

Land and Water Legacy Program Funding Guidelines

Adopted 12.9.2010, revised 1.14.2013 & 2.1.2014

To receive county funds a project must meet one of the purposes specified in the funding referendum: improving water quality of rivers, lakes and streams; protecting drinking water sources; purchasing parkland; preserving wetlands and woodlands; and protecting land along water bodies from development.

The amount of funds the county contributes to a project is dependent upon the conservation values of the land and the degree of public access provided and is determined on a case-by-case basis. The amount of public access desired depends upon the nature of the project. The specified % is the recommended amount of the actual project cost that the county would contribute; the county, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to contribute a higher or lower amount or to not contribute any funds toward a project.

Recommended % of County Contribution*				
	Competitive Program	Local Match Program	Parkland Purchase	
			Regional Park**	County Park
Conservation Purpose				
Meets a priority conservation focus	100%	X	100%	100%
Land Protection Score 26 - 30 - highest	100%	50%	100%	100%
Land Protection Score 16 - 25 - very high	80%	45%	80%	80%
Land Protection Score 9-15 - high	60%	40%	60%	60%
Land Protection Score 6-8 - medium	40%	30%	40%	40%
Land Protection Score 3-5 - low	20%	20%	20%	20%
Public Access				
Public Access Desired***	Y/N	Y/N	NA	NA
Full Public Access	100%	100%	100%	100%
Limited Public Access	50%	50%	NA	NA
Public Access Not Granted	34%	34%	NA	NA

*The county encourages cost-sharing on all projects. Cost-sharing could be local levy dollars; federal, state or other grants; or landowner donation of value. For local match projects, the percentage is applied to the actual purchase price of the property and does not take into account for any landowner donation. Some grants require a certain percent of local match. This requirement will be taken into consideration when determining the county's contribution to a project.

** All parkland purchases within regional parks are eligible for a 75% match from the Metropolitan Council up to a maximum per year. If Metropolitan Council funds are not available the county could contribute 100% of the project cost or defer the purchase until the following year when funds become available.

*** If public access is desired, the stated percentages would apply after the Conservation Purpose percentage is applied.

Full public access may be desirable on lands that have current or future recreational potential. Full public access includes situations where 1. the general public has access to the entire parcel with minimal constraints on when and where access is allowed; 2. public access is provided over a limited portion of the protected property; or 3. the project provides for the construction of a recreational facility such as a trail or rest stop over a portion of the protected property.

Limited public access generally includes situations where the land is not owned by the public but the landowner is willing to provide for limited public access under controlled, prearranged conditions.

Public access may not be desired in situations such as 1. where the existence of rare species or sensitive habitat or other environmental reasons warrant restricting public access; 2. no public recreational opportunity exists; 3. when the parcel's location doesn't allow for public access; or 4. public access would be incompatible with the current use of the property.