

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.

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

SCOPE

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

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

PURPOSE

To permit effective use of the land area for recreation.

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

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.

Vegetation. Disturbed and denuded 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.

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

PLANNING 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.

DESIGN 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.

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

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.

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.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

SPECIFICATION GUIDE

Recreation Land Grading and Shaping

Special attention shall be given to saving and maintaining key trees and other vegetation that have scenic value, provide shade, reduce erosion and runoff, provide den and food for wildlife, or add to the visual quality of the areas.

Special features to control erosion and handle increased runoff shall be incorporated as required.

Safety features, considering use to be made of the area, shall be planned.

Measures and construction methods that enhance fish and wildlife values shall be incorporated as needed and practical.

Work shall be done in such a manner that erosion and air and water pollution are minimized and held within legal limits. The completed job shall present a workmanlike finish.

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