

# Waterway Maintenance

Oklahoma Job Sheet - ENG-OK-2



USDA Soil Conservation Service  
Stillwater, Oklahoma



**Installation is only the initial stage of establishing a grassed waterway. The success of a grassed waterway depends on proper maintenance.**

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## **Good maintenance and farming practices:**

1. Inspect grassed waterways regularly, especially following heavy rains and spring runoff. Repair damage immediately with compacted earth fill, reshaping, sodding, reseeding and mulching as needed. Remove silt blocks as needed.
2. Manage grasses to provide protective ground cover and healthy plants. If the waterway is grazed, follow the guidelines on the back of this sheet. Degree of use should be based on the key grass species.
3. Fertilize as needed to maintain vigorous growth.
4. Control undesirable weeds in the waterway.
5. Raise implements and turn off herbicide applicators when crossing the waterway.
6. Stagger plow furrows along the edge of the waterway to direct the water into it and prevent channels from forming along the sides.
7. Avoid using the waterway as a field road. If occasional travel is required, drive along the edge of the waterway. Do not concentrate travel that will kill the sod or form ruts. Avoid traffic and grazing when the waterway is too wet and soft.

Assistance with waterway maintenance is available from local Soil Conservation Service offices. Assistance is available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

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### Dimensions of Grassed Waterways

Following are the dimensions for grassed waterways on your farm. See your conservation plan map for locations of waterways shown below.

Waterway No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dimensions:

Depth (D) \_\_\_\_\_

Bottom Width (B) \_\_\_\_\_

Side Slopes \_\_\_\_\_

Length \_\_\_\_\_

Waterway No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dimensions:

Depth(D) \_\_\_\_\_

Bottom Width (B) \_\_\_\_\_

Side Slopes \_\_\_\_\_

Length \_\_\_\_\_

Waterway No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dimensions:

Depth (D) \_\_\_\_\_

Bottom Width (B) \_\_\_\_\_

Side Slopes \_\_\_\_\_

Length \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommend fertilizer (lbs/ac.)

N                      P                      K                      Lime

\_\_\_\_\_

If grazing is allowed, use the following guidelines:

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Waterway Cross Section

