

## **GUIDELINES FOR USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL AND SCENIC AREAS**

1. Compatible Use and Development: In general, outdoor recreation use of natural and scenic areas should be limited to passive outdoor recreation activities, such as nature observation, walking or hiking, bird watching, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, canoeing, photography and similar low impact activities. In some cases, environmental education activities may be appropriate. Limited facilities to support these activities, such as trails, overlooks, interpretive displays, benches, informational and boundary signing, protective fencing, and parking, are allowable uses. In some cases, rest room facilities and limited picnic facilities may also be compatible. All development plans should be submitted for review and prior approval by the Local Grants Program staff of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Development proposals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the specific characteristics of the natural and scenic area. Any development should be designed to avoid damage to natural resources and features, steer activities away from sensitive areas (such as steep bluffs, erosion prone shorelines, rare plant communities, etc.), and discourage inappropriate recreational use. Facilities must meet all safety and accessibility standards.

2. Incompatible Use and Development: Natural and scenic areas should not be developed for more active outdoor recreational uses, such as athletic fields and courts, campgrounds, dog parks, motorized sports, etc. Any use or development that could result in damage to significant natural and/or scenic resources must be avoided. In some cases, it may be necessary to prohibit access to certain portions of the property to avoid damage to highly sensitive or rare resources. Protective fencing may be used when appropriate. Natural and Scenic Areas sites may not be used for a wetland mitigation or banking area. The intent of this program is to expand and protect natural and scenic areas and not provide areas that can be used for replacement of natural areas lost through development.