



Operation & Maintenance Plan Open Channel (Code 582)

Expected Lifespan

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 15 years.

A properly installed and maintained open channel practice can be an asset to the farm. The project was installed to improve/restor an open channel for the purpose of flood prevention, drainage, habitat protection or enhancement, etc. Open channels are natural or artificial channels that convey water. The life of the practice can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice requires periodic operation and maintenance to properly manage and keep the system in good repair. Items for consideration are:

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Inspect channels, structures, and safety components annually and after major storm events. Promptly repair and/or replace any damaged components with materials and methods similar to those of the initial installation.
- Maintain channel cross section and gradient by removing sediment deposits or other obstructions caused by bank erosion or sloughing. Channel clearing to remove naturally forming sediment bars, stumps, fallen trees, snags, and other debris shall only be done when they are causing or likely to cause detrimental bank erosion or structural failure of the project. Take into consideration the benefits to fish and other aquatic species habitat, fill and removal permit regulations, and water flow level/time of the year before performing any work.
- Perform routine mowing and maintain a vigorous cover of desirable vegetation. Periodically remove undesirable trees, brush, and invasive species. Seed or replant bare or failed vegetated areas.
- Inspect crossing locations for signs of erosion, deposition, or scour.
- Inspect any channel linings or appurtenant structures for proper continued soundness and proper functioning.
- Immediately repair damages to side slopes, channel bottom, outlets or other appurtenances. Some scour pools may form naturally in certain channels without being detrimental to the function of the channel.
- Maintain safety measures for the protection of people and animals (such as fences, signage, or other components).

Note: Maintenance activities other than routine mowing may be subject to VT DEC and/or Army Corps of Engineers permitting or other regulations.

Specific Site Requirements