

3. **Reducing access:** In some circumstances, a sponsor may be able to limit the public's access to a site or portion of a site. In order to reduce access, the sponsor will need to provide the following to RCO for approval prior to implementation:
- a. *Justification for the reduced access.* "Access" is defined as pedestrian access. In short, if people can walk into the site without trespass, the site is accessible. The requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) still must be met when reducing the public's access to a site.
 - b. *A stewardship plan* that details at a minimum:
 - a. Baseline documentation that describes the site's current uses,
 - b. The condition of its specific elements,
 - c. Any cultural and historic resources funded by the RCO,
 - d. Provisions for safe public access during this period,
 - e. A communication strategy to inform the public of the site status, and
 - f. Description of the interim maintenance needed to prevent site deterioration and damage to cultural and historic resources.
 - c. *A timeline of their intentions to re-establishing full access to the site.*
 - d. *Reasonable opportunity for the public to comment on the reduced access plan.* The minimum requirement is publication of notice and a 30-day public comment period.

Sites with reduced access may not be the subject of any RCO grant application during the reduced access period, and sponsors may not apply for a grant to re-establish full access.

Conversions

A site or portion of a site that is closed beyond the above limitations may fall into RCO's definition of a conversion of use. Key agency policies addressing closures are found in Manual 7, Section 3 (6), and in our grant contract's standard terms and conditions.

Citation	Policy or Contract Language
Manual 7, Section 3 (6),	... prior approval of temporary closure of public access sites will not result in a conversion if the sponsor demonstrates that the closure will last 180 days or less.
<u>Standard Terms and Conditions</u> , Section 26, 5: Restriction on Conversion of Real Property and/or Facilities to Other Uses	A. A conversion occurs when one or more of the following has taken place, whether affecting an entire site or any portion of a site funded by the funding boards. ... 5. Termination of Public Use. When public use, as described in the original grant request, is temporarily or permanently terminated or excluded.
<u>Standard Terms and Conditions</u> , Section 27, Construction, Operation, Use and Maintenance of Assisted Projects	Facilities open to the public, (C): Be available for use at reasonable hours and times of the year, according to the type of area or facility.

Board policy also states that a sponsor that has an outstanding conversion and does not demonstrate substantial progress in resolving the issue may be designated as “high risk” and be declared ineligible to receive future grant funding.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to help sponsors adhere to their contractual obligations to keep RCO funded facilities and sites open to the public.