

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
LINED WATERWAY OR OUTLET

(Feet)

CODE 468

DEFINITION

A waterway or outlet having an erosion-resistant lining of concrete, stone, synthetic turf reinforcement fabrics, or other permanent material.

PURPOSES

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

- Provide for safe conveyance of runoff from conservation structures or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding
- Stabilize existing and prevent future gully erosion
- Protect and improve water quality

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies if the following or similar conditions exist:

1. Concentrated runoff, steep grades, wetness, prolonged base flow, seepage, or piping is such that a lining is needed to control erosion
2. Use by people or animals precludes vegetation as suitable cover.
3. Limited space is available for design width, which requires higher velocities and lining.
4. Soils are highly erosive or other soil or climatic conditions preclude using vegetation only.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Use of this standard will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Capacity. The maximum capacity of the waterway flowing at designed depth will not exceed 200 ft³/second. The minimum capacity will be adequate to carry the peak rate of runoff from a 10-year, 24-hour frequency storm. Velocity will be computed by using Manning’s Formula with a coefficient of roughness “n” as follows:

Lining	“n” Value
Concrete	
Trowel finish.....	0.011– 0.015
Float finish.....	0.013 - 0.016
Shotcrete.....	0.016 – 0.025
Flagstone.....	0.020 – 0.025
Riprap - (Angular Rock) ^{1/}	$n = 0.047(D_{50} S)^{0.147}$
Synthetic Turf Reinforcement Fabrics and Grid Pavers	Manufacturer’s recommendations

^{1/} Applies on slopes between 2% and 40% with a rock mantle thickness of 2 x D₅₀ where:

D₅₀ = median rock diameter (in.),

S = lined section slope (ft./ft.) (.02 ≤ S ≤ 0.4)

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office, or download it from the Field Office Technical Guide for your State.

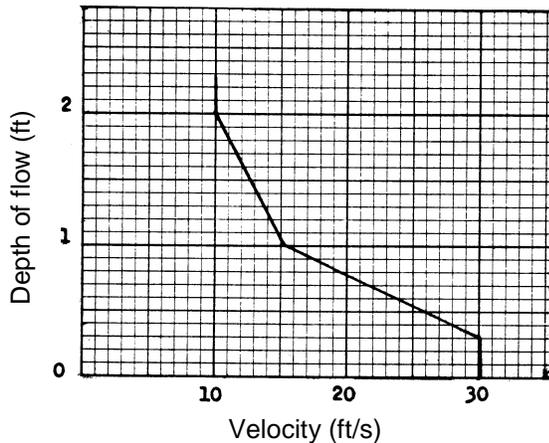
Lined outlets of grassed waterways with a 2 foot vertical drop or less. Where a grassed waterway with less than 1% slope and non-erosive out of bank flow will continue to have non-erosive out of bank flow through the rock lined section, the minimum design capacity may be reduced to be equal with the grassed waterway.

Where the immediate downstream conveyance (channel, structure or culvert) has less than a Q₁₀ capacity, the rock lined outlet can be reduced to the capacity of the downstream conveyance or a B curve capacity, whichever is greater.

Velocity. Maximum design velocity and rock gradation limits for rock riprap-lined channel sections will be determined using National Engineering Handbook (NEH), Part 650, Engineering Field Handbook, Chapter 16, Appendix 16A, or NEH 654.14C, unless a detailed design analysis appropriate to the specific slope, flow depth and hydraulic conditions indicate that a higher velocity is acceptable.

Maximum design velocity for concrete-lined sections will not exceed those using Figure 1.

Figure 1. Maximum velocity versus depth of flow for concrete-lined channels



Maximum design velocity for synthetic turf reinforcement fabrics and grid pavers will not exceed manufacturer's recommendations.

Stable rock sizes and flow depths for rock-lined channels having gradients between 2 percent and 40 percent may be determined using the following detailed design process. This design process is from *Design of Rock Chutes* by Robinson, Rice, and Kadavy.

For channel slopes between 2% and 10%:

$$D_{50} = [q (S)^{1.5}/4.75(10)^{-3}]^{0.53}$$

For channel slopes between 10% and 40%:

$$D_{50} = [q (S)^{0.58}/3.93(10)^{-2}]^{0.53}$$

$$z = [n(q)/1.486(S)^{0.50}]^{0.6}$$

where:

D₅₀ = Particle size for which 50% (by weight) of the sample is finer.

S = Bed slope, ft./ft.

z = Flow depth, ft.

n = Manning's roughness coefficient

q = Unit discharge, ft³/s/ft

Avoid channel slopes between 0.7 and 1.3 of the critical slope except for short transition sections. Supercritical flow will be restricted to straight reaches. Design guidance on the use of this equation is available in NEH 654.14C

Waterways or outlets with supercritical flow will discharge into an energy dissipator to reduce discharge velocity to less than critical.

Side slope. The steepest permissible side slopes, horizontal to vertical, will be:

Non-reinforced concrete:

Hand-placed, formed concrete

Height of lining, 1.5 ft or lessVertical

Hand-placed screeded concrete or mortared in place flagstone:

Height of lining, less than 2 ft.....1:1

Height of lining, more than 2 ft.....2:1

Slip form concrete:

Height of lining, less than 3 ft.....1:1

Rock riprap2:1

Synthetic Turf Reinforcement Fabrics....2:1

Grid Pavers.....1:1

Cross section. The cross section will be triangular, parabolic, or trapezoidal. Cross section made of monolithic concrete may be rectangular.

Freeboard. The minimum freeboard for lined waterways or outlets will be 0.25 ft above design high water in areas where erosion-resistant vegetation cannot be grown adjacent to the paved or reinforced side slopes. No freeboard is required if vegetation can be grown and maintained.

Lining thickness. Minimum lining thickness will be:

- Concrete.....4 in. (minimum thickness will be 5 in. if the liner is reinforced).
- Rock riprap.....Maximum stone size plus thickness of filter or bedding
- Flagstone.....4 in., including mortar bed

Synthetic Turf
Reinforcement Fabrics
and Grid Pavers...Manufacturer's
Recommendations

Lining Durability. Use of non-reinforced concrete or mortared flagstone linings will be made only on low shrink-swell soils that are well drained or where subgrade drainage facilities are installed.

Related structures. Side inlets, drop structures, and energy dissipators will meet the hydraulic and structural requirements for the site.

Outlets. All lined waterways and outlets will have a stable outlet with adequate capacity to prevent erosion and flooding damages.

Geotextiles. Geotextiles will be used where appropriate as a separator between rock, flagstone, or concrete linings and soil to prevent migration of soil particles from the subgrade, through the lining material. Geotextiles will be designed according to AASHTO M288, Section 7.3., NEH 654.14D, or NRCS Design Note 24, Guide for the Use of Geotextiles.

Filters or bedding. Filters or bedding will be used where appropriate to prevent piping. Drains will be used to reduce uplift pressure and to collect water, as required. Filters, bedding, and drains will be designed according to NEH Part 633, Chapter 26. Weep holes may be used with drains if needed.

Concrete. Concrete used for lining will be proportioned so that it is plastic enough for thorough consolidation and stiff enough to stay in place on side slopes. A dense durable product will be required. Specify a mix that can be certified as suitable to produce a minimum strength of 3,000 pounds per square inch.

Contraction joints. Contraction joints in concrete linings, if required, will be formed transversely to a depth of about one-third the thickness of the lining at a uniform spacing in the range of 8 to 15 feet. Provide steel reinforcement or other uniform support to the joint to prevent unequal settlement.

Site and Subgrade Preparation. Proper site preparation is necessary to provide a stable, uniform foundation for the waterway lining. The site will be graded to remove any rutting or uneven surfaces and to provide good surface drainage throughout the construction period and the design life of the waterway or outlet. Proof rolling can be used to identify soft pockets of soil, additional rutting, or other soil conditions that require removal and replacement by compacted soil to provide a uniform surface for base, sub-base, or concrete liner.

CONSIDERATIONS

Streambank Soil Bioengineering. Trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses can be incorporated into or adjacent to the lined portions of the channel. This may improve aesthetics and habitat benefits as well as reduce erosion potential. Plantings are especially beneficial where the channel transitions to natural ground. However, such plantings are not appropriate in all circumstances. Guidance on the use of plantings is available in NEH 654.14I and NEH 654.14K.

Fish and Wildlife Resources. This practice may impact important fish and wildlife habitats such as streams, creeks, riparian areas, floodplains, and wetlands.

Aquatic organism passage concerns (e.g., velocity, depth, slope, air entrainment, screening, etc.) should be evaluated to minimize negative impacts. Swimming and leaping performance for target species should be considered.

Important fish and wildlife habitat, such as woody cover or wetlands, should be avoided or protected if possible when locating the lined waterway. If trees and shrubs are incorporated, they should be retained or planted in the periphery of the grassed portion of the lined waterways so they do not interfere with hydraulic functions and roots do not damage the lined portion of the waterway. Mid- or tall bunch grasses and

perennial forbs may also be planted along waterway margins to improve wildlife habitat.

Plant selections that benefit pollinators should be incorporated into the design. Refer to Indiana (IN) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Standards (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and (327) Conservation Cover for additional information. Waterways with these wildlife features are more beneficial when connecting other habitat types: e.g., riparian areas, wooded tracts, and wetlands.

Other Considerations.

Filter strips established on each side of the waterway may improve water quality.

Consideration should be given to livestock and vehicular crossings as necessary to prevent damage to the waterway. Crossing design will not interfere with design flow capacity.

Reinforcement of concrete liners should be considered where high pore water pressures exist in the subgrade, movement of the subgrade may occur, or in reaches where failure would endanger public safety or property.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for lined waterways or outlets will be in keeping with this standard and will describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose(s).

As a minimum the plans and specifications will include:

- A plan view of the layout of the lined waterway or outlet.
- Typical cross section of the lined waterway or outlet.
- Profile of the lined waterway or outlet.
- Disposal requirements for excess soil material.
- Site specific construction specifications that describe the installation of the lined waterway or outlet. Include specification for control of concentrated flow during construction.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and maintenance plan will be provided to and reviewed with the landowner. The plan will include the following items and others as appropriate.

A maintenance program will be established to maintain waterway capacity and outlet stability. Lining damaged by machinery or erosion must be repaired promptly.

Inspect lined waterways regularly, especially following heavy rains. Damaged areas will be repaired immediately. Remove sediment deposits to maintain capacity of lined waterways.

Landowners should be advised to avoid areas where forbs have been established when applying herbicides. Avoid using waterways as turn-rows during tillage and cultivation operations. Prescribed burning and mowing may be appropriate to enhance wildlife values, but must be conducted to avoid peak nesting seasons and reduced winter cover. Control noxious weeds. Do not use as a field road. Avoid crossing with heavy equipment.

REFERENCES

AASHTO M288. Standard Specification for Geotextile Specification for Highway Applications.

National Engineering Handbook, Part 654, Stream Restoration Design, August 2007.

National Engineering Handbook, Part 650, Engineering Field Handbook: Chapter 16, Streambank and Shoreline Protection.

National Engineering Handbook, Part 633, Soil Engineering: Chapter 26 – Gradation Design of Sand and Gravel Filters.

Robinson, K.M., C.E. Rice, and K.C. Kadavy. 1998. Design of Rock Chutes. Transactions of ASAE, Vol. 41(3): 621-626.

USDA, NRCS Guide for the Use of Geotextiles. Design Note 24 (210-VI-DN-24, 1991).

USDA, NRCS, Pollinator Conservation. <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/news/features/pollinatorconservation.html> (accessed August 20, 2009).