Project Scoring Sheet – Landscaped

Version 1.1

Notes

- This is a static document intended for reference only. It includes information the Reviewer sees while scoring an application.
- Questions relating directly to requirements are indicated with a red asterisk*.
- Checkmarks help reviewers focus in on key components of the scoring.
- The results of individual project reviews are available at the top of each project's page in the Conservation Certification Website.
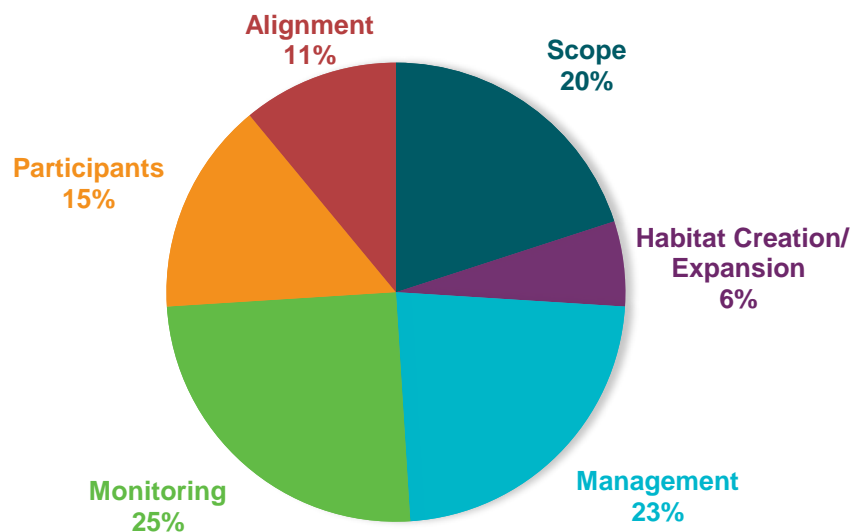- Information about other aspects of evaluations (e.g. methodology used for scoring) is available in the Certification Support Center.

Contents

Overview

Percentage of points achievable per section

Scope | 20% of points achievable

* Does the project exceed regulatory requirements?

If the applicant answered that no aspects of the project are done in relation to regulatory requirements, select N/A. If they answered that it was done in relation to regulatory requirements, select Yes or No depending on if it exceeds requirements.

> N/A
> No
> Yes

* What is the total size of the project (in acres)? | Up to 4 points

> 0 = Not large enough to function as a habitat or be considered as a habitat (e.g. 1-2 new native shrubs or trees not enough here, unless replacing a known invasive)
> Score = Number of acres greater than zero (an entry with partial acres is acceptable) | Points earned = score/100

* How long has the project been on the ground? | Up to 4 points

> 0 = Project started less than 1 growing season ago (not long enough to have a measurable conservation outcome)
> Score = Number of years | Points earned = score/10

* Is the project locally appropriate by using native plant species or targeting a native Landscaped community? | Up to 12 points

A list of species with scientific names found in the habitat should have been provided by the applicant.

✔ Inventory has a date
✔ Inventory date is recent

> 0 - Not utilizing any native species and not targeting a native Landscaped community
> 1 - Any native species | 3.6 pts
> 2 - Mostly (> 50%) native species | 9.6 pts
> 3 - Exclusively native species or targeting a native vegetative community | 12 pts

* Is there a stated conservation objective?

✔ Applicant understanding

> No
> Yes

Habitat Creation/Expansion | 6% of points achievable

Is this a new project or has the project been expanded?

> Yes
> No

Does the newly created habitat add conservation value relative to the previous land use? Replacing a previous land use of greater or lesser habitat value. | Up to 2.1 points

Use of the term "newly created" is used in its broadest sense, meaning to replace or otherwise improve.

✔ Applicant understanding

> N/A - the project was started prior to their last certification and no additional acreage was added
>
> 0 - Does not replace a less valuable land use (or not large enough to be considered added habitat)
>
> 1 - Replaces a land use that had habitat value (e.g. non-native vegetation, 1-2 invasive plants, replacement vegetation is known to be of much higher value to many more wildlife species) | 0.63 pts
>
> 2 - Replaces a land use that had a low habitat value (e.g. monoculture, such as turf grass or row crops) | 1.68 pts
>
> 3 - Replaces a land use that did not have any habitat value (e.g. asphalt, closed structures) | 2.1 pts

Were appropriate design considerations taken into account for new additions to the project (not included in a previous application)? | Up to 2.1 points

New addition = not included in a previous application (e.g. new plantings or structures such as snags or brush piles).

✔ Applicant understanding

✔ Documentation

> N/A - the project was started prior to their last certification and no additional acreage was added
>
> 0 - Harmful or no design considerations for the habitat or wildlife (e.g. planting invasive species, planting in an inappropriate area, too small an area to be considered habitat)
>
> 1 - Good design consideration(s) but with some flaw(s) (e.g. planting native and non-native species, use of cultivars) | 1.47 pts
>
> 2 - All design considerations are valid and valuable (e.g. planting 100% native or mostly native that is modeled on a particular native plant community, choosing natural mulches like bark or compost, planning for a long bloom time, choosing the right location or plants suitable for the soil) | 2.1 pts

Is a new area being managed?

> Yes
>
> No

What is the size of the new area managed? | Up to 1.8 points

> 0 = Not large enough to function as a habitat or be considered as a habitat (e.g. 1-2 new native shrubs or trees not enough here, unless replacing a known invasive)
>
> Score = Number of acres greater than of zero (an entry with partial acres is acceptable) | Points earned = score/100

Management | 23% of points achievable

How valuable are the steps taken for maintenance and management of the habitat? | Up to 23 points
✔ Applicant understanding (see monitoring section)
✔ Documentation
Actions being evaluated:
a) divide or removed planted but overgrown plants to maintain diversity
b) limited pesticide use, maintain base of food web
c) maintain seed heads in dormant season for wildlife
d) other management activity that would not be used in a standard, formal landscape
e) management activity typical in a standard, formal landscape (e.g. weeding, mulching, watering)
> 0 - nothing, not actively managed (just monitored), or managed for aesthetics only (hedging, mowing)
> 1 - management includes one of the above | 6.9 pts
> 2 - management includes two of the above | 11.5 pts
> 3 - management includes three to five of the above | 18.4 pts
> 4 - management includes two-five of the above, with adaptive management based on monitoring | 23 pts

Monitoring | 25% of points achievable

Does the project include project-relevant baseline documentation? | Up to 3.75 points
✔ Applicant understanding
✔ Documentation is relevant
> 0 - No baseline
> 1 - Mid-project baseline collected (collected after on the ground activities started) | 1.875 pts
> 2 - Initial baseline data collected (collected before the start of the project) | 2.8125 pts
> 3 - Initial and new baseline data collected (collected prior to the addition of new habitat areas/features) | 3.75 pts

Does the project include a relevant, scientifically rigorous monitoring protocol? | Up to 6.25 points
Relevant = Monitoring that would inform assessment of habitat.
✔ Applicant understanding
✔ Includes methodology/procedure, timing and frequency
> 0 - No monitoring plan or protocol. Or, monitoring protocol is not relevant
> 1 - Monitoring protocol that is relevant but not scientifically rigorous (i.e. may not fully protect against bias) | 3.75 pts
> 2 - Monitoring protocol that is both relevant and scientifically rigorous | 6.25 pts

* To what level is monitoring implemented? | Up to 8.75 points

Adequate monitoring = providing data that can be compared over time to assess whatever is being monitored.

Initial programs ✔ Documentation is from at least the past year

Renewal programs ✔ Documentation includes each year since last applied up to date applied

> 0 - No monitoring or inadequate/irrelevant monitoring (monitoring that is not directly tied to the habitat such as wildlife observed on site not specifically noted as occurring in the habitat)
> 1 - At least annual adequate monitoring not of the vegetation directly but of associated factors (such as wildlife observed in the habitat) | 2.625 pts
> 2 - Adequate monitoring of vegetation at least annually | 5.25 pts
> 3 - Adequate monitoring of vegetation at the following frequencies: plant diversity 2x/year, plant survival 1x within 4 weeks of planting and 2x/year after, bloom time 1x/month OR adequate monitoring of vegetation at least annually AND adequate monitoring of at least 1 additional aspect (e.g. pollinator or bird use) | 7 pts
> 4 - Adequate monitoring of vegetation at the following frequencies: plant diversity 2x/year, plant survival 1x within 4 weeks of planting and 2x/year after, bloom time 1x/month AND adequate monitoring of at least 1 additional aspect (e.g. wildlife use) | 8.75 pts

Is monitoring data evaluated? | Up to 6.25 points

An evaluation of monitoring data involves examining how successful the project was in achieving desired outcomes and reviewing if changes need to be made to the project. Examples of evaluation of monitoring data include: assessing whether plantings successfully established, and if not, determining what changes can be made to improve the success of future plantings.

> 0 - No evaluation provided (or nonsensical/irrelevant)
> 1 - Evaluation provided (does not consider how correct the evaluation is) | 3.125 pts
> 2 - Use results of evaluation to create next steps for the project | 6.25 pts

Participants | 15% of points achievable

Do employees actively contribute to the project?

> Yes
> No

How many employee hours were spent on project specific activities each year? | Up to 3.5 points

Hours are calculated as: all planning + all implementation / # years of cert term with full data

> 0 = No employee hours
> Score = Average number of employee hours/year over the course of the certification term (an entry with partial hours is acceptable) | Points earned = score/100

What was the depth of employee engagement in the project? | Up to 3.5 points

This criterion does not take into account the number of employees engaged.

> 0 - No employee participation
> 1 - One-off/ single event or irregular involvement of employees | 0.7 pts
> 2 - Regular involvement of employees in implementation OR development or long-term planning | 2.45 pts
> 3 - Regular involvement of employees in implementation AND development or long-term planning | 3.5 pts

Do any groups or partners actively contribute to the project?

> Yes
> No

How many partner hours were spent on project specific activities each year? | Up to 2.8 points

Hours are calculated as: all planning + all implementation / # Years of cert term with full data

> 0 = No partner hours
> Score = Average number of partner hours/year over the course of the certification term (an entry with partial hours is acceptable) | Points earned = score/50

What was the depth of partner engagement in the project? | Up to 2.8 points

This criterion does not consider the number of partners engaged.

> 0 - No partner participation
> 1 - One-off/ single event or irregular involvement of partners | 0.56 pts
> 2 - Regular involvement of partners in implementation OR development or long-term planning | 1.96 pts
> 3 - Regular involvement of partners in implementation AND development or long-term planning | 2.8 pts

What was the level of technical advice used in the project? | Up to 2.4 points

✔Applicant understanding

> 0 - No technical advice
> 1 - Technical advice sought (from partner or other resources) | 0.72 pts
> 2 - Demonstrated implementation of technical advice (e.g. planting plan from a native plants nursery or landscape architect) | 1.68 pts
> 3 - Ongoing regular use of technical advice at least once per year (e.g. advisor visits and assess the landscape periodically for needed changes) | 2.4 pts

Alignment | 11% of points achievable

Is the project designed to connect to Landscaped habitat on nearby property? | Up to 5 points

✔Applicant understanding
✔Connecting habitat is off-site

> 0 - No
> 1 - Connects to adjacent properties' native landscaping OR to a natural area with a similar plant community | 3.75 pts
> 2 - Coordinated management of the native landscaping with adjacent properties | 5 pts

Does the project tie to a corporate level commitment to Landscaped? | Up to 1.2 points

General corporate commitments to the environment, biodiversity, or education are not recognized.

✔Specific to project type

    0 - No
    1 - Yes | 1.2 pts

Does the project align with a large-scale conservation initiative? | Up to 3.9 points

✔Applicant understanding

    0 - No stated alignment with an established initiative
    1 - Alignment with a general plan (not Landscaped specific), or an initiative (without a specific plan). Example of both types: State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), migratory pathway | 1.95 pts
    2 - Managed in accordance with an established Landscaped specific plan (e.g. urban habitat corridors, local native plants) | 3.9 pts

Does the project demonstrate success through a third-party Landscaped certification that meets WHC criteria? | Up to 0.9 points

    0 - No
    1 - Yes (one or more) | 0.9 pts