



# *Delco Green Ways*

## Delaware County's Open Space and Recreation Municipal Grant Program

### **ROUND I PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA**

#### **Background**

The Open Space and Recreation Municipal Grant Program Team will use the criteria on the following pages to evaluate and rank applications. Which criteria each project meets, and to what extent, will figure into the project's score for each evaluator.

The applications will be ranked against others from the same project type. They will need to meet eligibility and general requirements for each type to be considered. If an application does not include all required elements upon submission, it may be ranked lower.

#### **Project Types**

The four project types are:

1. **Conserve**  
(open space land preservation)
2. **Enhance**  
(capital improvement in parks and open spaces)
3. **Connect**  
(trail development)
4. **Professional Services Support**  
(plans, studies, engineering, & design work)

## Conserve

For the protection of undeveloped land in perpetuity.

Eligible projects include: fee simple acquisition; conservation or trail easements on private land; and other similar conservation methods.

### Ranking Criteria:

#### Natural Resource Impacts:

- Locally significant open space under threat of a land use change.
- Natural Heritage Area as shown in the Natural Heritage Inventory of Delaware County or within an Important Bird Area.
- Protects important natural landscapes (e.g., steep slopes, woodlands, tree canopy, wetlands, meadows, and vistas).
- Preservation of floodplains.

#### Greenway Impacts:

- Potential use for a segment of a Countywide Primary Trail.
- Accessibility to an existing or potential Countywide Primary Trail.
- Accessibility to an existing or planned local trail that has been studied for connection to the Countywide Primary Trail Network.

#### Existing Resource Protection or Expansion:

- Expands an existing protected open space.
- Protects agricultural land.
- Protects important historic and cultural resources.

#### Urban or Underserved Area Components:

- Opportunity for brownfield restoration or reclamation.
- Located in an underserved area (low-income/CDBG eligible).

#### Supporting Documentation:

- Recommended in a Municipal Comprehensive or Open Space Plan.
- Letters of Support.

## Enhance

For capital improvements to park and/or recreation facilities.

Eligible projects include: capital improvements to existing park facilities; and greening efforts (e.g., street tree plantings, green stormwater infrastructure, etc.).

### Ranking Criteria:

#### Natural Resource Impacts:

- Natural Heritage Area as shown in the Natural Heritage Inventory of Delaware County or within an Important Bird Area.
- Involves stream protection and restoration.
- Tree cover improvement project.

#### Existing Resource Protection or Expansion:

- Degree that the project enhances the open space.
- Protects important historic and cultural resources.

#### Urban or Underserved Area Components:

- Opportunity for brownfield restoration or reclamation.
- Positive impacts to sustainable food systems.
- Located in an underserved area (low-income/CDBG-eligible).
- Includes substantial "de-paving" (impervious-to-pervious conversion) of a site.
- Includes street tree plantings (shading sidewalks or roadways).
- Includes green stormwater infrastructure.

#### Greenway Impacts:

Development or substantial improvement of a park's internal trail system that will:

- serve as a segment of the countywide Primary Trail Network;
- serve as part of a local trail network that connects to or will connect to the countywide Primary Trail Network;  
or
- serve as part of a local [existing or planned] trail network that extends off-site and will not connect to the countywide Primary Trail Network.

#### Supporting Documentation:

- Recommended in a Master Site Development Plan for the park.
- Recommended in a Municipal Comprehensive or Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Multi-municipal project.
- Quality of design.
- Letters of support.

## Connect

For development of trails included on the Countywide Primary Trail Network.

For development of local trails.

Eligible projects include: construction of multi-use segments of the countywide Primary Trail Network; and construction of local multi-use trails.

### Ranking Criteria:

Give consideration to the 3 below criteria for all applications:

- Multi-municipal project.
- Quality of Design.
- Letters of Support.
  
- For trail segments in the County Primary Trail Network, the calculated **Connectivity Score** for the segment will be taken into consideration.  
Criteria calculated into Connectivity Score:
  - Official Circuit Segment; Connect to an Existing Trail; Extend the Existing Primary Trail Network; Close a Gap in the Primary Trail Network; Included in a Municipal Comprehensive or Greenway Plan; Trail Junction Segment; Population Density Surrounding Trail Segment; Mixed-Use Trail (connecting two or more primary land uses);
  - Connections to: Public Parks; Parks Greater than 25 acres; Transit Stations; Schools; College or Universities; Conservation Organization Protected Lands; Commercial Centers; Indoor Recreational Facility; Private Recreational Facility; Libraries; Major Employers; Historic Sites

For all other trails that are not part of the Countywide Primary Trail Network (local trails), consideration will be given to the following criteria (do not add for Trails in the PTN):

- Links directly to a Primary Trail in the Countywide Primary Trail Network.
- Listed in a local trail corridor plan or feasibility study.
- Listed in a local trail network plan within a comprehensive municipal parks, recreation, and greenway plan.
- Listed in a municipal comprehensive plan.
- Gap trail: Provides a missing link between two other trail segments.
- Links significant local destinations (man-made resources) with residential areas.
- Provides a safe alternative to an unsafe condition (e.g., a project offering an alternative to pedestrians sharing a vehicular route or crossing a busy roadway at grade).
- Links established or protected linear greenway corridors to major hubs or destinations.

## Professional Services Support

For the planning, study, and design of park and/or recreational facilities.

Eligible projects include: comprehensive open space and greenway plans; park master plans; feasibility studies; title searches; appraisals; and design/engineering and permitting.

### Ranking Criteria:

#### Project Phase or Scope

- Comprehensive Open Space and Greenway Plan.
- Feasibility Study.
- Final Design for Trail or Recreation Facility.
- Park Master Site Development Plan(s).
- Project involves two or more of the following types: Title Search, Appraisal, Permitting
- Stand-alone Title Search Project.
- Stand-alone Appraisal Project.
- Stand-alone Permitting Project.

#### Natural Resource Impacts:

- Impacts a locally significant open space that is under threat of a land use change.
- Incorporates tree protection and/or tree planting elements.
- Incorporates sustainability elements.

#### Greenway Impacts:

- Trail Study or Design - County Primary Trail Network.
- Trail Study or Design - Circuit Trail.
- Trail Study or Design - local trail (Non-PTN/Circuit).

#### Urban or Underserved Area Components:

- Located in an underserved area (low-income/CDBG-eligible).
- Incorporates positive impacts to sustainable food systems (i.e. community garden, farmers market on-site).

#### Supporting Documentation:

- Letters of Support.
- Recommended in an Adopted Municipal Plan of an appropriate scale or level of detail to precede this project.
- Multi-municipal project.