

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Conservation Practice Standard**

**RECREATION LAND GRADING AND SHAPING  
(Ac.)  
CODE 566**

**DEFINITION**

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

**PURPOSE**

To permit effective use of the land area for recreation.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

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

This practice is used 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**

**General**

All grading and shaping must be designed within the slope limits required to provide for the removal of excess surface water, and to control erosion caused by rainfall.

**Design**

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

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

Water quality

- 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.

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

- Effects on ground water quality of decreased loading of dissolved pollutants, particularly the dissolved nutrients from decaying surface residues.
- 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.