

OHIO REVISED CODE 164.22 & 164.23

164.22 Open space acquisition and related development projects.

Natural resources assistance councils shall review and approve or disapprove applications in accordance with sections [164.20](#) to [164.27](#) of the Revised Code for grants for projects that propose to do either of the following:

(A) Provide for open space acquisition and related development of those open spaces, including the acquisition of easements. Open space acquisition projects include 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 an open space area accessible and useable by the general public. Projects proposed pursuant to division (A) of this section shall emphasize the following:

(1) The support of comprehensive open space planning and incorporation of aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design;

(2) The enhancement of economic development that relies on recreation and ecotourism in areas with relatively high unemployment and lower incomes;

(3) The protection of habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species or the preservation of high quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species;

(4) The preservation of existing high quality wetlands or other scarce natural resources within the geographical jurisdiction of the council;

(5) The enhancement of educational opportunities and provision of physical links to schools and after-school centers;

(6) The preservation or restoration of water quality, natural stream channels, functioning floodplains, wetlands, streamside forests, and other natural features that contribute to the quality of life in this state and to the state's natural heritage. Projects shall not include hydromodification projects such as dams, dredging, sedimentation, and bank clearing and shall not accelerate untreated water runoff or encourage invasive nonnative species.

(7) The reduction or elimination of nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals;

(8) The proper management of areas where safe fishing, hunting, and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve a balanced natural ecosystem.

(B) Protect and enhance riparian corridors or watersheds, including the protection and enhancement of streams, rivers, lakes, and other waters of the state. Such projects may include, without limitation, the reforestation of land or the planting of vegetation for filtration purposes; the fee simple acquisition of lands for the purpose of providing access to riparian corridors or watersheds or for other purposes necessary for the protection and enhancement of riparian corridors or watersheds; and the acquisition of easements for the purpose of protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds. Projects proposed pursuant to division (B) of this section shall emphasize the following:

- (1) The increase of habitat protection;
- (2) Inclusion as part of a stream corridor-wide or watershed-wide plan;
- (3) The provision of multiple recreational, economic, and aesthetic preservation benefits;
- (4) The preservation or restoration of floodplain and streamside forest functions;
- (5) The preservation of headwater streams;
- (6) The restoration and preservation of aquatic biological communities.

Projects shall not initiate or perpetuate hydromodification projects such as dams, ditch development, or channelization.

Grant moneys may be used for preliminary costs related to projects that are eligible for funding under this section, including planning costs, design costs, engineering costs, costs of appraisals, environmental assessments, and archaeological surveys.

§ 164.23 Application for grant for project.

(A) An entity seeking a grant for a project that is eligible for funding under section [164.22](#) of the Revised Code shall submit an application to the natural resources assistance council with geographical jurisdiction over the proposed project area. Entities that are eligible for funding are limited to local political subdivisions and nonprofit organizations. The director of the Ohio public works commission shall develop the form of the application and shall provide application forms to each council. The application shall require at least all of the following:

- (1) An identification of the local political subdivision or nonprofit organization that is responsible for the execution and completion of the proposed project;
- (2) A detailed description of the proposed project;
- (3) An identification of the areas that are proposed to be protected, restored, preserved, or constructed;
- (4) Detailed information concerning the practices and procedures that will be undertaken to complete the project;
- (5) A formal detailed estimate of the project's cost;
- (6) The amount and nature of the moneys or resources to be used as matching funds for the project. Matching funds shall constitute not less than twenty-five per cent of the total cost of the project and may consist of contributions of money by any person, any local political subdivision, or the federal government or of contributions in-kind by such parties through the purchase or donation of equipment, land, easements, labor, or materials necessary to complete the project. [Matching funds shall not consist of state money, except that grants awarded by the governor's office of Appalachian Ohio created under section [107.21](#) of the Revised Code may be used as matching funds.] *
- (7) An identification of any participation by state agencies that may have expertise regarding the particular project and that may provide assistance with respect to the project;
- (8) Information concerning the coordination of the project among local political subdivisions, state agencies, federal agencies, community organizations, conservation organizations, and local business groups;

(9) Information about any coordination that the project will have with projects being undertaken under the jurisdiction of other natural resources assistance councils throughout the state under sections [164.20](#) to [164.27](#) of the Revised Code or with projects being undertaken under sections [122.65](#) to [122.658](#) [122.65.8] of the Revised Code;

(10) Information about public participation in the planning and execution of the project;

(11) Information about whether the general public will be given access to the project area upon the completion of the project;

(12) A timetable for completion of the proposed project.

(B) In addition to the application required under division (A) of this section, an applicant for a grant for a project shall include with the application all of the following:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) of this section, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from each county in which the proposed project is to be conducted and whichever of the following is applicable:

(a) If the proposed project is to be conducted wholly within the geographical boundaries of one township, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from the township;

(b) If the proposed project is to be conducted wholly within the geographical boundaries of one municipal corporation, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from the municipal corporation;

(c) If the proposed project is to be conducted in more than one, but fewer than five townships or municipal corporations, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from at least one-half of the total number of townships and municipal corporations in which the proposed project is to be conducted;

(d) If the proposed project is to be conducted in five or more townships or municipal corporations, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from at least three-fifths of the total number of townships and municipal corporations in which the proposed project is to be conducted.

However, if the applicant is a county and the proposed project is to be located wholly within the geographical boundaries of the county, the applicant shall not be required to include a copy of a resolution from any township or municipal corporation. If the

applicant is a municipal corporation and the proposed project is to be located wholly within the geographical boundaries of the municipal corporation, the applicant shall not be required to include a copy of a resolution from the county in which it is located. If the applicant is a township and the proposed project is to be located wholly within the geographical boundaries of the township, the applicant shall not be required to include a copy of a resolution from the county in which it is located.

(2) Documentation that demonstrates that the applicant has the capacity, financial or otherwise, to complete the project for which the grant is sought and to provide any necessary ongoing maintenance of the project;

(3) Documentation that indicates compliance with division (A) of section [164.26](#) of the Revised Code related to the long-term ownership or control of the property that is the subject of the grant application.

(C) Prior to submitting an application for a grant for a project under this section, an applicant that is a park district or other similar park authority shall consult with the legislative authority of each county, township, and municipal corporation in which the proposed project will be located.

(D) Upon receipt of an application under division (A) of this section and the information required under division (B) of this section, a council may request additional information concerning the proposed project to which the application and information apply. Upon receiving such a request, the entity proposing the project shall provide the additional information requested.

HISTORY: 149 v H 3 (Eff 7-26-2001); 149 v H 385. Eff 5-30-2002.

* Division (A)(6), the material in brackets does not appear in the printed copy of HB 385 (149 v --). The material was not shown as officially deleted. The material does not appear in the electronic file of this bill.