

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

RECREATION LAND GRADING AND SHAPING

(Ac.)

Code 566



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).

DEFINITION

Recreation land grading and shaping is 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

This practice applies to 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

All planned work must comply with federal, state, local and tribal laws and regulations.

The planned grading or shaping must be configured 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.

Cuts and fills must be balanced to the greatest extent possible.

Soil compaction and displacement must be kept to a minimum.

Surface drainage. Plans must include 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. Plans must include provisions for control of erosion. Disturbed areas must be established to vegetation as soon as practicable after construction. If soil or climatic conditions precludes the use of vegetation, and protection is needed, non-vegetative means, such as mulches or gravel, may be used. Seedbed preparation, seeding, fertilizing, and mulching must be according to Florida NRCS conservation practice standards Critical Area Planting, Code 342 and Mulching, Code 484, respectively.

Use vegetation adapted to the site that will accomplish the desired purpose. The use of native plant species should be considered. If native plant materials are not adaptable or proven effective for the planned use, then non-native species may be used.

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 must be in keeping with this standard and must describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose. Plans and specifications must include construction plans, drawings, job sheets or other similar documents. These documents must specify the requirements for installing the practice, including the kind, amount and quality of materials to be used.

Plans and specifications shall include, but not limited to, the following.

- location of area to be graded or shaped,
- final grading plan showing elevations, drainage pattern, etc.,
- volumes of cuts and fills where needed.
- location of drainage and erosion control structures,
- details, including cross sections and profiles, of any drainage and erosion control structures, and
- vegetative requirements.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan must be prepared for and reviewed with the landowner or operator. The plan shall specify that the treated areas and associated practices are inspected annually and after significant storm events to identify and repair any damaged areas or 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