

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

RECREATION LAND GRADING AND SHAPING

(Ac.)
Code 566



DEFINITION

Reshaping the surface of the land to support recreation land use.

PURPOSES

- Establish or improve effective use of the land area for recreation.
- Minimize on-site and off-site damage to resources from recreation land use.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On land areas where surface irregularities, slopes, obstructions, or surface drainage interfere with planned recreational use, or where such use requires designed land surfaces.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable To All Purposes

Plan all work to comply with Federal, state, local and tribal laws and regulations.

Impact to cultural resources, wetlands and Federal and state protected species shall be evaluated and avoided or minimized to the

extent practicable during planning, design and implementation of this conservation practice in accordance with established National and Florida policy, General Manual (GM) Title 420-Part 401; Title 450-Part 401, Title 190 Parts 410.22 and 410.26, National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) Florida Supplements to Parts 6001 and 600.6, National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH), national Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM), and the National Environmental compliance Handbook (NECH).

Plan the grading or shaping to be conducive to the overall recreation area and aesthetically blend with the general landscape and surroundings.

Configure the grading or shaping to minimize adverse on-site and off-site impacts such as accelerated erosion, riparian zone degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, hydrology modification, other water resource damage, aesthetics or unacceptable damage to wildlife habitat, fragmentation, or restrict wildlife movement.

Grading and Shaping. If only shaping is required, estimate the cuts and fills by observation or by a minimum amount of surveying. If grading to uniform surfaces is required, base the design on a complete topographic or grid survey. Plan the grading and shaping for specific uses, such as athletic fields to be in accordance of the requirements of the intended use.

Balance the cuts and fills to the greatest extent possible.

Keep soil compaction and displacement to a minimum

Surface drainage. Include in the plans measures for removing or otherwise providing for control of excess surface water.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Erosion control. Include in the plans provisions for control of erosion. Establish vegetation in disturbed areas as soon as practicable after construction. Use vegetation adapted to the site that will accomplish the desired purpose with preference to native plant species. Vegetative measures shall be in accordance with Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Critical Area Planting, Code 342.

If soil or climatic conditions precludes the use of vegetation, and protection is needed, use non-vegetative means, such as mulches or gravel. Mulching shall be in accordance with Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Mulching, Code 484.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider adjoining land uses and the proximity to residences, utilities, cultural resource areas, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, wetlands or other environmentally sensitive areas, and areas of special scenic value.

Consider the effects of increased recreation and activities on the quality of both surface and ground water quality.

Consider maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife where applicable.

Where feasible and appropriate, consider salvaging, stockpiling and protecting soil material suited for plant growth for use as final cover material.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for recreation land grading and shaping shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended

purpose. Plans and specifications shall include construction plans, drawings, job sheets, and other similar documents. The documents shall specify the requirements for installing the practice.

As a minimum, include, as applicable, the following items in the plans and specifications.

- location of area to be graded or shaped
- final grading plan showing elevations, drainage pattern, etc.
- location of drainage and erosion control structures
- design of drainage and erosion control structures
- vegetative requirements

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Prepare an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan for and reviewed with the landowner or operator. Specify in the plan the treated areas and associated practices to be inspected annually and after significant storm events to identify repair and maintenance needs.

REFERENCES

Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standards
Critical Area Planting, Code 342
Mulching, Code 484
General Manual
Title 420-Part 401
Title 450-Part 401
Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26
National Cultural Resources Procedures
Handbook
National Environmental Compliance Handbook
National Food Security Act Manual
National Planning Procedures Handbook Florida
Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6