

# Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation





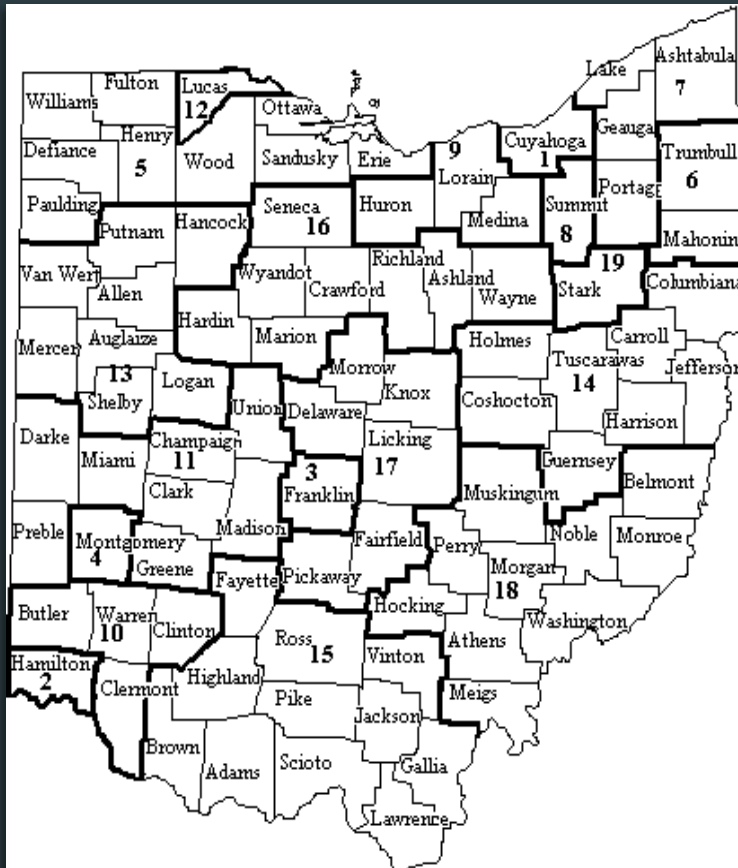
# Mission

Environmental conservation including acquisition of green space and the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors. Grant recipients agree to maintain the properties in perpetuity so that they can be enjoyed and cherished for generations to come.



# Eligible Applicants

- ▶ Counties
- ▶ Townships
- ▶ Cities
- ▶ Villages
- ▶ Non-Profit Organizations (must be a 501 (c)(3) with a focus on conservation)
- ▶ Conservation District
- ▶ Soil and Water
- ▶ Joint Recreational District
- ▶ Park District/Authority



OPWC NRACs -

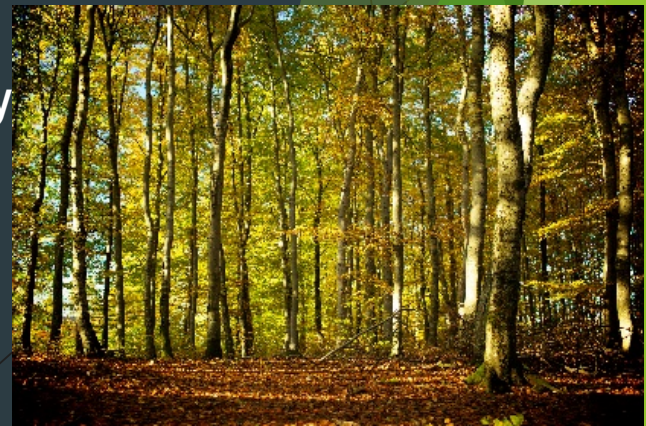
<http://www.pwc.state.oh.us/GSCDistrictMap.html>

Apply according to where project is located

Each NRAC (19 in total) has own schedule, methodology, and scoring/ranking process

# Open Space

- ▶ Open space acquisition and/or related development, including acquisition of easements, for parks, forests, wetlands, natural areas that protect an endangered plant or animal population, other natural areas, and connecting corridors for natural areas.
- ▶ Related development projects include construction or enhancement of facilities necessary to make acquired open space accessible and useable by the general public.
- ▶ Apply for:
  - 1) Acquisition only
  - 2) Acquisition and related improvements, or
  - 3) Improvements only on properties previously acquired through Clean Ohio





# Riparian Corridor

- Protection and enhancement of riparian corridors or watersheds, including protection of streams, rivers, lakes, and other natural bodies of water. May include reforestation of land or planting of vegetation for filtration, and fee simple acquisition or acquisition of easements for providing access, or for protection and enhancement.



# Allowable Improvements

Permitted development activities for funding or local share credit include:

- ▶ Benches
- ▶ Trails
- ▶ Pedestrian Bridges
- ▶ Observation decks
- ▶ Kiosks/Signs
- ▶ Trash Receptacles
- ▶ Invasive species removal (one-time)
- ▶ Parking Lots
- ▶ Fencing
- ▶ Demolition (approval by NRAC)



## Permitted on Site

The following are permitted but excluded from funding/match:

- Shelter houses
- Restrooms
- Decorative or aesthetic features (e.g. such as aesthetic landscaping, fountains, statues, monuments, etc.)
- Improvements to existing buildings (allowed for nature centers, maintenance buildings and the like), contingent upon approval by NRAC.



# Eligible/Ineligible

- ▶ Ineligible costs include: administrative, monitoring, maintenance, seller paid items, taxes, etc.
- ▶ No new oil and gas leases are permitted once the NRAC has approved the application.
- ▶ Wetland restoration is permitted. Wetland creation including vernal pools and any other form of hydro-modification are prohibited.
- ▶ Agricultural purposes are prohibited except as follows: 1) Land being reverted to natural state; land as buffer for a riparian corridor; land used for demonstration of historical farming. Applications containing active farmland or for livestock must include a timely exit strategy (typically no more than a year).
  - ▶ Therefore, agricultural land as a portion of a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) project cannot be part of an OPWC Clean Ohio project. USDA can leverage the OPWC forested or riparian portion of a project but OPWC cannot leverage the agricultural portion. The OPWC restrictions on the forested or riparian portion must be zoned as conservation in the recorded deed.

## Liquated Damages

Any future modification or breach of the recorded deed restrictions or conservation easement that occur once the Project Agreement has been signed and without the advanced written approval of the OPWC Director shall result in the imposition of liquidated damages on the entity responsible for the breach equal to twice the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund monies disbursed for the project, plus compounded interest at 6% per annum.



## Notable Items

- ▶ Application should clearly and concisely explain project & purpose, parcels, acreage, mineral rights if included, structures, conservation values
- ▶ Know NRAC's methodology
- ▶ Cannot be under protection
- ▶ Appraisal Standards
- ▶ Deed Restriction/Conservation Easement Language
- ▶ Allow time for closing - Request-to-Proceed -30 day minimum before closing
- ▶ <http://www.pwc.state.oh.us/GSCdefault.html?m=>  
(Application, RTP Documents, In-kind Policy, Advisory Document)



# Funding

- ▶ \$37.5 million available state-wide

<http://www.pwc.state.oh.us/GSCDistrictAllocations.html>

- ▶ Grant, up to 75% of eligible costs
- ▶ Match includes:
  - ▶ In-kind/Force Account
  - ▶ Cash
  - ▶ Other public sources (e.g. OEPA, ODNR, Nature Works, etc.)
  - ▶ Private Contributions (including land donation)

# Contact Information

- ▶ <http://www.pwc.state.oh.us/GSCdefault.html>
  - ▶ Click on NRAC for specifics
- ▶ Ohio Public Works Representative:
  - ▶ Linda Bailiff, 614.644.1823, [Linda.Bailiff@pwc.state.oh.us](mailto:Linda.Bailiff@pwc.state.oh.us)
- ▶ NRAC Liaisons:
  - ▶ District 1 - Alison Ball, 216.443.3727, [aball@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:aball@cuyahogacounty.us)
  - ▶ District 7 - Carmella Shale, 440.834.1122, [cshale@geaugaswcd.com](mailto:cshale@geaugaswcd.com)
  - ▶ District 8 - Bob Genet, 330.643.7769, [bgenet@summitoh.net](mailto:bgenet@summitoh.net)
  - ▶ District 9 - Pamela Chaney, 330.722.9364, [pberrychaney@medinaco.org](mailto:pberrychaney@medinaco.org)
  - ▶ District 17 - Rob Platte, 419.774.6202, [rplatte@lcounty.com](mailto:rplatte@lcounty.com)