

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

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to establish the County Stewardship Fund to assist municipalities, local units of government, and non-profit organizations to meet land conservation and resource management objectives in the County. Annually the LCFM Committee shall review objectives and set priorities for funding allocations.

This fund may be used to:

1. Purchase land through fee title for future community needs. Including, but not limited to open space uses, access or recreational corridors or other environmental land conservation uses.
2. Purchase development rights or conservation easements to preserve prime farmland, woodlots, environmental corridors, or planned open space.
3. Purchase land or easements in support of local fish and wildlife habitat development and improvement projects.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Application request must be \$50,000.

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

Priority will be given to:

- a. Projects that provide permanent public access for 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.
- b. Projects that request funds 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, or trail corridor plan.
- c. Projects that request funds 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.
- d. Projects that result in the acquisition of land or conservation easements to protect shoreland corridors or areas of unique geological, environmental, or biological significance.
- e. Projects that maximize the sponsor match.
- f. Applicants who propose projects that will be matched by other grant sources.
- g. Applicants who have not previously received a grant.
- h. Applicants who propose projects with a purchase price of less than or equal to the appraised value.

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Eligible Sources Of Sponsor Match

Sponsor match is that portion of eligible acquisition costs not funded by a State Stewardship grant. The sponsor must provide at least 50% of project costs from non-state sources. Eligible sources of sponsor match include:

- cash from the sponsor and/or third-party contributions.
- funds from a local government or the federal government.
- property value donated by the seller - a "bargain sale"; and
- the value of a property donated to the sponsor or acquired with non-state funds, if the applicant acquired such land within three years of the closing date for the parcel in the application.

Applicant is responsible for any costs associated with:

1. Property appraisals.
2. Title Insurance.
3. Survey.
4. Recording.
5. Legal fees.

A complete outline of standing administrative policy is established in Chippewa County Stewardship Fund Policy and Procedures for Program Administration, (12/7/99).