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State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources

LWCF Grant Program Ranking Questions and Responses

Form 8700-338LWCF (R 2/2026)

Instructions: Refer to the ranking questions in the Grant Program Guidance for Federal Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) grant programs. This form may be used to submit the required responses with the application package. Indicate "N/A" for any questions that are not applicable to the project.

Notice: Project selection criteria for these grant programs are developed per Ch. 23, NR 50, Wis. Admin. Code, and provisions of the programs outlined in federal law. Personal information collected on this form will be used for administrative purposes and may be provided to requesters to the extent required by Wisconsin's Public Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.].

Project Sponsor	Project Name	County	Date

If any discrepancies exist between form 8700-338 and published grant guidelines, the grant guidelines shall take precedence.

Initial Eligibility Questions

All applicants must provide a narrative response to each question in this section.

	Initial Eligibility Questions	Yes/No	Question Details and Documentation Notes	DNR Use Only
1	**COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (CORP):** Is the project identified in a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan approved by the applicant or the County where the applicant resides?	☐ Yes ☐ No	Provide a link to the CORP and the location of relevant pages and data for this project. LWCF projects must be specified in a CORP. A CORP must be updated every five years. It may be referred to as a Parks and Open Space Plan. The CORP is not the same as the Comprehensive Plan, which refers to plans developed and adopted per requirements of S. 66.1001, Wis. Stats.	
	Applicant Response			

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2	**STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP):** Wisconsin's SCORP has identified three goals for outdoor recreation. Indicate which goal(s) in the SCORP that apply to your project and explain how the project supports the goal(s) identified. • Ensure that all Wisconsinites have opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation. • Maintain and expand sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities. • Grow the collaborative approach across non-profit organizations, businesses, and federal, state, regional and local agencies.	☐ Yes ☐ No	LWCF projects must support a goal of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Please identify the specific goal(s) supported by the proposed project.	
	Applicant Response			
3	**LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (Acquisition Projects Only):** The applicant has a plan for long-term management of the property that preserves and enhances its conservation and/or recreational value.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	Submit a copy of land management plan. For local governments, this information may be included in the CORP, parks management plan, or other documents. For acquisition projects, sponsors must adhere to the program requirements in perpetuity.	
	Applicant Response			

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4	**LEGAL RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT (Development Projects Only):** The applicant has the legal right to construct the proposed project and meet post-grant compliance requirements.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	Submit a copy of the deed.	
	Applicant Response			
5	**PROJECT TIMELINE** Will the project be completed in three years from the issuance of the LWCF contract?	☐ Yes ☐ No	Please provide a detailed project timeline.	
	Applicant Response			

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6	**GREEN TIER:** The applicant is a designated Green Tier Legacy community. (0.1 pt.)	0.1	See the Green Tier website for eligible Legacy Communities for this point. https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/GreenTier/Participants/CharterPages/LegacyCommunities.html	
	Applicant Response			
7	**NEW RAILROAD CORRIDOR TRAIL:** The project will acquire or develop an abandoned rail corridor for outdoor recreation. (0.1 pt.)	0.1	This point is only awarded for the acquisition or initial development of a property.	
	Applicant Response			

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8	**SAFE ACCESS:** Users have an existing opportunity for safe and legal parking and access to the project site or the proposed project will significantly improve safe and legal access to the site. (0.1 pt.)	0.1	Projects that provide access only via roadside parking would not receive points for this question. Applicants should provide a map that shows off-street parking options for the project and indicate if it provides for accessible parking options.	
	Applicant Response			
9	**PREVIOUS GRANT COMPLETION:** • Applicant has successfully completed and closed all previous LWCF grants. (2 pt.) • Applicant did not receive a LWCF grant in application years 2021-2025 (1 pt.) OR • Applicant has never received a LWCF grant. (1 pt.)	1-3	Applicants should provide a list of LWCF grants that have successfully been completed and closed. Applicants that were awarded a grant, but did not go forward will not be considered for these points.	
	Applicant Response			
10	**ACCESS TO OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES:** The proposed project provides direct access to other existing developed facilities, such as campground, fishing pier, local park, etc. (1 pt.)	1	Provide documentation that shows the relationship between the proposed project and the existing facility/facilities.	
	Applicant Response			

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11	**UNIQUE NATURAL FEATURES:** **Acquisition:** The proposed project includes acquisition of land with unique aesthetic/scenic value, natural value, ecological value, unique natural features. (1 pt.) **Development:** The proposed project includes development of recreational opportunities that support unique natural features and/or scenic highways. (1 pt.)	1	Applicant should submit information documenting the specific unique natural features being protected or enhanced by the proposed project.	
	Applicant Response			

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12	**URBAN POPULATIONS (pg. 15):** The project includes land acquisition or development of a property in a designated urban/urbanized area or the project site is located outside of, but primarily serves, a designated urban/urbanized area as identified on page 15. (1 pt.)	1	See the Community and Population Information located on pg. 15. If applicant is not on the list of qualifying urban/urbanized areas, but serves a transient population, the applicant should provide documentation regarding recreational needs of transient populations that would be met by the proposed project. Also provide support documentation for a project site that is located outside of, but primarily serves, a designated urban/urbanized area.	
	Applicant Response			
13	**DIVERSITY OF INTENDED USERS:** The project is intended to serve specific diverse populations (e.g. elderly, minority, disabled, low-income). Describe the intended users and how they specifically will benefit from this project. (2 pts.)	2	Provide data explaining who the intended users are, how the data was generated, and how users will benefit from this project. ***Note:*** • Serving nearby schools is not sufficient to qualify for these point. • This is not intended to be an ADA compliance question.	
	Applicant Response			

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14	**RENOVATION OF EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:** **Development Only:** • The project will update the recreational facility to meet current American with Disability Act requirements and provide improved access to the facility. (2 pt.) • The project will improve safety issues at the facility. (2 pt.) • The project was previously funded with LWCF funding. (3 pts.)	7	• Provide documentation that demonstrates how the project will improve access to the facility. • Provide evidence of safety issues that will be addressed. • Provide a grant number for a previous LWCF project.	
	Applicant Response			
15	**PROJECT READINESS:** **Acquisition:** • Land can be acquired within one year. (1 pt.) • The Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (USFLA or "Yellow Book") property appraisal is complete. (1 pt.) • Applicant has a seller accepted offer-to-purchase or option. (2 pts.) **Development:** • Required permit application(s) (beyond local permits required) have been submitted. (1 pt.) • Permits are in hand at time of application OR no state or federal permits are required. (2 pts.)	3-4	**Acquisition:** • Provide documentation to show that the land can be acquired within one year. • Applicants are highly encouraged to contact the DNR prior to executing an appraisal contract for grant purposes. **Development:** • Applicants should contact DNR Wetlands/Waterways and/or DNR Stormwater staff if permitting is needed for proposed project. • For state and federal permits provide a notice of application receipt. • Submit copies of all permits.	
	Applicant Response			

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16	**YEAR-ROUND RECREATIONAL USES WITHIN PROJECT AREA:** Explain how the project scope of work (development projects) or planned uses for new land acquisition property (acquisition projects) are considered year-round recreational opportunities. (3 pts.)	3	Planned uses for new land acquisition properties should be included in the applicant's Land Management Plan submitted with their application materials.	
	Applicant Response			
17	**PROXIMITY OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITY:** Explain how the project provides recreation land where a scarcity of similar/same recreation opportunities exists. Is the project located greater than 1 mile from another public outdoor recreational facility that is similar in type? (1 pt. development; 2 pts. acquisition)	1-2	Explain and provide a map showing where the nearest similar/same recreational opportunities exist. Points will be given if another outdoor recreational facility of similar type is at least a mile from the proposed project location.	
	Applicant Response			
18	**ALTERNATIVE ACCESS FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE PROJECT AREA:** • The project area will be accessible by an off-road trail. (1 pt.) • The project area is on a mass public transportation route (e.g., bus, train). (1 pt.)	2	Explain how users will access the property where the project will occur and provide a map showing off-road trail access or bus/train route to property. Define what the connecting properties are. For this question, project area means the larger park or recreation area that the project may be located within.	
	Applicant Response			

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19	**IMMEDIATE NEED FOR THE PROJECT:** Please explain any threats to losing recreational use of the property or facility if not immediately acquired or developed. (2 pt. development; 3 pts. acquisition)	2-3	Is there a possibility this property or facility will no longer be used for outdoor recreation purposes in the next three years? Provide information showing potential threat to the property or facility (e.g. reports of safety concerns due to facility deterioration, is the property listed for sale or have developers approached the municipality about the property, or security threats).	
	Applicant Response			