

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

RECREATION LAND GRADING AND SHAPING

(Ac.)

CODE 566

DEFINITION

Reshaping the surface of the land to support recreation land use.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to support one or more of the following 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

On 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 shall comply with federal, state, local and tribal laws and regulations.

The grading or shaping shall be conducive to the overall recreation area and aesthetically blend with the general landscape and surroundings.

The grading or shaping shall 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, the cuts and fills may be estimated by observation or by a minimum amount of surveying. If grading to uniform surfaces is required, the design shall be based on a complete topographic or grid survey. Grading and shaping for specific uses, such as athletic fields shall be according to the requirements of the intended use.

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

Soil compaction and displacement shall be kept to a minimum.

Surface drainage. Plans shall include measures for removing or otherwise providing for control of excess surface water.

Erosion control. Plans shall include provisions for control of erosion. Disturbed areas shall 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 shall be according to the appropriate conservation practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide. Use vegetation adapted to the site that will accomplish the desired purpose. Preference shall be given to native plant species. If native plant materials are not adaptable or proven effective for the planned use, then non-native species may be used.

