



**CleanOhioFund**  
Green Space Conservation  
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY**  
Natural Resources Assistance Council

# CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## **District One Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) PROGRAM YEAR 2019 APPLICATION MANUAL**

### *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.

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## 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

**Ms. Sandra Albro**

Research Associate, Applied Urban Ecology  
Cleveland Botanical Garden and Holden Arboretum  
11030 East Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
Phone: 216.707.2860  
Email: [salbro@cbgarden.org](mailto:salbro@cbgarden.org)

**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](mailto: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-wellsk@neorsd.org](mailto:dreyfuss-wellsk@neorsd.org)

**Mr. Mike Foley**

Director, Office of Sustainability  
Office of the Cuyahoga County Executive  
2079 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 8-300  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
Phone: 216.443.3055  
Email: [mfoley@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto: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](mailto:JGift@city.cleveland.oh.us)

**Group 2 (Environmental) Representative**

Term of Appointment:  
October 15, 2015 - October 14, 2018

**Group 2 (Environmental) Representative**

Term of Appointment:  
October 15, 2016 - October 14, 2019

**Group 2 (Environmental) Representative**

Term of Appointment:  
October 15, 2015 - October 14, 2018

**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

**Ms. Claire Kilbane**

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District  
860 Brick Mill Run  
Westlake, OH 44145  
Phone: 216.509.3965  
Email: [cmkilbane@gmail.com](mailto:cmkilbane@gmail.com)

**Honorable Michael Procuk**

Mayor, Village of Brooklyn Heights  
345 Tuxedo Avenue  
Brooklyn Heights, OH 44131  
Phone: 216.749.4300  
Email: [mprocuk@brooklynhts.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:srenda@morelandhills.com)

**Mr. Terry Robison**

Director of Natural Resources  
Cleveland Metroparks  
2777 West Ridgewood Drive  
Parma, OH 44134  
Phone: 440.253.2162  
Email: [tlr@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:tlr@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](mailto:CUrban@gcpartnership.com)

**Soil & Water Conservation Representative**

Term of Appointment:  
April 26, 2018 - October 14, 2018

**Group 1 (Government) Representative**

Term of Appointment:  
October 15, 2014 - October 14, 2017

**Group 4 (Agricultural) Representative**

Term of Appointment:  
October 15, 2014 - October 14, 2017

**DOPWIC Representative**

Term of Appointment:  
October 15, 2015 - October 14, 2018

**Group 3 (Park) Representative**

Term of Appointment:  
October 15, 2016 - October 14, 2019

**Group 5 (Business/Planning) Representative**

Term of Appointment:  
October 15, 2015 - October 14, 2018

# PROGRAM YEAR 2019 GUIDELINES

## APPLICATION DUE DATE

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

**4:30 p.m. Friday, October 12, 2018** to the  
Cuyahoga County Planning Commission  
2079 East 9<sup>th</sup> 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. **INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE EVALUATED BY THE NRAC.**

## PY 2019 SCHEDULE

The NRAC has established the following schedule for evaluating and selecting projects for PY 2019

DATE*	ACTIVITY
Friday, July 13, 2018	PY 2019 Applications Materials made available
Monday, July 23, 2018, and Tuesday, July 24, 2018	Applicant Workshops (Attend One Workshop Only)
Friday, October 12, 2018	Clean Ohio Applications <b>Due by 4:30PM</b>
October 12 – October 26, 2018	Preliminary screening of submitted applications
TBD	Site Visits
October 26 – December 15, 2018	NRAC Evaluation and Preliminary Scoring
Friday, November 30, 2018 Friday, December 7, 2018	NRAC Meeting – Applicant Interviews
Friday, January 18, 2019	NRAC Meeting - Review Scores**
Friday, February 8, 2019	NRAC Meeting - Vote on Final Project Ranking**
April 30, 2019	Deadline to Submit Recommendations to OPWC

\*All Dates subject to change.

\*\* Vote on Final Project Ranking may occur at January 18<sup>th</sup> 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 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 PY2019:

PY 2019 Allocation	\$3,339,704
PY 2019 Administrative Costs	- \$15,000
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>\$3,324,704</b>

**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. 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.

# PY 2019 APPLICATION SUPPLEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

## 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>
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/>
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.

### 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 of the of 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.

<b>% of Local Match</b>	<b>Points</b>
25	2
35	3
45	4
55	5
65	6
75	7
85	8
95	9
More than 95	10

### 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.

## EVALUATION POINTS

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

*A minimum score of 156 points, 60% of total points available, is required to be considered for funding.*



Clean **Ohio** Fund

Green Space Conservation

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

Natural Resources Assistance Council

# CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## **District One Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) PROGRAM YEAR (PY) 2019 APPLICATION SUPPLEMENT**

### About the Application Supplement

This document, along with the "Ohio Public Works Commission Application for Financial Assistance" will be used by the NRAC to evaluate project applications.



## APPLICATION SUPPLEMENT

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
<b>APPLICANT NAME</b>	
<b>OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS</b> (If applicable)	
<b>PHONE</b>	
<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	
<b>EMAIL</b>	
<b>FAX</b>	

## PROGRAM YEAR (PY) 2019 PROJECT CHECKLIST

This checklist must be completed and submitted along with the PY 2019 Application Materials to insure your application is complete. Please Check (✓) to note that the following required information is included in the application.

**APPLICANT:**

**PROJECT NAME:**

**PROJECT TYPE:**  Open Space w/Land Acquisition  Open Space Development  Riparian Corridor

REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO
<b>AUTHORIZATIONS</b>		
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. (Page 6. OPWC Application)		
A certification signed by the applicant's chief financial officer stating the amount of funds required for the project will be available on or before the dates listed in the Project Schedule section.		
Appropriate Resolution(s) of Support (Please refer to ORC164.23(B)(1) for guidance)		
<b>MAPS</b>		
Location identified on the Cuyahoga County Green Print		
<b>PROPERTY INFORMATION</b>		
Letter of Intent		
Purchase Agreement		
Certified Appraisal by credentialed ODOT Prequalified Appraiser:		
Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer's Property Valuation.		
Executed settlement statement, recorded deed, deed restrictions or conservation easement		
Recorded deed or conservation agreement and OPWC proposed deed language		
Existing Structure(s) on Property:		
Provides Intended Use		
Provides Current Appraised Value		
Provides Proportion of Value to Overall Value		
<b>NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION</b>		
Restoration is Part of the Project Scope		
Itemized Estimate of Probable Cost by architect, landscape architect, or other professional		
<b>MINERAL RIGHTS</b>		
Current Landowner Retaining Mineral Rights		
Rights Purchased and Transferred to Another Entity		
Rights Purchased and Maintained		
Legal Agreement with Lessee		



## SECTION ONE: PROJECT EMPHASIS

(See pages 13 in the PY 2019 Application Manual)

For 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.

### 1.1 OPEN SPACE PROJECTS - Check each factor relevant to the project.

- Result of a comprehensive open space plan.
- Incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design.
- Promotes local economic development and/or community development initiatives in high unemployment and low income areas.
- Protects habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species.
- Protects high quality, viable habitats for plant and animal species.
- Preserves high quality wetlands or other scarce natural resources within the County.
- Provides educational opportunities and physical links to schools and after-school centers.
- Preserves or restores natural features that contribute to the quality of life and the County's natural heritage such as: water quality; natural stream channels; the Lakefront; floodplains; wetlands; and streamside forests
- Reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals.
- Promotes the proper management of the ecosystem while allowing for fishing, hunting and trapping.
- Provides appropriate public access.
- Includes acquisition and protection of full land rights.

### 1.2 RIPARIAN CORRIDOR PROJECTS (includes lakefront projects) - Check each factor relevant to the project.

- Increases habitat protection.
- Result of a stream corridor-wide or watershed-wide plan.
- Provides multiple recreational, economic and aesthetic preservation benefits.
- Preservation of headwater streams or outfalls to Lake Erie.
- Restores and preserves aquatic biological communities.
- Provides appropriate public access.

## SECTION TWO - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(See pages 13 and 14 in the PY 2019 Application Manual)

### 2.1 PROJECT NAME:

### 2.2 TYPE OF PROJECT FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE BEING REQUESTED:

Check the project type and provide appropriate documentation for land acquisition.

**Acquisition of Land through the following type of land securement:**

- Fee Simple
- Easement Purchase
- Transfer of Conservation Value

**Acquisition of land and facilities enhancement to make land accessible and useable**

**Open Space Development Project** to enhance Clean Ohio properties to make the land accessible and useable

**Riparian Corridor**

### 2.3 APPRAISAL OR CONSERVATION VALUE AND PROPERTY INFORMATION:

Please provide the following information, and also provide the required documentation in the **Property Information Attachment**.

**Certified Appraisal from ODOT Prequalified Appraiser credentialed in value analysis: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

**Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer's property valuation: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

**Purchase Price of Property: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

**Conservation Easement valuation: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

**Seller of Property:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Purchaser of Property:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is this a bargain sale, in which purchase price is less than the appraised value\*?**

- Yes**       **No**

\*If the acquisition is a bargain sale, **leveraging the difference between the appraised value and purchase contract as match**, then applicants are required to have an appraisal review performed by an ODOT Prequalified Appraisal Reviewer to ensure that the purchase price history, comparables, adjustments, and disclaimers are accurate. (See Page 1 of the PY 2019 Policy Manual)

**Is this an Open Space Development Project in which the property was purchased with Clean Ohio Funds?**

- Yes**                       **No**

If yes, please provide the following information, and also provide the required documentation: the executed settlement statement, and recorded deed and deed restrictions or conservation easement in the **Property Information Attachment**.

Identify the Clean Ohio Round that the property was awarded funding: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Project Description (one paragraph):

**Is this a Riparian Corridor Project in which the applicant already owns the property?**

- Yes**                       **No**

If yes, please include a copy of the property deed, and a draft of OPWC restrictions to be included in a deed or conservation easement in the **Property Information Attachment**.

**2.4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Provide a detailed project description, attaching a map showing the project location(s), the local setting and, describe if applicable:

1. Whether the project is part of phased project. If so, briefly explain the larger project and the specific phase that is included in the application.
2. A location map provided in the Cuyahoga County Greenprint Map (available at <http://www.countyplanning.us/projects/cuyahoga-county-greenprint/>). Provide a Greenprint Map highlighting location and links in the **Maps and Photos Attachment**.
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, by an architect, landscape architect, or

other qualified professional, in the **Natural Resource Information Attachment**.

4. Note whether there are existing structures on the property. If so, 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). Please include supporting documentation regarding the structures in the **Property Information Attachment**.

## SECTION THREE - COUNTY PRINCIPLES

(See page 15 in the PY 2019 Application Manual)

The five (5) County principles are the foundation upon which the evaluation methodology was developed, and it is the NRAC's intent to select projects that advance these principles.

Applicants should identify the principle(s) that will be advanced by their project. Provide a description in the appropriate section. All statements regarding a project's benefits must be supported by documentation.

### 3.1 PROJECT PRESERVES NATURAL AREAS OR OPEN SPACE.

### 3.2 PROJECT RESTORES LANDSCAPES THAT HAVE BEEN DEGRADED OR DESTROYED. Project must include restoration as a part of the project scope, budget or local match if it is to be eligible for restoration points. Restoration activities must be completed within (two) 2 years of the acquisition date.

Check all those that apply. Applicants should include documentation of a restoration plan, that clearly specifies the existing conditions, desired recovery (example: restoration of prairie plant community or Warm Water Habitat (WWH) biological communities), and percentage of budget if Clean Ohio funds are used for restoration.

- The project reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals.
- The project restores or improves one or more of the following: aquatic biological communities, headwater streams, functioning floodplains, water quality, natural stream channels, stream bank erosion or buffer zones, and streamside forests.
- The project reforests land and/or restores plants or vegetation, and/or eliminates impervious surfaces to improve water quality.
- The project restores steep hillsides.

Please provide a description and include supporting documentation in the **Natural Resources Attachment**.

**3.3 PROJECT ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF NATURAL AREAS OR OPEN SPACE.**

**3.4 PROJECT PHYSICALLY LINKS NATURAL AREAS TO EACH OTHER, OR TO CULTURAL AND CIVIC HERITAGE AREAS IN THE COUNTY.**

**3.5 PROJECT PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS AND/OR CULTURAL AND CIVIC HERITAGE AREAS IN THE COUNTY.**

## SECTION FOUR – PROJECT BENEFITS

(See pages 15 and 16 in the PY 2019 Application Manual)

Check all the benefits that apply:

### 4.1 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; please explain.

### 4.2 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; please explain

### 4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Balances the built environment with the natural environment.
- Enhances environmental health or reduce ecological risks.
- Converts degraded parcels/acres to a natural area and/or open space.
- Creates habitats or other natural areas and/or open space.

- Improve 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 improve the quality of stormwater runoff.
- Restores floodplain functions.
- Other environmental benefits; please explain.

Provide supporting documentation in the **Natural Resources Attachment**, as necessary, to support the stated benefits. The supporting documentation may be in the form of specific citations to relevant studies or plans.



## SECTION FIVE - NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT

(See page 16 in the PY 2019 Application Manual)

Check all those that apply and explain how the area to be improved will enhance the conservation needs of Cuyahoga County.

5.1  **PROJECT IS PART OF AN ADOPTED REGIONAL, COUNTY, COMMUNITY OR WATERSHED PLAN. PROVIDE PROJECT PLAN DOCUMENTATION.**

5.2  **PROJECT WILL BE OF REGIONAL OR COUNTY SIGNIFICANCE.**

5.3  **PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A KEY LINKAGE TO AN EXISTING OR PROPOSED GREENWAY.**

5.4  PROJECT WILL BE AN EXAMPLE OF THE COUNTY'S NATURAL HERITAGE.

5.5  PROJECT WILL PROVIDE GREENSPACE TO AN UNDERSERVED POPULATION.

5.6  PROJECT SERVES A LOW INCOME AND/OR MINORITY NEIGHBORHOOD.



### 6.3 READINESS TO PROCEED

Projects acquiring property must provide documentation of a pending land transaction. Check documentation provided in the **Property Information Attachment**:

- A fully executed contract with the owner (signed purchase agreement)
- A contract with the owner (purchase agreement but not all signatures included) or a letter/memorandum of understanding

For riparian corridor projects or open space development projects in which the applicant already owns the property, provide at least one of the following in the **Natural Resources Attachment**:

- Project Schedule
- Formal detailed estimate or quote by architect, landscape architect, or other qualified professional.
- Documentation of appropriate permits, or permitting process

### 6.4 IMMEDIACY

Explain any circumstances (e.g. development pressure) that may be occurring that requires immediate action.

### 6.5 MINERAL RIGHTS

Explain the property rights, regarding mineral rights and extraction, that will be conveyed in the purchase agreement or conservation easement.

Please provide the following information on the property being acquired:

1. The date 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. Mineral Rights (please check the box that applies):

- 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 (10 Bonus Points); or
- The Applicant has obtained 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 existing oil and gas wells.