

Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation



What is this program?

This program is dedicated to 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.



What is eligible

- ▶ Open Space - Open space acquisition and/or related development of those open spaces, including the acquisition of easements. This includes acquisition of land or rights in land 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 projects for the construction or enhancement of facilities that are necessary to make the acquired open space area accessible and useable by the general public.
- ▶ An application can be made for:
 - 1) Acquisition only
 - 2) Acquisition and related improvements, or
 - 3) Improvements only on properties previously acquired through Clean Ohio



What is eligible

- Riparian Corridor – Protection and enhancement of riparian corridors or watersheds, including the protection of streams, rivers, lakes, and other natural bodies of water. Projects 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.



What is eligible

Permitted development items for access that are eligible 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



What is eligible/not eligible

The following are permitted on the site but cannot be included in funding:

- Shelter houses
- Restrooms
- Decorative or aesthetic features such as aesthetic landscaping, fountains, statues, monuments, etc.
- Improvements to existing building or reasonable additions to buildings are allowed for nature centers, maintenance buildings and the like, contingent upon identification and approval by the appropriate district NRAC, but cannot be included as part of the Clean Ohio Match or funding. Property must be predominantly open space to qualify.
- New buildings are not permitted.



What is eligible/not eligible

- ▶ Costs which are not permitted for Clean Ohio funding or match include administrative costs, monitoring costs, maintenance items, 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. In addition, Clean Ohio funds cannot be used for a wetland mitigation bank.
- ▶ Projects for continuing agricultural purposes are not permitted. Projects being allowed to revert to its natural state, serving as a buffer for a riparian corridor or that are used for the demonstration of historical farming are eligible. Applications containing active farmland in production or for grazing of 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.



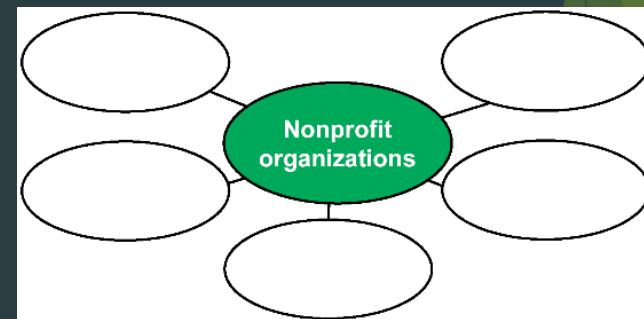
What is eligible/not eligible

- 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.



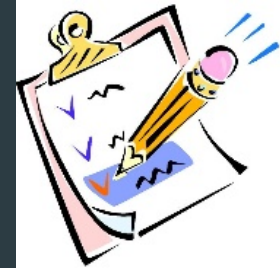
Who is eligible

- ▶ 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



Important Notes

- ▶ Application should clearly and concisely explain the project & purpose, identify parcel, acreage, if mineral rights are included, & if there are structures on the site. Lengthy narratives will lose your audience, keep it clear and simple.
- ▶ Read the District methodology, it is how you are scored.
- ▶ Property cannot already be restricted with a similar easement.
- ▶ Project Manager's page - need to use it to manage project
- ▶ Bargain sales require a review appraisal in addition to the regular appraisal. Appraisers must be on ODOT's approved list.
- ▶ Deed Restriction/Conservation Easement Language
- ▶ Allow time for closing - Request-to-Proceed - a minimum of 30 days before closing. Questions or issues can delay closing.



How much money is available:



- ▶ 37.5 million available state-wide
 - ▶ Web site contains District allocations and deadlines for Round 12
 - ▶ District 5 (Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Henry, Ottawa, Paulding, Sandusky, Williams, Wood) - \$2,037,993 - Apps due 10/27/17 by 4:00pm
 - ▶ District 9 (Huron, Lorain, Medina) - \$1,632,373 - Apps were due 9/15/17 at 4:00pm
 - ▶ District 12 (Lucas County) - \$1,213,662 - Apps due 3/16/18 by 5:00pm
 - ▶ District 13 (Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Logan, Mercer, Putnam, Shelby, Van Wert) - \$1,823,879 - Apps due 1/25/18
 - ▶ District 16 (Ashland, Crawford, Hardin, Marion, Richland, Seneca, Wayne, Wyandot) - \$2,064,524 - Apps were due 8/15/17 at 4:00pm - likely another funding round in 3-6 months
- ▶ The funding is in the form of a grant



Where do I get more information or forms?

- ▶ <http://www.pwc.state.oh.us/GSCdefault.html>
 - ▶ Click on District for specific methodology
- ▶ Ohio Public Works Representative:
 - ▶ Donna Kirkbride, 614-644-1942, donna.Kirkbride@pwc.state.oh.us
- ▶ Liaisons:
 - ▶ District 5 - Dennis Miller, 419-784-3882, dmiller@mvpco.org
 - ▶ District 9 - Pamela Chaney, 330-722-9364, pberrychaney@medinaco.org
 - ▶ District 12 - Kurt Erichsen, P.E., 419-241-9155, kurt@tmacog.org
 - ▶ District 13 - Howard Elstro, 419-221-5288, howard.elstro@cityhall.lima.oh.us
 - ▶ District 16 - Jotika Shetty, 419-774-6202, jshetty@rcrpc.org



Questions?

The only stupid question is the one you don't ask.

