

## **Top 10 Conversion Issues on Parks & Open Space Funded with PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant Assistance:**

- 1. Pipeline/Energy Development** – New or expanded right-of-way or permanent easement that gives control of a portion of a park to an oil and gas company or public utility. This may also include associated structures that impact the surface of the land.
- 2. Leases/Exclusive use** - Agreements between the grant recipient and an organization/entity that gives over control of the funded property. Leases can take many forms such as agriculture, commercial or vendor, ground leases, etc.
- 3. Property Sold/Transferred** - Grantee sells or transfers the property to an individual or entity who is not eligible for DCNR grant funding or does not have a recreation or conservation mission.
- 4. Development** - Any non-recreational development such as hotels, residential areas, restaurants, schools, etc. that occurs within a protected site funded by DCNR.
- 5. Cell Towers** - Telecommunication structures and the access to them that are not used for internal park communications is inconsistent with grant funding restrictions.
- 6. Municipal Uses** - Non-recreational structures built on the DCNR funded property. Examples include but are not limited to municipal buildings, recycling facilities, fire stations, maintenance buildings/sheds, etc.
- 7. Composting/Recycling Facilities** - These facilities are non-recreational in nature and are not supported on a DNCR funded property.
- 8. Encroachments** - Private property encroachments include utility sheds, gardens, vehicles, wood piles, sheds, etc. from neighboring landowners that sit over the DCNR funded property boundary line.
- 9. Above Ground Utilities** - New or expanded right-of-ways such as power lines, phone lines, pumping stations, etc. on DCNR funded property.
- 10. Restricting Public Access/Signage** - Posting no trespassing signs, locking gates, and in any way restricting public access is not allowed on a funded park site. Reasonable access restrictions for health and safety (no access after dark) are acceptable if applied to everybody. All grant funded sites must have a sign acknowledging DCNR grant assistance.

*Note: there are nuances to each of these issues based on the type of funding received and the legislative restrictions associated with that funding. This list is non-inclusive, but highlights the most common conversion issues. For more information please contact us via [RA-NRBRC\\_CONVERSIONS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-NRBRC_CONVERSIONS@pa.gov).*