

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

_____	Land Owner	_____	Field Office
_____	County	_____	Date

A properly operated and maintained **Trails and Walkways** practice is an asset and with proper management will protect the natural resources. This practice was designed and installed to provide a pathway for pedestrians, equestrians, bicycle, other off-road modes of recreation travel, farm workers, construction or maintenance access or small walk behind equipment, as part of a conservation plan. The trail or walkway will provide a travel way for the above mentioned activities and will provide access to recreation areas, planting, cultivation or harvest operations and for worker access to the fields for construction or maintenance operations.

Other associated practices installed associated with this practice may be grade stabilization structure(s), stream crossings, fences, mulching (for erosion protection) and critical area treatment areas, etc. and they shall also be maintained to minimize water quality degradation. The estimated life span of the system is at least **15** years. The life of the practice can be normally be increased by carrying out a good Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program.

This practice requires periodic O&M to properly manage and keep the system in good repair. Items of consideration are:

1. Regularly inspect the trail or walkway after significant rainfall or runoff events and replace mulch or ground protection (gravel, vegetation, etc.).
2. Repair eroded areas or damaged surfacing as soon as possible.
3. Repair adjacent fencing and other safety or control features as needed.
4. Grade and shape the walkway to maintain design grades and dimensions.
5. Regularly inspect steps, bridges or elevated walkways and repair as needed.
6. If a bridge or elevated walkways has a span greater than twenty feet and that are open or accessible to the public, conduct inspections in accordance with AASHTO Guide Manual for Condition Evaluation and Load and Resistance Factor Rating of Highway Bridges.
7. Inspect culverts, roadside ditches, water bars and outlets after each major runoff event and remove sediment or restore flow capacity as needed.
8. Minimize the damage to vegetative buffers adjacent to the trail when it is necessary to chemically treat the road surface to maintain erosion protection.
9. Maintain vegetated areas in adequate cover to meet the intended purpose(s).
10. Seeded areas adjacent to the road shall be checked periodically to insure a vigorous stand of vegetation is maintained.

Other Specific Requirements for your system. \_\_\_\_\_

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Inspection Date   Items to be Repaired and Corrective Action Taken  
Repair Date

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