

**Activity 5: Public Land and Community Dilemma Cards – Page 1 (1/3)****New Acquisition Park Land**

The state park recently acquired 150 acres of land. It is adjacent to the boundary of the park. This newly acquired land includes the upper reaches of the stream that feeds the lake. It contains wetlands and upland forest. There are rare plants and animals in the wetland area and the stream is designated as Exceptional Value. The area is undeveloped but there is pressure from the state and the community to develop the area for recreational activities. Many options have been presented for consideration. Different people want the area used for different activities. Some want to preserve it as a natural area. Many suggestions have been submitted from the community which include: leave it as a natural area with a few hiking trails, build a large area for camping and family cabins, create ATV trails, construct boardwalks through the wetland for education programs, build a park office, and/or build a large water park. Your group must design a model to show what you propose to do with the land. Your model should demonstrate concern for the sensitive natural areas, a limited budget and ways to serve community and visitor needs.

**Town Land**

The township planning commission has received a proposal for revising a rundown residential section and shopping area. The area is located on the west side of the town adjacent to the state park on a road that leads to the park entrance. The developer would like to remove the old homes and place 20 new housing units on 50 acres of land. The owner wants to build a shopping mall on the remaining 10 acres along the road into the park. The township invited you to offer recommendations to the plan. You are concerned that the plan maintain the natural viewshed and enhance the entranceway to the park making it more appealing to visitors. You are invited to share your ideas that will allow housing construction in a way that protects larger areas of natural resources and is appealing to home buyers. You are encouraged to offer suggestions for development and alternatives to a strip mall that are more compatible with the natural resources and proximity to the state park. Your group must design a model to show how the 20 housing units could be developed while protecting natural areas. You must address sewage, water, electricity, parking and roadways. Your group must recommend a user-friendly commercial area for the road to the park that would enhance the experience for the state park visitors.

**Activity 5: Public Land and Community Dilemma Cards – Page 2 (2/3)****Farm Land**

Your family has had a farm for the last 100 years. Your land borders the south side of the state park. Recently you joined a group that is trying to conserve farmland and open space in your community. They asked if you would like to put your farm into an agricultural preservation program. If it is placed in this program your land must always be used as farmland. Even if you sell your land, it could only be sold to someone who would continue to farm it. You want to farm your land while protecting the natural resources. You would like to keep part of the farm as a conservation easement. This means that an area would be protected for the conservation of the natural resources and would not be farmed or developed. By doing this you also are granted a cut in taxes. Your land includes a hillside with streams. You also have a pond, two barns and three houses on your property. Which areas of the farm will you place in a conservation easement? Design a model to show which land you will designate in the conservation easement, how you will utilize the easement for connections to the state park and demonstrate ways you will protect the natural resources on your farm.

**Forest Land**

Some of the state forest land in your township will soon be open for ATVs (all terrain vehicles) and other recreational activities. The northern section of the land is on steep slopes. The center section has gentle hills and the southern end is flat. There is a stream that runs north to south. This land is located north of the town. The stream feeds the town's water reservoir and flows into a lake. This land has dirt roads and trails since it is heavily timbered. The deer are abundant and damage small saplings and understory plants.

The state wants to promote the area for tourism and encourage ATV use, hunting, hiking, biking and primitive camping. Your group must design a model to show how you propose to improve the forest land and add ATV trails and supporting facilities while minimizing the impact to resources and other users. You are to address the community concerns which include erosion, noise, crowds, impact to wildlife and multi-use especially during hunting season. You are to recommend deer management strategies and suggest additional services and planning for the community to meet the increased needs of visitors.

## **Commercial Land**

A trucking company wants to expand their business by adding parking lots, a motel, tourist services, gas station and restaurant. They are located near the interstate highway along a creek that leads to the state park. This land is upstream of the state park land and includes a wetland and forest area as well as the headwaters of the stream that feeds the park lake.

You have been asked by the planning commission to provide recommendations to the trucking company by designing an area that would have the least amount of impact on the resources and enhance the use of the state park. The community is concerned about the traffic, light pollution, noise, fumes and water pollution. They are concerned that the large paved area could create flooding, heated runoff in the summer and poor groundwater recharge. Some community members hope that the business will provide tourist services to encourage visitors who will stay overnight to view wildlife, ride bicycles and canoe. Consider designing a complex that would enhance natural resources, connect to the state park, address the public concerns and could include trade-offs for the company.