



The following scoring sheet will be used by PSCC's staff to aid in evaluating full proposals for land acquisition grant funding. Award decisions will not depend solely on the scores resulting from this scoring sheet. Applicants will be encouraged to submit any other information in their full proposal that may be useful to PSCC in our evaluation process.

We encourage potential grant applicants to also use this scoring sheet as a way to self-evaluate the merits of your own projects before applying.

The criteria in this scoring sheet were developed and weighted based on the responses we received from a survey conducted in early 2025. This survey asked potential land acquisition grantees across the state of Illinois how PSCC should prioritize applications received for land acquisition funding. Also included in these criteria are PSCC's organizational values as stated in our Strategic Plan.

PLEASE NOTE - Applicants will not be asked to submit a completed copy of this scoring sheet. This document is being provided for informational purposes only.

Organization:		
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Project Title:		
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Category	Max Points Available	Points Awarded by Staff	Notes
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Natural Resource Outcomes	100	0	
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Criteria	Does the property contain high quality (i.e., not degraded) natural habitat?	20		
	Is the property adjacent to, or does the property expand, any existing or future protected areas?	20		
	Have any endangered or threatened species been documented on the property?	12		
	Does the property contain habitat for species of greatest conservation need?	10		
	Does the property contain any rare or uncommon types of natural habitat?	10		
	Does the grantee intend to place additional legal protections on the property after the acquisition is complete? (i.e., Nature Preserve Dedication, NP Buffer Dedication, Land and Water Reserve Registration, or conservation easement)	10		
	Is the project consistent with a larger regional or statewide conservation plan or open space protection plan?	10		
	Does the property contain frontage on a natural lake, river, or large stream?	6		
	Does the property contain rare or unique geological features?	2		

Organizational Capacity		40	0	
Criteria	Is the property's long-term owner/holder able to adequately fund and implement the stewardship and maintenance needs of the property?	15		
	Has the grantee been able to comply with grant requirements and deliver on project outcomes in the past?	9		
	Does the grantee, in general, have access to other funding sources for land and conservation easements acquisition?	8		
	The Land Trust Accreditation Commission accreditation status of the grant recipient (conservation land trust applicants only)	5		
	The grantee's level of commitment to conservation	3		

Socio-economic Outcomes		40	0	
Criteria	Is the property located in an economically disadvantaged and/or historically underserved community?	15		
	Does the project directly engage the community in planning, development, and/or implementation of the project?	10		
	Will the project advance environmental justice and/or land justice outcomes?	10		
	Does the project conserve, establish, or enhance the use of natural resources for the identified community?	3		
	Is the grantee's leadership team diverse? (i.e., senior staff and board of directors). Diversity in this context can refer to racial, ethnic, gender, age, socioeconomic, or other types of diversity.	2		
Project Finance		30	0	
Criteria	Is the grantee bringing a match of 20% or greater to the project?	15		
	How many funders are contributing to the project?	8		
	Is the grantee using a new source of funding for the project (other than PSCC)?	5		
	Purchase Price vs. Appraised Value	2		

Other Project Outcomes		40	0	
Criteria	Amount of access the public will be given to the land protected by the project.	12		
	If not protected now, how likely is it that the property will be developed or converted to non-conservation uses in the next 10 years?	8		
	Does the protected property have the potential to mitigate the effects of climate change?	6		
	Will the protected property be resilient to the effects of climate change?	6		
	Does the property contain historical, cultural, or archaeological features? (i.e., Native American mounds, burial sites, historical village sites, etc.)	4		
	Does the project protect farmland and/or working forests?	2		
	Does the project enhance or protect scenic views?	2		
Totals		250	0	