> State/county agencies                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agencies                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Community organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation/watershed organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater District                   |  |   |

Points: \_\_\_\_\_ /36

<sup>3</sup> [ORC 6117](#) or [ORC 6119](#) authority

## NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY -- Part III...continued

**5. Operation and Maintenance once project is completed.** (Application Section 3.0 E) (Attachment B #5)  
(Check ONE)

- Operation & maintenance plan and resources, if appropriate, in place (plan documentation required) **(5 points)**
- Operation plan only **(3 points)**
- Limited/no operation plan, volunteers available, no resources **(1 point)**

**LOCAL PRINCIPLES AND COORDINATION:****6. Level of Community Planning with other Open Space, Riparian Corridor, Trails, Farmland Protection or Urban Revitalization Projects under the Clean Ohio Fund within the District or in other Public Works Commission districts.** Applicant **MUST** provide supporting documentation of plan/plans **AND** cite where within the plan/plans project and/or project components are discussed. (ORC 164.23 (A)(10))  
(Application Section 1.4) (Attachment B # 6) (Check All That Apply)

- Carries out an adopted community plan **(2 points)**
- Carries out a watershed plan **(2 points)**
- Carries out other adopted plan that follows in the spirit of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund **(2 points)**

**7. 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. (ORC164.24 (A)(6))  
(Attachment B #7) **(2 points each, max 6 points)**

- Economic **(2 points)**
- Social/recreational **(2 points)**
- Environmental **(2 points)**

**8. Public Access once project is completed:** (ORC 164.23 (A)(11)) (ORC 164.24 (A)(8))  
(Application Section 3.0 D) (Attachment B #8) (Check ONE)

- Physical Access **(10 points)**
- Visual Access **(0 points)**

**9. Applicant Priority:** What is the applicant priority for this project? (Check one) (Attachment B #9A)

- #1 **(5 points)**
- #2 **(3 points)**
- #3 **(1 points)**

**10. The Median Household Income (MHI) for the community where the project is located is in what percent of the State of Ohio's MHI?** (Attachment B #10) (Refer to [State of Ohio MHI table](#))

- BELOW 70% **(5 points)**
- 70% to 79.9% **(4 points)**
- 80% to 89.9% **(3 points)**
- 90% to 99.9% **(2 points)**
- 100% and over **(0 points)**

Points: \_\_\_\_ /37

## NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY -- Part III...continued

11. Is the majority (50% or more) of the project located within an Urbanized Area? Provide map of Urbanized Area with project location noted. Please refer to [Urbanized Boundary Map](#) on Eastgate's website.

(Attachment B #11)

Yes (5 points)

No (0 points)

**GENERAL CONCERNS:**

12. **Natural Resource Viability** is how important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project. The project identifies and protects: (Attachment B #12) (Check All That Apply)

(Applicant ***MUST*** provide supporting documentation)

Applicant has supporting evidence of federally listed, extinct, extirpated, or newly identified species found in Ohio (7 Points)

State Endangered (5 points)

State Threatened (3 points)

State Potentially Threatened (2 points)

State Concern (1 points)

13. **Property Rights:** Applicant has explained and provided proper documentation of the property rights, with regards to mineral rights and extraction that will be conveyed in the purchase agreement or conservation easement, including the date of any pre-existing lease or similar agreement on the mineral rights, including oil, gas and/or extraction leases. (Attachment B #13)

Please provide the following documentation for the property being acquired:

1. Property Rights (please check the applicable line):

Applicant will retain property AND mineral rights and prohibits future mineral extraction lease agreements.

Property has an existing mineral extraction lease agreement, but applicant will retain property AND mineral rights.

Applicant retains ONLY property rights. Mineral rights have been severed from the property for future mineral extraction allowance.

2. Please indicate if there are legal restrictions prohibiting surface disturbance within the property. If yes, documentation must be provided.

Yes (8 points)

No (0 points)

Points: \_\_\_\_\_ /31

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY -- Part III...continued

14. Other Project Factors: (ORC 164.24 (A)(11))

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Project is contiguous with/adjacent to an existing preserved open space or preserved riparian areas.  
(Attachment B #15)  
**(0-5 points)**
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Project protects wetlands (Applicant Must Provide ORAM Score Documentation):  
Category 3 wetlands **(15 points)**  
Category 2 wetlands **(10 points)**  
Category 1 wetlands **(5 points)**
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Project restores wetlands:  
75 or more **(10 points)**  
51-74 acres **(5 points)**  
26-50 acres **(3 points)**  
0-25 acres **(1 point)**
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Stream Restoration:  
1000 linear feet or more **(15 points)**  
601- 999 linear feet **(12 points)**  
401- 600 linear feet **(9 points)**  
201- 400 linear feet **(7 points)**  
0-200 linear feet **(5 points)**
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. Land involved in the project (OPWC Application Section 3.0)  
200 or more acres **(4 points)**  
100-199 acres **(3 points)**  
50-99 acres **(2 points)**  
Less than 50 acres **(1 point)**
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. Amount of Clean Ohio Funding Requested: (ORC 164.24 (A)(2)) (OPWC Application Section 1.2(m))  
less than \$200,000 **(4 points)**  
\$200,000- \$399,999 **(3 points)**  
\$400,000 - \$599,999 **(2 points)**  
\$600,000 - \$799,999 **(1 point)**  
\$800,000 or more- **(0 points)**

NRAC Member priority points (0-10 points): \_\_\_\_\_

Points: \_\_\_\_\_ / 63

*OPTIONAL: Please use the following space to discuss priority point(s) awarded*

Part III SCORE: Total all points on each page \_\_\_\_\_/237 (max points)

**TOTAL SCORE: Add all scores from Part II and Part III**

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Part II Score + Part III Score = Total Score (max 237 points)

+  =

PROPOSED PROJECTS THAT DO NOT OBTAIN A MEAN MINIMUM SCORE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF AT LEAST 40% (94 Points) OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MAXIMUM POINTS THAT COULD BE AWARDED BY DISTRICT SIX NRAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL ONLY BE FUNDED IN FULL OR PART UPON A FAVORABLE VOTE OF 8 COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND BE CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING AVAILABILITY.

IN THE EVENT OF A TIE BETWEEN TWO OR MORE PROJECTS, THE TIE WILL BE BROKEN IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL MATCH.
2. THE APPLICANT WHO HAS NOT RECENTLY RECEIVED CLEAN OHIO FUNDING FROM THE DISTRICT SIX NRAC.