

# York County Open Space and Land Preservation Grant Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: If a complete survey of the land to be acquired is going to be done after the land is acquired, can York County's grant program assist with the costs associated with the survey?**

*A: If the land being acquired is receiving funds through the York County Open Space and Land Preservation Grants program, then the survey costs can be included in the acquisition funding request and could be eligible for reimbursement up to the 10% cap. A stand-alone application just for a survey would not be eligible to receive funding through the York County Open Space and Land Preservation Grants Program.*

**Q: Are subdivision costs eligible for reimbursement?**

*A: Subdivision costs may be eligible for reimbursement but would be considered on a case by case basis and reimbursement for these costs shall not exceed 10% of the total project costs which is the cap for related costs.*

**Q: Question 14 [of the application] references involvement of "another public agency." Does this include another non-profit, too?**

*A: It is not an option on the application in its current form to reference involvement with another public agency. This information is pertinent and should be added in an open-ended question. During evaluation, it will be given points for cooperation with another non-profit agency. The application will be amended to include this option during next year's funding round.*

**Q: Is there a minimum parcel size to be considered for land acquisition?**

*A: There is **no** minimum parcel size to be considered for land acquisition funds.*

**Q: A sales agreement on a property was signed last month. We expect to go to closing between end of October and end of December. We have a shortfall of \$XX, XXX to complete the purchase. Would this be an eligible ask under the County's new program?**

*A: Yes, this would be eligible for land acquisition and associated costs up to 10%.*

**Q: Natural lands or park lands? Request indicates Parklands Acquisition-thinking the land will be used to advance the recreation project. However, the property has many wetlands and forested areas, and stretches of stream that show significant evidence of stormwater erosion. Should this be an application for natural lands?**

*A: During this round, if the property will be used for recreation, but also has natural features, it is recommended to apply under the Natural Lands option. The application for next round will be modified to clarify this issue and prevent confusion in the future.*

**Q: Regarding the planning grant: For a planning project that is being considered, open space and land preservation is only a portion of the update necessary for the Comprehensive Plan. Up to \$25,000 can be requested with a 50% match, but, how is it the appropriate amount to be requested determined? The open space and land preservation component of the comprehensive plan is just a piece and not the whole.**

*A: The applicant should use the Scope of Work and budget template to show the detailed list of tasks and highlight those that are associated with open space protection. Only those directly related to open space protection would be eligible for grant funding.*

**Q: For example, if an applicant is looking to acquire a piece of property that is appraised for \$200,000 but the sale price is \$100,000, can the price difference be used as matching funds?**

*A: Yes, if the property is appraised for more than the sale price, the difference can be used as matching funds.*

**Q: The Program Guidelines state that related costs for land acquisition project is capped at 10%. Is this 10% of the County's grant funds or 10% of the total project costs?**

*A: The 10% cap is related to total project costs. If the total project cost is \$100,000, then up to \$10,000 could be used for related costs. For example, if the total project cost is \$1,000,000, then up to \$100,000 could be used for related costs.*

**Q: A township is interested in purchasing a property that was badly damaged by flood. The main building has been knocked down by the flood and the other outbuilding still remains. If the municipality plans to use their public works crew to demolish the remainder of the buildings, can their time be used as a match for the grant request?**

*A: No, this would be considered an improvement to the property and improvements are not an eligible expense. In-kind matches are normally only related to Planning and Ordinance Assistance projects. Any potential in-kind matches for acquisition projects would be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

**Q: A municipality is interested in purchasing a property that has a building on the property. Can the grant funding be used to cover the cost of the entire property?**

*A: No, grant funding may only be used to acquire property with no building(s)/structure(s). The appraisal must distinguish only the portion of the property that does not include the building(s) or structure(s). The grant funding must not exceed the appraised value of the portion of the property with no building(s)/structure(s), plus 10% for related costs.*