

New Definitions for Scoring Criteria

Effective beginning in 2008

City Grants

33.40(5) Project selection criteria. The committee shall evaluate and rank the resource enhancement and protection (REAP) city grant applications, scoring each criteria from 1 to 10, low to high, and use the following multipliers for each criteria:

a. The committee shall use a multiplier of four for the relationship to relevant regional and statewide programs based on the demonstrated relationship to the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, the Iowa open spaces protection plan, the county resource enhancement plan, and other relevant local, state and federal plans.

b. The committee shall use a multiplier of three for the quality of the site or the project, or both:

(1) Quality of site for land acquisition projects. The committee shall consider the following characteristics:

1. Level of significance. Relative rarity of the natural resources found on the project site, including but not limited to native vegetation, the documented presence of species of greatest conservation need as defined by the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan as developed by the department and as may be amended from time-to-time, or other uncommonly occurring but native resources.

2. Resource representation. The quality of the project site, including but not limited to the size and diversity of the project area and the vegetation and wildlife it supports.

3. Level of threat. Specific factors or immediate threats to the project area that constitute urgency for acquisition and development, including but not limited to urban expansion, residential development, agricultural activities, or clearing.

4. Relation to public land. Proximity to existing wildlife management areas, existing parks, other public recreation areas or other greenbelt areas already under public ownership and management.

(2) Quality of project. For construction projects, the committee shall consider plans that demonstrate the highest and best site-specific quality of design, including projects that use materials that incorporate energy savings and adhere to sustainable building principles, including waste minimizations and material re-use; plans for improvements that enhance the restoration or expansion of Iowa's natural resources or that use development principles that benefit the natural ecology of the proposed area; plans that include innovations or construction methods in the design and development of the project; and projects whose actual design and construction will exceed commonly accepted design and construction standards.

c. The committee shall use a multiplier of two for each of the following:

(1) Environmental benefits. Projects that demonstrate a benefit to the surrounding environment, including but not limited to incorporation of land improvements that may have a positive impact on the larger ecosystem, such as timber or prairie establishment, wetland or filter strip development.

(2) Public benefit. A realistic estimate of the number of users of the project area and consideration of secondary benefits such as impacts to local tourism, surrounding businesses and adjacent property owners.

(3) Local support. Demonstrated need for the project and increased public use of the project area as a result of the award as documented through surveys and other testing methods,

letters of support, and planning processes that consider social, demographic, ecological and economic considerations.

d. The committee shall use a multiplier of one for a communication plan that identifies the project sponsor's effort to inform and advise constituents and users about the importance of the proposed project, and the plans to promote the proposed project to expected user groups.