

## FINAL ADOPTED: Sustainability Evaluation Criterion

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In 2020, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board revised the Sustainability evaluation criterion with substantial input from stakeholders and the public.

The Sustainability criterion can be found in the following grant programs:

- Boating Facilities Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
- Recreational Trails Program
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Outdoor Recreation Account
- Youth Athletic Facilities

The public engagement process used to revise the criteria and the programs in which it is found is described in Item 8 of the board's [January 2020 meeting](#).

### Sustainability Evaluation Question

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board encourages projects that advance local sustainability goals. Sustainability reflects choices made to balance the desired benefits and potential impacts of a project on the surrounding landscape and community. Please discuss how your project's location or design supports your organization's sustainability plan or how you considered the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts in the project plan. Examples of sustainability factors that could be part of a project or maintenance plan are provided below for consideration but are not all-inclusive and should act as a guide, not a checklist.

#### Ecological Factors

- Minimizes impacts to or improves ecological function of surrounding lands
- Includes low-impact design or other green building techniques that reduce water, energy, or resource consumption, or greenhouse gas footprint
- Provides a buffer to future natural disasters or anticipated climate impacts
- Landscaping supports native species and/or pollinator habitat

#### Social Factors

- Addresses an identified disparity in social or environmental services
- Encourages access via multi-modal and active transportation choices
- Promotes opportunities for physical activity, social and cultural connections, or community education

## Economic Factors

- Materials are chosen because they support local producers, are recycled or recyclable, increase the project's anticipated lifespan, or reduce future maintenance costs
- Creates efficiency in the provision of public services (i.e. stormwater infiltration, increased tree canopy, carbon sequestration, etc.)
- Maximizes lifespan, reduces future costs, or reduces future resource consumption
- Supports or is an identified element in a local economic development initiative

## Project Types

In the past, the sustainability question has been applied to all project types—acquisition, development, maintenance, planning, and renovation. Scoring data shows that the current sustainability question distinguishing between projects for development/renovation projects more than any other project type.

The board elected to apply the sustainability criteria to development/renovation and planning projects.

## Scoring

The board's direction is to use sustainability as a lens in project evaluation. One of RCO's administrative goals is to maintain a consistent score across all the programs in which the Sustainability criterion is used. Therefore, RCO recommended weighting the Sustainability criterion score between 5 percent and 10 percent of the overall project score.

The board adopted a value of 5 points for all programs and project types.

## Technical Correction: Adopted April 2020

After the board adopted the revised criteria and scoring, a technical correction was required to the evaluation criteria scoring matrix. Removing the Sustainability criterion from acquisition and maintenance projects disrupted the balance of overall scores between the different project types. In order to simultaneously evaluate projects types, the overall project scores must be equal.

To correct the scoring disparity, the board adjusted scores for acquisition and maintenance projects. Details of this technical correction are in Item 1E from the [board's April 2020 meeting](#).