

DISTRICT 3 - FRANKLIN COUNTY

FISCAL YEAR 2026

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND

APPLICATION

Parts 1-6 required.

Deadline for submission is August 29, 2025

District 3 - Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
FY 2026

PART 1:

APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

Project: _____

In addition to the information required by OPWC, the following supplemental informational items shall accompany your application in WorksWise in order for the District 3 staff to consider your application complete and eligible for funding this round.

- All funded District 3 projects are encouraged but not required to erect signage following District 3 signage guidelines. If signage is erected, a certification of signage location and a photo should be submitted to the District 3 liaison within one year of the project closeout date.***

(Original Signature) (Date Signed) _____

(Certifying Community/Agency Representative - Type or Print Name and Title)

**District 3 - Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
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PART 2:

APPLICANT EVALUATION

CRITERIA

See OPWC's [Greenspace Glossary](#) Page for definition of terms.

See the following websites for supportive documentation for Part 6.

Beneficial use designations (for streams)

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/rules/01-09.pdf>

https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/rules/BUD2020_Proposal_FactSheet_15Aug2022final.pdf

Ohio Primary Headwater Habitat Streams (for headwater streams)

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/reports-data/primary-headwater-streams-in-ohio>

Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for Wetlands Documents

<https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/401/ORAM%20Manual%205.0.pdf>

Ohio Natural Heritage Database (rare plants and animals)

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/ohio-natural-heritage-database>
<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/plants-trees/rare-plants>

Ohio Credible Data Program

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/reports-data/ohio-credible-data-program>

Additional information is available on the Clean Ohio Fund website:

<https://publicworks.ohio.gov/programs/clean-ohio>

Franklin County
DISTRICT 3 – APPLICANT EVALUATION CRITERIA

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2026

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Contact: _____

SECTION 1 – PROJECT EMPHASIS

✓ Check all criteria that apply and provide a brief description of how your project emphasizes these criteria. Additional information and documentation can be included in Part 6. If no written description or documentation is provided, no points may be given.

- ☐ (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 eco-tourism in areas with relatively high unemployment and lower incomes
- ☐ (3) The protection or increase of protection 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, or other natural features that contribute to the quality of life in this state and to the state's natural heritage
- ☐ (7) The reduction or elimination of non-native, invasive species of plants or animals

- ___ **(8)** The proper management of areas where fishing may take place in a manner that will preserve a balanced natural ecosystem

- ___ **(9)** Inclusion as part of a stream corridor-wide or watershed-wide plan

- ___ **(10)** The provision of multiple recreational, economic, and aesthetic preservation benefits

- ___ **(11)** Protection and enhancement of riparian corridors or watersheds by fee simple acquisition of lands OR acquisition of conservation easements

- ___ **(12)** The restoration or preservation of headwater streams or vernal pools

- ___ **(13)** The restoration and preservation of aquatic biological communities

SECTION 2 – LOCAL COORDINATION & SUPPORT

Provide a written response to each criteria question below. If needed, provide documentation in part 6 to indicate how your project meets these criteria.

14. **Has land been donated for this project?** If yes, please describe in-kind contributions or donations.

15. **What agencies and organizations have been involved in the planning and preparation of this project application?** Provide a list of agencies and organizations and contacts.

What level of coordination has each agency or organization provided?

(Applicant must document how project carries out goals of multiple agencies and organizations.)

16. **Describe the level of conservation coordination this project provides to another related project or how it ties areas together with other open space, riparian corridor, trails, farmland protection or urban revitalization projects.** Please explain how this project fits into another related project or links an area together.

17. **Describe the benefits that the proposed project will bring to Franklin County.** (Please explain.)

Economic:

Social/Recreational:

Environmental:

18. **What is the extent of public access once the project is completed?** Please list days and hours of operation or how appointments can be made.

- 19. What agency will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of this project?**
Describe how your organization/agency will operate and maintain this project once it is completed.
Provide a long-term operation and maintenance plan.
Does the plan include an invasive species management plan?

- 20. What is the unit cost of this project?**

What is the total project cost per acre or post restoration cost per linear foot of stream restored by the project? (Example: Applicant is purchasing 10 acres of land for a total project cost of \$100,000; the cost per acre is \$10,000.)

What is the project cost per acre or post restoration cost per linear foot of stream restored using Clean Ohio Conservation Funds? (Example: Applicant is purchasing 10 acres of land and requesting \$50,000 in COCF funds; the cost per acre is \$5,000.)

SECTION 3 – ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Please provide a written response to each criteria question below. If needed, provide documentation in part 6 to indicate how your project meets these criteria. 6. **Riparian Buffers:**

21. Does this project provide an adequate width of riparian buffer? How many feet from the top of the bank per side are provided? If this is an enhancement project, how many linear feet of stream or acres of habitat will be restored?

Regional Significance:

22. What is the impact on the geographic area or watershed?
Is it regionally significant because of its impact on **passive recreation** or its impact on a **natural area** in terms of geography and watershed or both? Please explain.

Natural Resources Viability:

23. How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project? Does your project protect any of the following groups? If so, please name the species and explain. (Supportive documentation by ODNR or other qualified entity is required.)

___ globally endangered species or biological community

___ State Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered, rare, threatened or otherwise listed species:

If yes, how many endangered species? _____

If yes, how many rare species? _____

If yes, how many threatened species? _____

If yes, how many otherwise listed species? _____

___ regionally endangered biological community.

___ threatened biological community or an example of Ohio's natural heritage.

If Enhancement project:

Provide relevant pre- and post-construction metrics, such as QHEI for stream restorations or ORAM for wetlands. Who provided these scores? Must provide name, title and relevant qualifications, training, or certification (such as QDC – Qualified Data Collector as specified in ORC 6111.50-56 and OAC 3745-4-03). Provide supporting document and concept plan as attachments in Part 6.

Urban Environment

24. Is this project located within an urban area inside or contiguous to the I-270 Outerbelt?
Describe the unique benefits related to preserving natural resources in an urban environment.

Other Relevant Factors:

25. Briefly describe any **additional** benefits, considerations, or metrics not addressed above that you feel should be considered in the evaluation of this project. *Examples: unique partnerships; innovative techniques; special opportunities; leveraging other funds that will be lost; proximity to schools and other educational areas and other unique factors)* Please limit your response to 1 page or less.

Economic condition of community where project is located.

26. In what political jurisdiction/community is the project located?

SECTION 4 – CONTACT WITH PROPERTY OWNER

Communications with Landowner

27. What communications if any has the applicant had with the landowner?

Name of Property Owner(s) _____

Address: _____ Parcel #: _____

A. Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, who contacted the property owner? _____

Type of contact: ☐ In Person ☐ By Phone ☐ By Email ☐ Other

Date of contact: _____

B. Is the property owner cooperating with the applicant?

☐ Yes ☐ No

C. Does the applicant have a “letter of intent” from the landowner(s)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

D. Does the applicant have a signed purchase agreement with the landowner(s) or ownership of the land?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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PART 3:

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: _____

Type of project for which funds are being requested:

Check the project type:

_____ **Acquisition of land**

Check the type of land securement:

_____ Fee Simple

_____ Easement Purchase

_____ **Acquisition of land and facilities enhancement to make land accessible and usable.**

_____ **Riparian corridor**

Appraisal or Conservation Value*

Certified appraisal from an Ohio Department of Transportation Prequalified Appraiser who has credentials in value analysis:

\$ _____

Purchase Price

\$ _____

*Note if the purchase price is greater than the appraised value, written justification must be submitted, and the applicant must meet with the NRAC prior to final approval. (See NRAC program policy #5)

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PART 4:

REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS/AGREEMENTS

- ***Cooperation Agreement***

Required if only the project involves more than one entity – If needed, provide documentation in part 6 and it should identify the fiscal and administrative responsibilities of each participant.

- ***Resolution of Support***

(Reference ORC 164.23(B)) and ORC 164.23 (C)

This is a required District 3 Supplemental Document and must be submitted in WorksWise.

SAMPLE
AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION # _

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE _____
TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT ASSISTANCE FROM
THE CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUND
ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS
COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, The Ohio Public Works Commission has grants available from the Clean Ohio Conservation Program Funds, and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the _____ (city/village/township)
to take advantage of the opportunities provided by this program by applying for funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Municipality of _____
_____, County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

Section 1: [Insert Name and / or Title] is hereby authorized to apply to the OPWC for Clean Ohio Conservation Program funds. {NOTE: This must be the individual who signs the application.}

Section 2: [Insert Name and/or Title] is authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance. {NOTE: This must be the individual who is named as the CEO in the application.}

Applicant

Date

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

{NOTE: Execute a cooperation agreement if your project is a joint project in which there are two or more active groups. A letter from a subdivision is not a substitute.}

[Insert name of Group A] and [Insert name of Group B] enter into a cooperation agreement to submit an application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the [insert project name].

[Group A] will provide funds equal to [insert percent] percent of the total project cost. Such funds will come from [insert name of account / fund].

[Group B] will provide funds equal to [insert percent] percent of the total project cost. Such funds will come from [insert name of account / fund].

[Group B] authorizes [Group A] to serve as lead applicant and to sign all necessary documents.

[Group A] agrees to pay its [insert percentage] of the cost as invoices are due / at the end of the project / as otherwise agreed upon.

[Group B] agrees to pay its [insert percentage] of the cost as invoices are due / at the end of the project / as otherwise agreed upon.

Signatures for Group A

Signatures for Group B

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
ORC 164.23(B)**

The grant application must adhere to the following:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in section 2 below, 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) 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.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT REVENUES

(Required format)

I, [Insert title] of the [Insert name of applicant], hereby certify that [Insert name of applicant] has the amount of [Insert amount of local funds] in the [Insert name of account / fund] and that this amount will be used to pay the applicant revenues for the [Insert name of project] when it is required.

Signature of Finance Director/Clerk/Treasurer (use blue ink)

Date

Print Name and Title

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PART 5:

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs should provide context to your project application and should identify unique characteristics of the project.

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PART 6:

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTATION

(Letters of support, news articles, special studies, etc.)

- ***Additional documentation (e.g. Communications with Landowner(s), Cooperation Agreement, Letters of Support etc.)***

ATTACH

COMMUNICATIONS WITH LANDOWNER(S)

ATTACH

“LETTER OF INTENT” FROM LANDOWNER(S)