

Heavy Use Area Protection

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 561



DEFINITION

Heavy use area protection is protecting heavily used areas by establishing vegetative cover, by surfacing with suitable materials, or by installing needed structures.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Heavy use area protection is a practice used primarily in urban areas and land used for recreation purposes. However, the practice may be used on any land area frequently and intensely used by people, animals, or vehicles. Treatment provided by this practice is primarily for erosion control but also addresses other types of natural resource degradation including aesthetics.

The prescribed surface treatment is designed to accommodate the specific type of traffic expected to occur. Surface treatment may involve pavement for vehicle traffic or vegetation may provide sufficient protection for people and animal traffic.

Impermeable surfaces such as pavement increase runoff. Therefore, provisions for drainage is always considered when planning this practice.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.