

**SCORING METHODOLOGY**  
**Ohio Natural Resources Assistance Council**  
**District 17**

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rating Team:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PART I: PRELIMINARY SCREENING -- Required**

**YES NO**

- \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Applicant is an eligible entry.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Complete application received by the deadline.

**Project proposal must involve at least one of the following from A. or B. below:**

**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.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Provides open space acquisition.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Provides permanent conservation easement.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Constructs or enhances facilities related to an open space acquisition made under Section 164.22A ORC., and necessary to make that open space area accessible & useable by the general public.

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

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

**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? Such projects include, but are not limited to dams, ditch development, channelization, dredging, sedimentation and stream bank erosion control by use of riprap or wall construction, bank cleaning, bank armoring or bank hardening of any kind.  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ 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 & recreation centers?  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ fund projects that accelerate untreated water runoff?  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ fund projects that encourage invasive nonnative species?

If **YES** to any of the above in **C**, the project is **INELIGIBLE** (Section 164.22 ORC).

## **NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – PART II – REQUIRED**

### **55 Points Maximum**

NRACs shall consider all of the following in approving or disapproving a grant: Does the project emphasize (Document in application) the following pursuant to Section 164.22 ORC? Applicant is required to specifically describe and document how the proposed project will address each of the following criteria as applicable. Unsubstantiated claims without credible documentation will not be scored. Acceptable supporting documentation shall include written statements from professionals and agencies, site photographs, aerial photos, soil surveys, detailed maps, letters, studies from knowledgeable sources, etc. Two points for each of the following criteria except for numbers 14–18 which are worth only one point each (55 points maximum). Please refer to the Glossary of Terms.

1. \_\_\_ Protects habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species.
2. \_\_\_ Increases habitat protection for a variety on native species.
3. \_\_\_ Reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants and animals.
4. \_\_\_ Preserves high quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species.
5. \_\_\_ Restores and preserves aquatic biological communities.
6. \_\_\_ Preserves headwater streams.
7. \_\_\_ Preserves functioning floodplains.
8. \_\_\_ Preserves natural stream channels.
9. \_\_\_ Preserves streamside forests.
10. \_\_\_ Preserves existing high quality wetlands. (MUST DOCUMENT QUALITY OF WETLANDS)
11. \_\_\_ Preserves other natural features that contribute to the quality of life and the state's natural heritage. (MUST IDENTIFY WHAT NATURAL FEATURES)
12. \_\_\_ Preserves or restores water quality.
13. \_\_\_ Preserves other scarce natural resources within the geographical jurisdiction of the council. (MUST IDENTIFY WHAT SCARCE NATURAL RESOURCES)
14. \_\_\_ Restores other natural features that contribute to quality of life and the state's natural heritage. (1 point)
15. \_\_\_ Restores functioning floodplains. (1 point)
16. \_\_\_ Restores natural stream channels. (1 point)
17. \_\_\_ Restores streamside forests. (1 point)
18. \_\_\_ Restores wetlands. (1 point)
19. \_\_\_ Acquires fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to riparian corridors or watersheds, or for other purposes necessary for the protection and enhancement of riparian corridors or watersheds.
20. \_\_\_ Makes acquisitions of easements protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds.
21. \_\_\_ Plants indigenous vegetation, including reforestation of land, to improve water quality.  
(MUST DESCRIBE HOW WATER QUALITY WILL BE IMPROVED AND WHAT VEGETATION TO BE PLANTED)
22. \_\_\_ Incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design including sensitivity to the terrain, natural resources, and heritage of the property.  
(MUST DESCRIBE SPECIFICALLY HOW THIS WILL BE DONE AND BY WHOM)
23. \_\_\_ Enhances educational opportunities and provides physical links to schools and after school centers. (MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY A SCHOOL OFFICIAL)
24. \_\_\_ Includes pedestrian/bicycle linkages to other openspace preserves and population centers.
25. \_\_\_ Supports comprehensive openspace planning. (A COPY OF THE PLAN IS NOT REQUIRED, BUT A STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLIC ENTITY HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE PLAN IS REQUIRED)
26. \_\_\_ Provides multiple recreational, economic, and aesthetic preservation benefits.
27. \_\_\_ Allows proper management of areas where safe fishing, hunting, and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems.

- 28.\_\_\_\_\_ Enhances economic development that relies on recreation and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment..**
- 29.\_\_\_\_\_ One of the above checked items was previously adopted as a priority for a contiguous NRAC district. (MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY CHAIR OF CONTIGUOUS NRAC DISTRICT)**
- 30.\_\_\_\_\_ A second of the above checked items was previously adopted as a priority for a contiguous NRAC district. (MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY THE CHAIR OF THE CONTIGUOUS NRAC DISTRICT)**

**Part II Score \_\_\_\_\_**

**NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – Part III – Required**  
**36 Points Maximum**

**NRACs shall consider the following in approving or disapproving a grant request:**

1. **Percentage of Clean Ohio matching funds necessary to complete the project:**

\_\_\_\_\_ 75% \_\_\_\_\_ 74-70% \_\_\_\_\_ 69-65% \_\_\_\_\_ 64-60% \_\_\_\_\_ <60%  
( required ) ( 3 points ) ( 6 points ) ( 9 points ) (10 points )

2. **Level of Coordination:** (2 points each) Coordination means project carries out goals of multiple agencies and organizations. Letters of support and documentation how projects carry out the goals of the support agencies and/or organizations is required.

\_\_\_\_\_ local political subdivisions \_\_\_\_\_ state agencies \_\_\_\_\_ federal agencies  
\_\_\_\_\_ community organizations \_\_\_\_\_ conservation organizations

3. **Level of conservation coordination with other openspace, riparian corridor, trails, farmland protection, or urban revitalization projects under the Clean Ohio Fund in other Public Works Commission Districts. (MUST BE DOCUMENTED)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is a joint project. (2 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Carries out an adopted community, watershed, or other plan overlapping another district. (1 point)

4. **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.

\_\_\_\_\_ economic \_\_\_\_\_ social/recreational \_\_\_\_\_ environmental  
( 1 point ) (1 point) ( 1 point )

5. **Clean Ohio Funding:** Project is a cost effective use of Clean Ohio Funds.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
( 5 points ) ( 0 points )

6. **Project Site:** Project is important to protect a site in a high development area based on documented population growth density of immediate area of project. (MUST BE DOCUMENTED)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
( 5 points ) ( 0 points )

**Part III Score \_\_\_\_\_ + Part II Score \_\_\_\_\_ = Parts II & III Score: \_\_\_\_\_**

**NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY – Part IV – Other Factors**

**34 Points Maximum**

1. **Community Planning:** Project is in concert with a documented, publicly adopted regional, community plan, watershed-wide plan, or stream corridor-wide plan. (MUST BE CONFIRMED BY A PUBLIC OFFICIAL)

\_\_\_\_\_ Project identified as important in the plan. ( 1.5 points )  
\_\_\_\_\_ Area identified as important in the plan. ( 1 point )  
\_\_\_\_\_ Project would be consistent with the plan. ( .5 point )

2. **Regional Significance:** What is the regional significance of the project?

\_\_\_\_\_ Project will benefit a multi county area. ( 2 points )  
\_\_\_\_\_ Project will benefit primarily one county. ( 1.5 points )  
\_\_\_\_\_ Project benefits multiple local political subdivisions within one county. ( 1 point )  
\_\_\_\_\_ Project benefits single political subdivision within one county. ( .5 points )

3. **Natural Resources Viability:** How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project?

\_\_\_\_\_ Protects state listed threatened or endangered species. ( 5 points )  
(OCCURRENCE MUST BE CONFIRMED BY ODNR NATURAL HERITAGE DATA BASE, OHIO EPA, OR OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE)

\_\_\_\_\_ Protects a threatened biological community or important example of Ohio's natural areas. ( 4 points ) ( MUST BE DOCUMENTED )  
\_\_\_\_\_ Preserves native habitat. ( 2 points )  
\_\_\_\_\_ Restores native habitat. ( 1 point )

4. **Level (list % and in \$) of funding provided by other sources, both funding and in kind:**

Private \$ _____ % _____	Local \$ _____ % _____
State \$ _____ % _____	Federal _____ % _____

\_\_\_\_\_ ( 1.5 points for each source that attracts significant [ more than 5% private or federal ] non Clean Ohio Fund funding.

5. **Readiness to proceed factors:** ( MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY A LETTER OR A PURCHASE CONTRACT FROM THE SELLER )

Contact with the landowner and evidence from a willing seller that closing will take place within:

\_\_\_\_\_ 6 months or less ( 6 points )                      \_\_\_\_\_ within 1 year (1 point )

6. **Other Project Factors:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Project addresses a situation where action must be taken now or the opportunity will be lost forever. ( 5 points )  
( MUST DESCRIBE WHY, AND DOCUMENT ACCORDINGLY )

**TOTAL Part IV:** \_\_\_\_\_ + Parts II and III \_\_\_\_\_ = **TOTAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
( 125 Points Maximum )

**Ranking among all projects:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Does the project emphasize the factors specified in Division (A) \_\_\_\_\_, or (B) \_\_\_\_\_ of Section 164.22 ORC.?**