

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
TRAILS AND WALKWAYS**

CODE 568

Name _____
Legal Desc. _____

Ident. No. _____
County _____

Properly operated and maintained trails and walkways are an asset to your property. These were designed and installed to provide or improve recreation access; to provide travel ways for recreational activities such as walking, horseback riding, bicycling, cross-country skiing, or hiking; to provide safe, environmentally friendly pedestrian access for planting, cultivating, and harvesting operations; and to provide worker access for construction and maintenance operations.

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be ensured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Inspect periodically and after storm events. Repair or replace damaged components as necessary. Perform maintenance as needed.
- Maintain land, trail, and walkway surfaces in good condition. Repair areas damaged by erosion or heavy use. Replace or add surface material when necessary. Prevent surface ponding by using localized grading or by adding surface materials (aggregate,

mulch, or topsoil as appropriate) to remove depressions. Replace protective vegetation as soon as possible.

- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. Mow periodically or use short-term grazing to control height. Reseed, fertilize, and apply herbicides when necessary.
- Maintain drainage facility capacities. Remove debris and blockages in drainage ditches, drop inlets, culverts, bridges, waterways, and stormwater outlets.
- Maintain installed fences to prevent unauthorized human access or uncontrolled livestock grazing.
- Remove debris and litter from the trail and walkway areas and adjoining land areas.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Immediately repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock.
- Regularly inspect bridges and elevated walkways. For those having a span greater than 20 feet and that are open or accessible to the public, conduct inspections in accordance with the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide Manual for Condition Evaluation and Load and Resistance Factor Rating of Highway Bridges.

(more)

Specific Recommendations

If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).