



**VIRGINIA TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE 450-15-432**

November 25, 2014

Subject: VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE, SECTION IV (Conservation Practice Standards)

Purpose: To transmit the following VA Conservation Practice Standards and supporting documents.

Practice	Standard	Major Changes	O&M	Design Note	SOW
Access Road (560)	X	X	X	(1)	X
Heavy Use Area Protection (561)	X	X	X	X	X
Land Smoothing (466)	X		X		X
Livestock Shelter Structure (576) - NEW	X		X		X
Roof Runoff Structure (558)	X	X	X		X
Spring Development (574)	X		X		X
Trails and Walkways (575) – NEW Name	X	X	X	(1)	X
Underground Outlet (620)	X		X		X
Watering Facility (614)	X	X	X		X

(1) Virginia Engineering Design Note 1 – Road Drainage Practices

Effective Date: Upon Receipt.

Filing Instructions: This data can be accessed electronically in Section IV of the Virginia Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) at the following link: <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov>. If you maintain hard copies, replace the old standards with updated standards in Section IV of the Virginia Field Office Technical Guide. File updated supporting documents behind the pertinent standard.

Explanation of Changes:

For all new engineering Standards:

When a reference to another Standard says to use the criteria in that Standard, then the components used from the second Standard are included as necessary for the completion of the original practice. If the reference says to use the other Standard, then it is a separate practice.

Access Road (Code 560), dated October 2014, replaces the Standard dated October 2011.

1. The major change to this Standard is that the surface material is included as part of the practice. Also, vegetation of areas disturbed by construction is included.
2. Table 1 was revised to describe usage rather than road type for determination of design storm frequency. Figure 1 – Recommended Spacing of Surface Cross Drains Based on Soil Types was revised to include five soil types rather than the two groupings in the previous version.

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561), dated October 2014, replaces the Standard dated October 2012.

1. The units of this practice have changed from acres to square feet.
2. Foundation: Presumptive bearing capacity is used rather than the specific list of design characteristics.
3. Designers are directed to treat contaminated runoff from impervious areas.
4. Surface Treatment:
 - a. Concrete: The reference to *CPS Waste Storage Facility (Code 313)* was replaced with references to the National Engineering Manual and the applicable ACI documents.
 - b. Bituminous Concrete Pavement: Specifications for installation were removed.
 - c. Aggregate: The minimum thickness of an aggregate pad subject to light, non-vehicular use is 6 inches. Reference is made to a new Design Note for other applications.
 - d. Sprays were removed as surface treatments.
 - e. The criteria for Mulches included a minimum thickness.
 - f. Vegetation was added as a stand-alone surface material.
 - g. A category for Other was added to address locally used materials that meet the intended purpose and design life.
5. The section on **Structures** refers to *CPS Roofs and Covers (Code 367)* for waste applications.
6. The use of vegetation to stabilize areas disturbed by construction was added to the section on **Drainage and Erosion Control**. Use either the criteria in *CPS Critical Area Planting (Code 342)* or the Virginia Plant Establishment Guide.

Land Smoothing (Code 466), dated October 2014, replaces the Standard dated October 2012.

Livestock Shelter Structure (Code 576), dated October 2014, is new.

Roof Runoff Structure (Code 558)

1. The references for the design of concrete structures have changed.
2. Overall, there are more details about gutter installation and capture of water for other uses. More Considerations were added.

Spring Development (Code 574), dated October 2014, replaces the Standard dated July 2008.

Trails and Walkways (Code 575) (formerly Animal Trails and Walkways (Code 575))

1. **The Conservation Practice Standard changed names from *Animal Trails and Walkways (Code 575)* to *Trails and Walkways (Code 575)*.** This revision combined the *Animal Trails and Walkways (Code 575)* with *Trails and Walkways (568)*, keeping the name of one and the code of the other. The new lifespan is 10 years. This is the same as for the old AT&W standard.
2. The Standard is considerably different in content but not in application. The definition clearly identifies the distinction between a trail and a walkway. A trail is a constructed path with a vegetated or earthen surface. A walkway is a constructed path with an artificial surface. A trail/walkway is used to facilitate the movement of animals, people, or off-road vehicles.
3. The practice applies to trails/walkways used by animals but would also apply to a trail/walkway needed for pedestrian or off-road vehicle access to an agricultural, construction, maintenance, or recreation site.
4. **One major change is that the installation of the trail/walkway surface is included as part of the practice.** The vegetation of areas disturbed by construction is also included in the Trails and Walkways Standard.

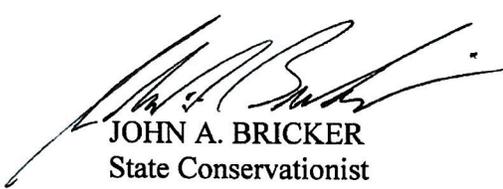
Note: The Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) for this practice will be revised in FY15. Continue to use the existing QAP for Animal Trails and Walkways.

Underground Outlet (Code 620), dated October 2014, replaces the Standard dated October 2010.

Watering Facility (Code 614)

1. Although the Standard looks significantly different, there will not be much change in the way it is used.
2. The vegetation of the areas disturbed by construction is included in the practice.
3. The Heavy Use Area Protection around the trough is a stand-alone practice. The surface of a watering ramp uses the criteria in HUAP and is included in the practice.

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