

RHODE ISLAND OPEN SPACE BOND FUNDS

SCORING CRITERIA FOR RECREATION ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS:

A maximum of 110 points is available under priority rating system. Scoring is divided among the levels as follows:

Level I	- Planning	35 points
Level II	- Project Merit	50 points
Level III	- Sponsor Operation & Maintenance	15 points
Level IV	- Bonus Criteria	10 points

Level I

The rating system's Level I places a high emphasis (20 points out of a total of 35 points) on project consistency and conformance with applicable planning documentation (the SCORP, Local Comprehensive Land Use Plan and/or a Local Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plans). This emphasis is necessary to insure that limited resources are directed to priority needs identified and documented through the planning process.

Level II

The rating system's Level II provides a means for comparing, in a systematic fashion, the relative merits of projects proposed for funding for land acquisition or recreational development. Land acquisition and recreational development projects will be scored separately. For land acquisition, emphasis will be on need, suitability of the land for recreational development and population to be served. The rating system's Level II for recreational development places values on the project's ability to provide new and/or extended use of facilities. Level II rates the project according to: new vs. renovated facilities, extension of use, increase of user comfort and extent and diversity of the population that the area will service.

Level III

Level III of the priority rating system is intended to evaluate the sponsor's operation and maintenance record of existing recreation resources under its control, including facilities funded under previous federal or state grants, as well as the community's commitment to maintaining the proposed facility. These criteria recognize that it may be counterproductive to award grants for additional capital development and facility expansion to applicants who cannot demonstrate an adequate commitment to operation and maintenance of their facilities.

Level IV

Level IV of the priority rating system is a bonus opportunity for those proposals that have multi-community or regional impact, are a continuation of a multi-phased project identified in a master plan, have special or innovative design features, include passive recreational use, and/or will attract tourism.

LEVEL I CRITERIA:

PLANNING CONSISTENCY (TOTAL POINTS 35)

The criteria of this section of the scoring process rate the consistency of the proposals with the needs, recommended actions and priorities identified in the SCORP and applicable local Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plans. Point scores are based on the degree to which proposals are consistent with the recommended actions of the plans and conform to the priorities for Land and Water Conservation Funding established in the SCORP.

Project proposals are evaluated and assigned scores by the RRRRC during priority rating meetings. The RRRRC members are furnished with copies of the SCORP for use in evaluating the project proposals' conformance with applicable SCORP recommendations, scheduled actions and priorities for Land and Water Conservation Funding. At least one copy of each local plan is also available for the members' use during the rating meetings. Due to the large number of local projects likely to be under review in any given funding round, the staff evaluates the planning consistency of the local project proposals prior to the RRRRC rating meeting. At the RRRRC rating meetings the committee members are presented with staff recommendations for Level I scoring of all local project proposals under consideration. RRRRC members are responsible for assigning each local proposal's Level I score, based on the staff recommendation, materials presented in the project application and the members' expertise and experience. RRRRC members have discretion to assign a score for each rating question within the appropriate range of points.

Planning Consistency Criteria for Local Project Proposals

- 1. The rating system awards five (5) points for the highest priority application submitted by each applicant.**
- 2. Local Plan Consistency (10 points maximum score)**
The applicant can receive a maximum of ten (10) points for demonstrating that:
 - a) The proposal is not documented in the Local Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plan, but is strongly supported by the neighborhood and community. (Maximum of 5 points)
 - or**
 - b) The proposal will satisfy priority needs documented in the plan and is specifically identified in the plan and conforms with the acquisition and development schedule of the plan in terms of priority, timing and relative cost. (Maximum of 10 points)
- 3. State Plan Consistency (10 points maximum score)**
The applicant can receive a maximum of ten (10) points for demonstrating that the proposal conforms to the Rhode Island State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) priorities and actions. Points will be awarded based on the number of SCORP recommended actions supported by the proposal and the priority of those SCORP actions.
- 4. Site Analysis (10 points maximum score)**
The RRRRC committee can award a maximum of ten (10) points to the applicant who has completed a preliminary design of the project that includes a site analysis of environmental, cultural conditions and constraints. The applicant can submit for review by the RRRRC a soils map, locus map, aerial photographs or other documents to **demonstrate the feasibility of the proposal.**

LEVEL II CRITERIA:

PROJECT MERIT (TOTAL POINTS 50)

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT & LAND ACQUISITION

Under Level II, each project's specific characteristics are considered in terms of land acquisition or recreational development which may include new development, rehabilitation of existing facilities and provision of support facilities.

Criteria for Acquisition Projects (TOTAL POINTS 50)

Several factors are used to rate an acquisition project to measure the beneficial impact of the addition of the land to the public recreational estate.

1. The RRRC can award up to fifteen (15) points to a project if the sponsor demonstrates a need and/or a demand for parkland in the area. The RRRC can utilize the National Park Service Guidelines to determine need.
2. If the parcel is suitable for development of recreational facilities, the RRRC can award up to ten (10) points.
3. A maximum of five (5) points can be awarded for acquisition of land that will add to existing public or protected land or will close an inholding.
4. The RRRC can award up to five (5) points for an acquisition project that will combine recreational use with unique or significant natural, cultural or historical features.
5. The RRRC can award up to fifteen (15) points to an acquisition proposal depending on the degree to which acquisition of the site will expand the

(5) points can be awarded for each of the following areas the proposal will address:

- a) project serves a minority neighborhood
- b) project is served by public transportation
- c) project is located in a densely populated neighborhood

In answering question 5, section c, the applicant must supply the RRRC with the census tract and estimated population of the project area.

Criteria for Recreational Development Projects (TOTAL POINTS 50)

Four questions address the proposal's recreational development potential to provide new supply, extend the use of a facility, increase user comfort and safety and service various segments of the population.

1. The first criterion in the recreational development section addresses projects which will increase the amount of recreational supply available. This factor rewards projects which provide new user facilities. Projects which upgrade, rehabilitate or improve existing recreational facilities technically may receive points under the criteria of this section, but scoring is minimal for projects which do not add to or expand existing recreational supply. The RRRC may award up to ten (10) points in this area.

2. Up to ten (10) points may be awarded under the second criterion which addresses the extent to which use of the facility will be increased by the project proposal. The RRRC will consider factors such as improved physical access, and greater use at night or for a longer portion of the year.
3. Up to ten (10) points are assigned based upon the degree to which the project improves user comfort. This might include such projects as sanitary facilities, fencing to separate recreational activities, benches, shade trees and shelters over picnic tables. These items improve the quality of the recreational experience.
4. The RRRC can award up to twenty (20) points to a recreational development proposal depending on the degree to which the development of the site will be accessible and the extent to which it will expand the recreational opportunities available to disadvantaged segments of the population.

a) **Accessibility:** up to 10 points available for projects which are:(1) located in a densely-populated neighborhood (define density criteria based upon Census Tract data); or (2) located adjacent or proximate to (within 1/4 mile) of a public transit route, or an existing or DOT-programmed bicycle facility.

b) **Equity and Service to Special Populations:** up to 10 points for projects which are:

- (1) located within or provide enhanced service to neighborhoods in which low income and/or minority residents are over-represented;
- (2) provide activity or amenity features which expand the recreational opportunities of physically or mentally handicapped individuals (such features to be in excess of normally-mandated barrier-free accessibility standards).

LEVEL III CRITERIA:

APPLICANT'S COMMITMENT TO OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (TOTAL POINTS 15)

1. **Maintenance of Existing Facilities**
Assignment of points under this criterion is based on an evaluation by DEM's grant administrator of an applicant's record in the maintenance of existing recreational facilities as observed during periodic on-site inspections. Committee members have discretion to assign a score from 0 to 7 points (7 points maximum) based on the evaluation.
2. **Maintenance of Proposed Facility**
The RRRC may award to the applicant 0-8 points (8 point maximum) based on the sponsor's assurances that the proposed site will be properly maintained. The sponsor should specify the resources and procedures for proper maintenance and the budgetary impact of the proposal.

LEVEL IV CRITERIA:

BONUS POINTS (TOTAL POINTS 10)

Up to ten (10) additional (bonus) points may be awarded for projects that address this section's concerns. A maximum of ten (10) points may be given for projects that address any one or more of the following:

1. The project addresses multi-community or regional needs.
2. The project is part of a multi-phase project directed by a master plan.
3. The project will attract tourism.
4. The project has special or innovative design features.
5. The project includes passive recreational use.
6. Other unique or exceptional features. The sponsor can describe special features of the proposal not noted elsewhere in the application.