

ANNUAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING AND SELECTING PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE CHIPPEWA COUNTY STEWARDSHIP FUND LOCAL MATCH GRANT PROGRAM IN 2020

Introduction

A complete outline of standing administrative policy is established in Chippewa County Stewardship Fund Policy and Procedures for Program Administration, (12/7/99). Section 2.0 gives the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) administrative authority for the Program.

Program policy provides for the use of the County Stewardship Fund to assist landowners, municipalities, local units of government, and non-profit organizations to meet land conservation and resource management objectives in the County.

Program policy requires the LCC to establish objectives and set priorities (annual grant application evaluation criteria) for funding allocations on an annual basis.

Applications shall specify all intended outdoor recreational uses.

Applications shall list all parties directly involved with the project proposal and long-term custodial management of the property.

Year 2020 Annual Grant Application Evaluation Criteria

In the Year 2020 grant cycle, primary consideration will be given to:

- a. Applicants who propose projects that will be matched by other grant sources.
- b. Applicants who have not previously received a grant.
- c. Applicants who propose projects with a purchase price of less than or equal to the appraised value. The County will not contribute to a proposed project in which the purchase price is higher than the appraised value, unless unique and extraordinary circumstances warrant paying more than the appraised value, as determined by the LCC.

All applications submitted through the Chippewa County Stewardship Local Matching Grants allocation process will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

- a. In order to be eligible, projects must provide permanent public access for the nature-based outdoor activities, defined in WI Stats. 23.0916(1)(b), including hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross country skiing, and any other nature-based outdoor activity designated by the DNR.

1. Priority will be given to:

- a. Municipal governments (cities, villages, towns) that request up to \$50,000 for acquisition of land or easements to establish green space, bicycle or pedestrian trail corridors, or nature-based park space, as identified in a current land use or public recreation plan.
- b. County committees, non-profit organizations, or municipal governments (cities, villages, towns) that request up to \$50,000 for the purchase of land (or options to purchase), located within or adjacent the County Forest Blocking Boundary, or for acquisition of parcels which will be managed as part of the County park system.
 - i. Acquisition of land or conservation easements to protect shoreland corridors or areas of unique geological, environmental, or biological significance; or
 - ii. Acquisition of land or conservation easements to establish green space or recreational trail corridors in urbanizing areas subject to development; or

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- iii. Acquisition of conservation easements to protect areas of farmland which have been identified in an approved Town land use plan and are zoned for “Production Agriculture” which establishes a residential density of no more than 1 residential unit per 35 acres; or lands covered by an active Farmland Preservation Agreement.

2. Additional matching grant guidelines include:

- a. Preference will be given to projects that propose the use of combined funding (applicant match + County match) as a local match toward other State or Federal grant programs.
- b. State and Federal grants may not be used as the applicant’s local match for County funds.
- c. Hard contribution from the applicant must be at least 10% of the amount of County funds requested.
- d. No project shall receive no more than \$50,000 from the County Stewardship Fund without County Board Approval

Further Clarification of Local Match Requirements and Eligible Expenses

To be eligible for project funds, the applicant must match the amount requested from the County Stewardship Fund. The Applicant’s match must consist of 10% hard contribution.

Local expenses, which may be applied as 10% hard contribution, are as follows:

1. Property appraisals.
2. Title Insurance.
3. Survey costs.
4. Recording fees.
5. Legal fees.
6. Donations toward an endowment for custodial management.

Explanatory Note:

Gifts of land value, offered by the landowner to the applicant, may be used for local match but may not be applied to 10% hard contribution.

The value of the gift is calculated as follows:

Gift Value = Appraised value of land or conservation easement minus the Purchase Price

For example: The Smith conservation easement was appraised at \$100,000 but they will sell the conservation easement to a Non-profit Organization for \$75,000. The Smith’s will be giving the Non-profit Organization a gift valued at \$25,000. The Non-profit Organization may apply the \$25,000 gift towards their local match, but it won’t be counted as part of their 10% hard contribution.