

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Evaluation Criteria for the 2017-2021 Georgia Funding Cycles

Administrative Criteria

(All applicants must complete this section.)

1. Unresolved Issues (0 points)

Do you currently have an outstanding conversion? If yes, please do not proceed.

Do you have a current unresolved issue with the Recreational Trails Program?

Are you on the federal debarred list?

Contact the Grants Unit at 770-389-7286 for further information. You will not be eligible to receive LWCF funding until all issues are resolved.

2. LWCF Inspection History (up to 20 points)

Explain how your inspections for all past LWCF sites have been generally characterized?

3. Open Grants /Unfinished Projects (0 points)

Does your jurisdiction have any LWCF or Recreational Trails Program funded projects that are still open? If so, are you expecting to complete the project on time? Explain any delays you have experienced and how you are actively working to overcome them.

4. Georgia HPD Site Review (20 Bonus Points)

Have you submitted an Environmental Review form and received pre-approval from the Georgia Historic Preservation Division (HPD) to begin development on your project site? Attach a copy of your approval letter.

Planning Efforts

Unless otherwise noted, these questions relate to your overall parks and recreation system and not necessarily to the specific project submitted for funding.

5. Adopted Land-Use Planning Efforts (up to 6 points)

Explain the policies, zoning, or land-use planning that specifically addresses recreation and conservation of natural resources (such as comprehensive plans, recreation plans, greenspace plans, zoning, conservation subdivisions, transferable development rights, etc.)? Is this project identified in a recreation plan?

In order to receive points, you must include (at a minimum) a copy of the plan's cover page and highlighted relevant pages.

6. Economic Booster (up to 5 points)

It is well documented that recreation is an economic driver. In general, does your community have current policies in place that encourage local contract work and/or resourcing materials from local businesses? A copy must be included in order to receive points.

7. Self-Sufficiency (0 points)

Explain how you have utilized or expanded efforts to use entrepreneurial and/or innovative ways to provide outdoor recreation services.

8. Maintenance Plan (0 points)

Explain maintenance issues that you have experienced in the past (those raised by park staff or the general public). How do you plan to resolve these issues moving forward? Describe how you would handle any budget shortages.

9. Education (up to 10 points)

Describe ways that you have educated local policy-makers, planners, practitioners, partners and/or the public to the importance and value of parks and recreation sites.

10. Seeking Help with Challenges (up to 10 points)

Explain how you have collaborated with partners like DCA, DHR, PRHSD, GRPA, etc. in an effort to gain assistance in dealing with recreation-related challenges?

11. Conservation Partnerships (up to 10 points)

Explain how you have partnered with a conservation-based organization or another jurisdiction where that organization/jurisdiction is providing expertise, services, or financial support to preserve greenspace.

12. Identifying Recreation Users (up to 5 points)

Describe efforts that have been undertaken to identify segments of the population that are currently not using your existing recreation facilities and programming. How have you worked to develop an assessment of your community's outdoor recreation needs? What new user groups have been identified through this process?

Rehabilitation Projects

(Only applicants submitting a proposal for rehabilitation projects must complete this section.)

13. Rehabilitating an LWCF-funded Site (up to 10 points)

Does this project refurbish an existing LWCF site?

14. Rehabilitating Parks near People (up to 20 points)

Does your project involve the rehabilitation of parks near where people live and work? Provide an aerial map (Google Earth or other) with scale, that displays the park and nearest residential areas, schools and/or businesses. A labeled map must be included.

15. Rehabilitating Corridors (up to 20 points)

Does your project involve the rehabilitation of a trail corridor that will create connectivity between existing recreational facilities or improve access to residential/business areas? In order to receive points you must include a labeled map showing the connectivity. Up to 20 points can be earned.

16. Rehabilitation for Specific User Groups (up to 35 points)

How will your project provide opportunities to new groups that currently lack sufficient outdoor recreation avenues? How many user groups will be able to utilize this project, once completed?

Specific user group example: existing football fields refurbished for soccer use

Multiple user group example: playground added to greenspace bordering existing walking tract

17. Nature of Rehabilitation (up to 25 points)

Describe/explain the nature of your rehabilitation project as it relates to replacing obsolete/outdate facilities; converting to ADA or other design standards; expanding the current level of use of your park; and/or correcting the imminent threat to natural resources.

18. Rehabilitation to Eliminate Barriers (up to 10 points)

Describe any barriers that discourage the public from using your recreation facilities. How does the proposed project address these issues?

Example: crowded facilities, lack of programs, physical deterrents to those with personal health and disability issues

19. Environmentally Sensitive Design (up to 11 points)

Explain how your proposed project design is responsive to the environment and user experience. A copy of your project design must be included in order to earn points.

Development Projects

(Only applicants submitting a proposal for development projects must complete this section.)

20. Type of Recreation (up to 35 points)

Describe the types of recreational opportunities that this development project will provide.

Examples of active recreation: running/walking, biking, sports (ballfields), playgrounds

Examples of passive recreation: wildlife viewing, bird watching, picnicking

Examples of support facilities: fencing, lighting, restrooms, concessions

21. Developing Parks near People (up to 20 points)

Does your project involve a development within a park near where people work and live?

Provide an aerial map (Google Earth or other) with scale, that displays the park and nearest residential areas, schools and/or businesses. A labeled map must be included in order to earn points.

22. Developing Corridors (up to 20 points)

Does your project involve the development of a trail system that would increase connectivity between recreational facilities or improve access to residential areas and businesses? In order to receive points you must include a labeled map showing the connectivity.

23. Development for Specific User Groups (up to 35 points)

How will your project extend opportunities to groups that currently lack sufficient outdoor recreation avenues? How many user groups will be able to utilize this project?

Specific user groups example: shuffle board for seniors

Multiple user group example: walking tract and playground

24. Development to Eliminate Barriers (up to 10 points)

Describe any barriers that discourage the public from using your recreation facilities. How does the proposed project address these issues?

Example: crowded facilities, lack of programs, physical deterrents to those with personal health and disability issues

25. Environmentally-Sensitive Design (up to 11 points)

Explain how your proposed project design is responsive to the environment and user experience. A copy of your project design must be included in order to earn points.

Acquisition Projects

(Only applicants submitting a proposal for land acquisition projects must complete this section.)

26. Conservation Values (up to 75 points)

Provide a narrative to describe why this land needs to be purchased. Include a map that indicates the parcel/tract being acquired.

27. Recreation Areas (up to 25 points)

Describe how the acquisition of land will expand an existing LWCF site; expand an existing non-LWCF site; establish a new park site; and/or secure an in-holding.

28. Acquiring Land for Parks near People (up to 20 points)

Does your project involve acquiring land for recreation near where people live and work? Provide an aerial map (Google Earth or other) with scale, that displays the park and nearest residential areas, schools and/or businesses. A labeled map must be included in order to earn points.

29. Purchasing Corridors (up to 20 points)

Does your project involve acquiring land for a trails system that would increase connectivity between recreational facilities or improve access to residential areas and businesses? In order to receive points you must include a labeled map showing the connectivity.

Partnership Development

(All applicants must complete this section.)

30. Number of Financial Partners (up to 15 points)

Provide a letter from each partner describing their commitment through volunteer hours, donation of cash or materials, or professional services. A letter of support does not constitute a financial commitment.

31. Types of Partners (up to 15 points)

Detail the types of partners listed in Question #31 above. (Example: business, volunteer group, local government, etc.) Explain how these partner's core mission supports outdoor recreation or resource conservation. Explain how these partners have supported efforts to increase outdoor recreation or resource conservation in the past?

32. Alternative Funding Sources (up to 20 points)

Describe the efforts you have made to secure alternative funding sources other than this LWCF grant (SPLOST, business, industry, foundation grants, etc.)