

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

RECREATION LAND GRADING AND SHAPING

(acre)
CODE 566

DEFINITION

Altering the surface of the land to meet the requirements of recreation facilities.

Scope

This standard applies where modification of the land surface is required to permit installation of recreation facilities.

PURPOSES

To permit effective use of the land area for recreation.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On sites where surface irregularities, slopes, kinds of soil, obstructions, or wetness interfere with planned recreational use; or where such use requires designed land surfaces.

Special attention shall be given to maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife where applicable.

CRITERIA

Shaping

If only shaping is required, the cuts and fills may be estimated by observation or by a minimum amount of work with engineer's level.

Grading

If grading to uniform surfaces is required, the design shall be based on a complete topographic or grid survey.

Erosion control and drainage

The requirements for erosion control and surface and subsurface drainage shall be included in the plan.

Specific uses

Grading and shaping for specific uses, such as athletic fields shall be according to the requirements of the intended use.

Vegetation

Distributed areas shall be established to vegetation as soon as practicable after grading. Seedbed preparation, seeding, fertilizing, and mulching shall comply with recommendations in technical guides.

CONSIDERATIONS

Water Quantity

1. Effects of grading on runoff and surface storage.
2. Effects of the amount and timing of decreased infiltration on evapotranspiration, change in soil moisture in the root zone, and deep percolation.

Water Quality

1. Effects of erosion and sediment yield on changes in runoff. Factors are the slope of the land before and after grading, the results caused by the construction process, and the amount of vegetation reestablished on the graded or shaped site.
2. Effects on ground water quality of decreased loading of dissolved pollutants, particularly the dissolved nutrients from decaying surface residues.
3. Effects of increased recreation and activities on the quality of both surface and ground water quality.

Endangered Species Considerations

Determine if installation of this practice with any others proposed will have any effect on any federal or state listed Rare, Threatened or Endangered species or their habitat. NRCS's objective is to benefit these species and others of concern or at least not have any adverse effect on a listed species. If the Environmental

Evaluation indicates the action may adversely affect a listed species or result in adverse modification of habitat of listed species which has been determined to be critical habitat, NRCS will advise the land user of the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and recommend alternative conservation treatments that avoid the adverse effects. Further assistance will be provided only if the landowner selects one of the alternative conservation treatments for installation; or at the request of the landowners, NRCS may initiate consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and/or California Department of Fish and Game. If the Environmental Evaluation indicates the action will not affect a listed species or result in adverse modification of critical habitat, consultation generally will not apply and usually would not be initiated. Document any special considerations for endangered species in the Practice Requirements Worksheet.

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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and maintenance plan must be prepared by the Designer for use by the owner or other responsible for operating this practice. The plan should provide specific instructions for operating and maintaining the system to insure that it functions properly. It should also provide for periodic inspections and prompt repair or replacement of damage components.