

Gallatin County
Parks, Recreation, Trails and/or Environmental Education Project Rating Chart

Project Identification # _____
Funding Cycle: May/November, 200__.
Scoring Date: _____

This project rating chart shall be used by Gallatin County Open Land Board members to rank and compare applications for funding. The maximum number of points that a project can receive is 100.

There are four major categories reflecting the goals of the Gallatin Open Lands Program. Each major category may have a maximum of 30 points, but must have a minimum of 10 possible points and the cumulative total must equal 100 points. The reviewer allocates points to the categories based on their judgment of the most important values. For example, if a reviewer allocated 30 possible points to criteria 1 and 2, and 20 points to criteria 3, totaling 80 points, the reviewer would have to allocate 20 points to criteria 4 in order to reach 100 possible points. In order to be fair to all applicants in a review cycle, all applications must be judged on the same allocation of points to the categories and subcategories. The points available for a specific category should be placed in the box to the right of the category heading.

Within each major category there are 2 to 4 subcategories. The number of possible points you allocate to a major category should be allocated among the subcategories. (Note: We can allocate the points to the subcategories equally or at the discretion of the reviewer. The process works either way. It is simpler to allocate equally but perhaps more responsive to reviewer concerns if it is done at reviewer discretion. For this illustration I have assumed that they are equal.) To allocate points to the subcategories divide the category points by the number of subcategories. The allocation to the subcategories should be in the boxes below the category box.

Each of the subcategories is further broken down into ranking criteria, with the highest value at the top and the lowest value at the bottom. Once the points available for each subcategory have been determined, points are awarded based on where the applicant falls within the range of criteria. For example, if a park is being proposed that has the support of a local governing body, but did not go through a broader county review or planning process, the project would satisfy the second criteria in 1a, Public Policy and Support. If this subcategory had been allocated 10 points, the project would earn a maximum of 9 points. Only the highest number of points can be allocated to the highest criteria in each subcategory. Points are recorded in the appropriate subcategory box and then the total for the subcategories is entered in the category score box. When all the categories have been scored, the total of all categories is entered at the end of the form.

To illustrate how to apply the points, consider the following example. Assume that you had allocated 30 points to category 1, with 10 points allocated to each subcategory. The property you are reviewing has the support of a local governing body as discussed in the

previous paragraph, meets national parks and recreational standards and resulted from a county-wide review of alternative sites. You would allocate 8 points to 1a as determined above, 9 points to 1b and 10 points to 1c for a total of 27 points out of the possible total of 30.

Remember, you must use the same scoring formula for all projects in a particular funding cycle. Therefore, in the previous example all applicants would be allowed a maximum of 30 points for category 1, with each of the subcategories allowed the maximum of 10 points.

Rating Chart

Note: The following 4 categories refer to items 2 through 5 in the Application Checklist.

- **Park, Recreational, Trail and/or Environmental Education Benefits**

Total Pts. Available

Pts. Available for 1a, 1b, 1c

1a. Public Policy and Support for Project

- Project endorsed by county commissioners through a County public meeting/hearing process
- Project endorsed by local governing body
- Project endorsed by user groups, clubs, community organizations, etc.

1b. Address Regional or Community-Wide Need

- Addresses needs identified in County-wide needs assessment
- Addresses needs identified in a multi-community needs assessment
- Addresses needs identified in a community needs assessment
- Addresses needs identified in national criteria or standards (i.e. National Parks and Recreation Association)

1c. Appropriate Location

- Site selected after county-wide review of alternative sites
- Site selected after multi-community review of alternative sites
- Site selected after community review of alternative sites
- Proposed public uses are compatible with adjacent land uses

#1 Score

2. **Plans and Capacity of the Public Management Agency**

Total Pts. Available

Pts. Available for 2a, 2b, 2c

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2a. Capacity to Manage Park, Recreational, Environmental Education and Trail Lands

- Dedicated funding source and successful history of management (over 5 yrs.)
- Demonstrated capacity to fund and manage
- Partnering with entities that have funding and management capacity

2b. Impact of Improvement Costs on Public

- Minimal cost to public, dedicated public funding source and/or other nonpublic sources of funding
- Mixture of public and private sources, public sources have been approved
- Commitment from governmental entity and partners to fund

2c. Impact of Maintenance Costs on Public

- Minimal cost to public, dedicated funding source and/or other sources of funding
- Mixture of public and private sources, public sources have been approved
- Commitment from governmental entity and partners to fund

2d. Impact on Community Services and Facilities

- No improvements required, roads and utilities adjacent
- Minor improvements required, roads and utilities adjacent
- Minor improvements, roads and utilities within 1/2 mile

#2 Score

3. **Multiple Community Values.**

Total Pts. Available

Pts. Available for 3a, 3b, 3c

3a. Significant Habitat Diversity (according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair (local significance)

3b. Significant Water Resource or Fishery

- Perennial River or Class 1 stream (MFWP)
- Perennial Stream or Creek or Class 2,3 or 4 Stream (MFWP)
- Lake, ponds or wetlands with a cumulative total over twenty acres in size

3c. Scenic Values

- From federal or state hwy. corridor or if identified in local plans or ordinances as having high scenic value
- From primary county road
- From minor county road

3d. Public Policy

- Located in an area where the proposed use is encouraged by a land use plan or regulation
- Consistent with the intent, goals and policies of any applicable and use plans or regulations

#3 Score

4. Leverage

Total Pts. Available

Pts. Available for 4a, 4b, 4c,

4a. Landowner Contribution and/or Beneficial Purchase Terms

- 50% or more of the value
- 25 to 49% of the value
- 10 to 24% of the value

4b. Project partners: cost covered by partners

- 80% or more of the cost
- 60 to 79% of the cost
- 40 to 59% of the cost
- 20 to 39% of the cost

4c. Matching land donation or conservation easements: % of project cost matched with new donation of land or a conservation easement.

- More than 50%
- 20 to 49%
- 10 to 19%

#4 Score

Total Points for Applicant