

Priority Rating System

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Nebraska's Priority Rating System ensures equal opportunity for all eligible project sponsors to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program. The rating system provides open and objective criteria for the LWCF Selection Committee to review, score and select projects that meet high priority needs identified in Nebraska's 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for funding assistance.



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Division of State Parks
2200 N. 33rd Street
P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503-0370
402.471.0641

Sponsor:
Project Title:
Total Score:
Committee Scorer:

Minimum Eligibility

All proposed projects must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements before consideration for funding under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

- Conform to eligibility requirements outlined in Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program Federal Financial Assistance Manual, Vol. 69 and application requirements published by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Must be in accord with and place strong emphasis on conformance with the action plan and priority projects identified in the current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): A Guide to an Active Nebraska (2021 – 2025).
- Show evidence of public participation and public input include, at a minimum, a current signed and dated resolution from the sponsor's governing body to support the proposal for LWCF assistance and if available notifications when public participation was held other than the public comment on the resolution.
- Designed in conformance with the appropriate current design standards for the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) (P.L. 90-480), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Political subdivision must own property and be the grant sponsor for the application
- Other information related to the 2021-2025 NE SCORP components (SCORP, Chapter 4 – Demand of Outdoor Recreation and Chapter 5 – Guiding Success).

Project Planning

1. Is the project identified in a previously approved local, regional, county and/or parks comprehensive plan, master plan or special study (10 points if identified as previously approved plan, 5 Points if identified as an amendment to the current plan, OR 0 Points if not identified in current or amended plan)?

Comp. Plan Total (10 points) _____

2. Does the project application identify public participation processes above and beyond the required minimum level which is defined as; completed application and support material available for comment at duly advertised public meeting when LWCF participation resolution was passed (10 points if exceeds minimum level, 5 Points if meets the minimum public participation or 0 points if meeting minimum public participation)?

Public Participation Total (10 points) _____

3. The applicant has the capability to operate and maintain the project once completed.

The sponsor has a full-time park or recreation department capable of providing necessary facility maintenance and upkeep. (3 – 5 points) _____

The sponsor has a designated group or organization that has the ability of providing necessary facility maintenance and upkeep. (1 – 2 points) _____

The sponsor has not identified any ability of providing maintenance and upkeep. (0 points) _____

O & M Plan Total (5 maximum) _____

PROJECT PLANNING SECTION TOTAL (25 maximum) _____

SCORP Compliance

4. The project must implement provider priorities identified in Chapter 5: Guiding Success of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): A Guide to an Active Nebraska (2021 – 2025). Does the applicant provide clear documentation and reference to how their project will implement the following identified priorities (*see the referenced chapter of the SCORP*; 10 points for each priority addressed and 0 points if not addressed):

	Yes	No	Points
(1) Improve Quality of Life By Promoting Healthy Lifestyles Through Outdoor Recreation.	_____	_____	_____
(2) Develop the Understanding, Appreciation, and engagement of Nebraska's Natural resources and Outdoor Recreation Opportunities.	_____	_____	_____
(3) Understand the Opportunities and Threats in Developing Urban Areas and Areas of Rapid Population Growth.	_____	_____	_____
(4) Provide and Manage Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities that are Effective and Inclusive	_____	_____	_____
(5) Provide and Manage Outdoor Recreation Opportunities that are Sustainable and Ensure Economic Vitality	_____	_____	_____
(6) Wetland Priority.	_____	_____	_____

Provider Priority Total (60 maximum) _____

5. The project implements one or more of the following facilities for development and/or renovation identified in the most important recreation facilities that are important to Nebraskans, activities Nebraskan's are most interested in participating and the services or amenities Nebraskan's would like to see added or expanded in the State of Nebraska (SCORP, Chapter 4) for both local applications and state projects (10 points if facility is listed or 0 points if not listed).

Local/State Facilities Priority Rating

Hike/Bike Trails
Picnic Areas/Shelters
Playgrounds/Splash Pads
Athletic Fields
Sport Courts
Fishing Access
Swimming at a Pool or Beach
Outdoor Recreation Education Facilities
Natural Viewing Areas
Adventure Activities (e.g., zip line, rock climbing, floating playground facilities,
etc.)

Priority Facility Total (10 maximum) _____

SCORP COMPLIANCE SECTION TOTAL (70 maximum) _____

Project Description

- 8 Does the project application include a clear and accurate description of project needs for the community and detail how the proposed project will address those needs?

Needs and how project to address unclear.	(0 – 5 points)	_____
Needs and how project will address fair to good.	(6 – 10 points)	_____
Needs and how project will address fair to good.	(11 - 15 points)	_____

Project Need Total (15 maximum) _____

9. Will the project acquire real property for outdoor recreation and/ or needing immediate action as a delay would result in the loss of a significant opportunity (10 points if immediate acquisition, 5 points if project includes acquisition, or 0 points if acquisition is not part of the project application)?

Acquisition Total (10 maximum) _____

10. Is the project adjacent to other public areas/facilities, easily accessible or within walking distance of expected users?

(10 points if the project site is centrally located or within reasonable driving distance of user population.

0 points if the project site is not located close to user population by virtue of facility type (e.g., nature preserve, regional, county park or boat ramp, and must be accessed by car).

Proximity to Population Total (10 maximum) _____

11. Does the project involve acquisition, development and/or renovation of areas that connect existing recreation areas/facilities or improve access from recreation areas to residential/business areas.

Connectivity Total (10 maximum) _____

12. Does the project provide opportunities for multiple age groups including: infants (0 – 5), children (6 – 11), youth (12 – 18), young adults (19 – 30), adults (31 – 60), and over 60 years of age?

Provides opportunities for 5 or more age groups. (10 points) _____
Provides opportunities for 3 or 4 age groups. (5 points) _____
Provides opportunities for 1 or 2 age groups. (2.5 points) _____

Age Group Total (10 maximum) _____

13. This project provides and/or improves outdoor recreation by persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically disadvantaged and other special populations or groups.

This project provides and/or improves outdoor recreation for 4 or more (10 points) _____
This project provides and/or improves outdoor recreation for 2 – 3
special population groups. (5 points) _____
This project provides and/or improves outdoor recreation for 2 – 3
special population groups. (2.5 points) _____

Underserved Population Total (10 maximum) _____

14. How many partners are involved in the project (letters of partner commitment must be provided with application; letters of general support do not constitute commitment)?

4 or more government, nonprofit, service or business partners. (10 points) _____
2 or 3 government, nonprofit, service or business partners. (7.5 points) _____
1 additional government, nonprofit, service or business partner. (5 points) _____
Only includes letter of support. (2.5 points) _____

Partnership Total (10 maximum) _____

15. Will the project create active participation opportunities for the intended user group or does the project only propose to develop support facilities (10 points for active participation facilities/areas or 0 points if project is support or spectator facility)?

Active Participation Total (15 maximum) _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SECTION TOTAL (90 maximum) _____

LWCF History

16. Applicant's administration of previous LWCF Grants. Considerations include effective coordination; sound development in accord with cost and time estimates; timely submittal of billing and closeout documentation; conformance with LWCF Manual Section 6 (f) provisions; and operation and maintenance of completed projects.

Excellent - No problems requiring state-level administrative attention; or no previous grants.	(25 points)	_____
Good - Problems minimal, quickly corrected, or beyond the control of the applicant.	(15 points)	_____
Fair - Performance adequate, but marked by significant or persistent problems.	(10 points)	_____
Poor - Applicant has experienced serious difficulty in project administration or the operation and maintenance of completed facilities.	(0 points)	_____

17. How many previous LWCF grants has the project sponsor previously received?

Nine or more previous projects.	(0 points)	_____
7-8 previous projects.	(2 points)	_____
5-6 previous projects.	(4 points)	_____
3-4 previous projects.	(6 points)	_____
1-2 previous projects.	(8 points)	_____
No previous LWCF projects.	(10 points)	_____

LWCF History Total (35 maximum) _____

Project Application Grand Total

Project Planning Section Total	(25 maximum)	_____
SCORP Compliance Section Total	(70 maximum)	_____
Project Description Section Total	(90 maximum)	_____
LWCF History Total	(35 maximum)	_____
Project Application Grand Total	(220 maximum)	_____