

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY STEWARDSHIP FUND GRANT PROGRAM RATING AND RANKING FACTORS

The Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant Program rating and ranking system provides a process for evaluating applications submitted by local governmental units and non-profit organizations.

The rating and rating forms consist of three separate sections:

- Part A evaluates each project against the overall goals and priorities of the Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant Program, as well as the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan and any other relevant plans. This form is used for all applications, regardless of project type.
- Part B is used for development projects only.
- Part C is used for real estate projects only, and ranks projects whether they involve fee title ownership or any other type of transfers of interest for a property (except for Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) projects; please contact the Planning & Conservation Department before moving forward with a PDR project).

Each application will be evaluated using the criteria in Part A. If the application is written for a development project, Part B will be used in conjunction with Part A. If the application is written for real estate acquisition, Part C will be used in conjunction with Part A.

Part A, Part B, and Part C are worth 29 points each. Therefore, all applications will be scored out of a total possible 58 points:

Development projects	Part A (29 points)	+	Part B (29 points)	=	58 possible points
Real estate projects	Part A (29 points)	+	Part C (29 points)	=	58 possible points

New for 2024. Five (5) additional points will be added to Development projects that are implementing former planning projects funded through this program.

For definitions of any terms used in the Rating and Ranking Factors form, please contact the Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department.

Applicant: _____

Project Name: _____

PART A: OVERALL STEWARDSHIP GOALS

Water

12 points available: each worth 1 point

1. Protects aquatic land and/or animal habitat (i.e. fish or waterfowl).
2. Protects endangered, rare, or threatened water species.
3. Improves water quality and/or reduces erosion.
4. Project area is identified or connected to an area identified as part of an existing environmental corridor water quality plan (i.e. stormwater management).
5. Project is identified in a 9 Key Element Plan or other approved water quality improvement plan.
6. Project is on or adjacent to an identified 303(d) water body (impaired lake, stream, creek, or other water body classified by the Wisconsin DNR).
7. Project is on or adjacent to a waterway identified in the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan.
8. Project is on or adjacent to a priority stream, trout stream, or river as classified by the Wisconsin DNR.
9. Project has been determined to be an area of existing or restorable wetlands as identified by the Wisconsin DNR.
10. Applicant has a plan in place to restore a wetland.
11. Project is consistent with local land use plans and relevant community zoning.
12. Project area is a mapped floodway or floodplain.

Section total _____

Land

8 points available: each worth 1 point

1. Protects land habitat, natural features, or resources.
2. Protects an area of significant terrestrial plant or animal life (rare, threatened, or endangered species), or a unique ecosystem.
3. Protects areas of historic land use (i.e. old growth, pristine woodlot).
4. Protects glacial and/or geologic features.
5. Project is of significant scenic value (i.e. visible from roads or public lands).
6. Allows/provides access to other public lands.
7. Project area provides a buffer to streams, lakes, and/or other waterways.
8. Project is identified as a priority in the Sheboygan County Land & Water Resource Management Plan.

Section total _____

Community Cooperation

6 points available: each worth 1 point

1. Project provides a natural resource open space between municipal boundaries.
2. Project helps guide urban growth.
3. Project provides linkage to other natural or cultural resources.
4. Project leverages matching funds from at least one other source.
5. Project has written support from at least one government agency (excluding the County).
6. Project is consistent with the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan.

Section total _____

Density Standards

3 points available: each worth 1 point

1. The zoning code of the local government allows developers to apply for the creation of Planned Unit Developments.
2. The local government has adopted a Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance.
3. The local government has adopted a Conservation Subdivision Ordinance.

Section total _____

PART A TOTAL POINTS _____ / **29 points**

ADD an additional Five (5) points if project implements a past planning project funded through this program.

PART B: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT APPLICANTS ONLY

Planning Factors

6 points available: each worth 1 point

1. Project is located in other defined conservation/preservation-related project area boundary(ies) (DNR, National Park Service, etc.) or helps redevelop a brownfield.
2. Project is identified in a local municipal land use plan(s).
3. Threat of changing land use to something other than agriculture, open space, and/or recreational areas.
4. Smart Growth Plan adopted and is being maintained at least on a 10 year interval.
5. Project site has a significant natural resources value (i.e. it is targeted for preservation by a land protection agency, conservation association, etc.).
6. Project site has significant archaeological/historical value (i.e. it is registered or eligible for registry as an archaeological site with a federal, state, or local archaeological organization).

Section total _____

Recreation

13 points available: each worth 1 point

1. Offers passive public recreational opportunities (i.e. hiking, bird-watching, etc.).
2. Offers active public recreational activities (i.e. soccer, disc golf, etc.).
3. Provides accessibility according to Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
4. Offers public access to a recreational area where none existed previously.
5. Provides recreational opportunity adjacent to an area of high population.
6. Offers year-round recreation.
7. Creates linkages to other recreational opportunities.
8. Offers environmental education and/or interpretive opportunities.
9. Provides recreational opportunity for individuals of all ages.
10. Increases the overall size and connectivity of an existing natural resource area.
11. Enhances water-based outdoor recreational activities (i.e. canoeing, fishing, etc.).
12. Project provides support for a multi-purpose, local, regional, or statewide recreational trail system.

Section total _____

Management Factors**3 points available: each worth 1 point**

1. Applicant has developed a management plan for the project site.
2. Applicant has the ability (i.e. available labor) to manage the project.
3. Applicant has demonstrated appropriate funding for long-term site/project management.

Section total _____**Economic Factors****4 points available: each worth 1 point**

1. Landowner contribution or donation of land on which project is or will be located.
2. An organization other than the project sponsor is contributing to the project cost.
3. The project involves the use of recycled or re-used materials.
4. The project has the potential to create a positive economic impact on the municipality in which it is located.

Section total _____**Cooperative Factors****3 points available: each worth 1 point**

1. Project involves partnerships.
2. Project improves the quality of life of the community by promoting educational, healthy living, economic, and/or social benefits to it.
3. There is a current development threat to the project site if it is not used for the purposes outlined in the application.

Section total _____**PART B TOTAL POINTS _____ / 29 points**

PART C: REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION APPLICANTS ONLY

Project Availability

3 points available: each worth 1 point

IF FEE TITLE ACQUISITION:

1. One time opportunity with seller.
2. Time sensitivity (acquisition will occur within one year of award).
3. An option or offer to purchase is signed.

IF OTHER FORM OF INTEREST (INC. CONSERVATION EASEMENT, ETC.):

1. Existing easements (other than those for conservation purposes) do not currently exist on property.
2. Current landowner has agreed in written form to offer easement.
3. Applicant has the ability to execute the drafting and recording of the easement.

Section total _____

Economic Factors

4 points available: each worth 1 point

FOR ALL TYPES OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION (I.E. FEE TITLE AND EASEMENT):

1. Landowner contribution or donation.
2. County share is 25% of purchase price or market value, whichever is less.
3. Acquisition has the potential to create a positive economic impact on the municipality in which it is located.
4. Applicant has demonstrated appropriate funding for long-term site management.

Section total _____

Management Factors

2 points available: each worth 1 point

FOR ALL TYPES OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION (I.E. FEE TITLE AND EASEMENT):

1. Applicant has developed a management plan for the project site.
2. Applicant has the ability to manage the project (or an agreement with the landowner or another appropriate agency to do so).

Section total _____

Planning Factors

7 points available: each worth 1 point

FOR ALL TYPES OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION (I.E. FEE TITLE AND EASEMENT):

1. Acquisition meets other County goals (water quality plans, farmland preservation, soil conservation, transportation).
2. Project is located in other defined conservation/preservation-related project area boundary(ies) (DNR, National Park Service, etc.) or helps redevelop a brownfield.

3. Threat of changing land use to something other than agriculture, open space, and or recreational areas.
4. The subject parcel will be permanently protected for natural resources, conservation, or outdoor recreation purposes, or is adjacent to such land.
5. Without the ownership of or easement over it, the subject parcel has the potential for commercial or industrial development.
6. Smart Growth Plan adopted and is being maintained at least on a 10 year interval.
7. Acquisition of the subject parcel has been identified for preservation in the community's Smart Growth Plan.

Section total _____

Natural Resources Factors

6 points available: each worth 1 point

FOR ALL TYPES OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION (I.E. FEE TITLE AND EASEMENT):

1. The project will acquire, preserve, and/or rehabilitate wetlands defined in WI Wetlands Inventory or another approved wetlands delineation.
2. The project has frontage on a navigable river, stream, or lake.
3. Acquisition of the property will restrict or reduce rural fragmentation (will maintain continuity of rural lands).
4. The site has strong aesthetic value by acquiring and protecting existing green space.
5. The property has unique geological or physical characteristics (i.e. physical features having outstanding values).
6. Property is registered or eligible for registry as an archaeological or historical site with a federal, state, or local archaeological or historical organization.

Section total _____

Cooperative Factors

3 points available: each worth 1 point

IF FEE TITLE ACQUISITION:

1. Title is clear and without encumbrances.
2. Grant amount has been based upon a recently performed appraisal (within the last year).
3. Applicant has funding in place to close transaction.

IF OTHER FORM OF INTEREST (INC. CONSERVATION EASEMENT, ETC.):

1. Title of subject parcel does not contain limiting factors (i.e. other easements in acquisition area).
2. Applicant has the ability to monitor the easement so that it is being preserved for its intended use and/or has demonstrated experience in doing so in the past.
3. Applicant has verified that landowner will provide easement at no cost or at a very reduced rate when compared to similar transactions.

Section total _____

Recreation**4 points available: each worth 1 point**

1. Subject parcel will offer active and/or passive public recreational opportunities (i.e. hiking, bird-watching, etc.).
2. Acquisition will provide public access to a recreational area where none existed previously.
3. Enhances water-based outdoor recreational activities (i.e. canoeing, fishing, etc.).
4. Acquisition provides support for a multi-purpose local, regional, or state-wide recreational trail system.

Section total _____

PART C TOTAL POINTS _____ / **29 points**

TOTAL SCORE: PROJECT DEVELOPEMNT (PART A + PART B)

_____ / **58 points**

TOTAL SCORE: REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION (PART A + PART C)

_____ / **58 points**