

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
SPECIFICATION GUIDE SHEET**

**ANIMAL TRAILS AND WALKWAYS**

**CODE 575**

**SCOPE**

The work shall consist of furnishing and installing materials and constructing animal trails and/or walkways to meet the practice purpose at the location(s). Construction shall follow the lines and grades as shown on the drawings (plans) and/or as staked in the field.

**GENERAL**

Installation shall be in accordance with an approved design and plan. Details of construction shown on the drawings but not included herein are considered as a part of this specification. Construction activities shall be in accordance with applicable OSHA regulations.

Applicable NRCS specifications required for component parts (pipe, appurtenances) of the animal trail or walkway shall be considered a part of this specification.

For walkways or trails constructed in the marsh, the suitability of the marsh for grazing and for construction of a walkway shall be determined by the designer before construction starts.

Construction operations shall be carried out in a manner to minimize air and water pollution and hold such pollution within legal limits. Bare areas shall be revegetated as soon as practical after earthwork is completed. A minimum area should be stripped of vegetation at any one time to provide an adequate work site.

**CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS**

Construction Operations shall be done in such a manner that erosion and air and water pollution are minimized and held within legal limits.

The owner, operator, Contractor or other persons will conduct all work and operations in accordance with proper safety codes for the type of construction being performed with due regards to the safety of all persons and property.

The completed job shall be workmanlike and present a good appearance.

**DESIGN**

All walkways shall be designed, and plans prepared in accordance with the Conservation Practice Standard for this practice.

**SITE PREPARATION**

Preparation of sites for walkway construction shall be done in a manner which destroys as little vegetation outside the areas to be occupied by the walkway and borrow pits as feasible.

Disposal of any debris from site preparation shall be done in a manner to minimize air and water pollution and hold such pollution within legal limits.

**INSTALLATION**

The animal trail or walkway shall be adequate to meet the objectives of the practice. Sound construction and installation procedures shall be used on all engineering structures.

Installation shall be in accordance with the drawings and specifications. All component parts of the animal trail or walkway, i.e. culverts, heavy use protection, fencing, vegetation establishment, etc. shall meet the applicable conservation practice standard and specifications for each practice.

**CONSTRUCTION**

**Walkways.** Walkways shall be constructed to the lines and grades shown on the plans. Walkways will be acceptable where the following conditions are met:

Cross-Section. The plotted cross-section of the completed walkway verifies that the minimum (a) top and base widths, (b) fill height, (c) shrinkage allowance, and (d) cross-sectional area below the planned top elevation of the walkway with allowance for shrinkage have been met.

All bridges and culverts shall be installed to the lines and grades shown on the plans.

Walkways shall be checked for completion in accordance with the procedures given in the "Documentation Requirements" for this conservation practice standard.

**Livestock Water Access Points.** Access ramps to provide animal access to a fenced pond should be installed during construction of the pond or soon after completion to avoid dewatering. For existing ponds, dewatering of the site to a level below the bottom of the ramp will be required.

Ramps shall be located such to minimize excavation. Excavation will be required to allow for the placement of the rockfill. This will be to the thickness of the coarse aggregate lining, typically 6 inches.

Rockfill. Rockfill shall be durable and of adequate quality to withstand underwater conditions. The rockfill shall be crushed limestone meeting the requirements of ASTM C-33. Coarse Aggregate, Size #4 (commonly known as #4 Railroad Ballast), as shown below. Only angular to subrounded rock shall be used.

Rock Size in Inches	% Smaller by Weight
2	100
1 1/2	90 – 100
1	20 – 55
3/4	0 – 15
3/8	0 – 5

Rock may be placed by equipment or by hand. Placement must ensure that rocks are reasonably homogeneous with larger rocks uniformly distributed and in firm contact with

one another and smaller rocks filling in the voids.

Geocell. Where needed, an approved plastic (PE) three-dimensional cellular containment grid shall be installed to hold rocks in place. The geocell shall be the same thickness as the rock liner.

Geotextile. The geotextile shall be a Class 1 nonwoven geotextile fabric with a minimum weight of 8 ounces per square yard. The fabric shall also meet the following requirements:

Property	ASTM Test Method	Requirement
Tensile Strength	D4632	180 lb. - min
Elongation at Failure	D4632	≥ 50%
Puncture	D4833	80 lb. - min.
Ultraviolet Light (% residual tensile strength)	D4355	70 % - min.
Apparent Opening Size	D4751	# 40 sieve - max
Permittivity	D4491	0.70/sec - min.

Installation shall be in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations. In no case shall material be dropped onto an uncovered geotextile from a height greater than 3 feet.

Prior to placement of the geotextile, the soil surface shall be prepared reasonably smooth and free of loose rocks, holes, projections, mud or standing water. The geotextile shall not be placed until it can be properly anchored and covered within 48 hours.

**BASIS FOR ACCEPTANCE**

The acceptability of the practice shall be determined by inspections to insure compliance with all the provisions of the plans and specifications.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Operation and maintenance of this conservation practice shall be in accordance with the "Operation and Maintenance Plan" for this conservation practice.