



Conservation Practice Overview

September 2020

Trails and Walkways (Code 575)

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.



Practice Information

This practice is used where there is a need to—

- Provide or improve animal access to forage, water, working/handling facilities, or shelter;
- Facilitate improved grazing efficiency and distribution;
- Protect ecologically sensitive, erosive, or potentially erosive sites;
- Provide pedestrian or off-road vehicle access to agricultural, construction, or maintenance operations; or
- Provide trails/walkways for recreational activities or access to recreation sites.

The trail or walkway will be designed to accommodate the expected frequency of use and the type of user. It will also have a surface that matches the usage. An infrequently used trail can be vegetated with grass. A walkway that is used daily would have a hardened surface. If it is necessary to locate the walkway in a wet area, an elevated boardwalk could be used.

This practice has a minimum expected life of 10 years. Maintenance of a trail or walkway can include periodic grading or reshaping to maintain the designed grade or dimensions, replacement of surface materials, reseeding damaged vegetation, and removal of manure accumulations.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Trails and Walkways (Code 575) is almost always installed in conjunction with NRCS CPS Fence (Code 382) when used to facilitate livestock movement. It is often applied with NRCS CPS Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) to complement a rotational grazing system. Other commonly associated conservation practices are NRCS CPSs Critical Area Planting (Code 342), Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561), and Stream Crossing (Code 578).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.