

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENT**

(Acre)  
CODE 562

**DEFINITION**

Establishing grasses, legumes, vines, shrubs, trees, or other plants or selectively reducing stand density and trimming woody plants to improve an area for recreation.

**PURPOSE**

To increase the attractiveness and usefulness of recreation areas and to protect the soil and plant resources.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On any area planned for recreation use.

**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

***Water Quantity***

1. Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, infiltration, and transpiration.

***Water Quality***

1. Effects of erosion and the movement of sediment, pathogens, and soluble and sediment-attached substances that could be carried by runoff. Important factors are short-term changes caused by construction (sediments, fuels, oils, and other chemicals) compared to long-term changes caused by the same substances resulting from recreation activities.
2. Effects of changes in ground water from infiltrating soluble substances associated with vegetation management and recreation activities.

**SPECIFICATIONS GUIDE**

Treatments, plant materials, and maintenance measures for each type of recreation area.

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