

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
WATERWAY - GRASSED
CODE 412**

Landowner/Operator_____

Job Location_____

County_____ SWCD_____ Farm/Tract No._____

Prepared By_____ Date_____

Inspections and maintenance are required to obtain intended function of the grassed waterway. The waterway capacity and vegetative cover shall be maintained. Items to inspect and maintain during the 20-year design life of the grassed waterway are:

- ⇒ Inspect waterway after heavy rains for damage. Inspect annually for damage due to normal use.
- ⇒ Do not graze waterway during establishment of vegetation and when soil conditions are wet.
- ⇒ Protect waterway from damage by farm equipment and vehicles. Do not use waterway as a road, and practice care when crossing to prevent tillage marks or wheel tracks.
- ⇒ Maintain constructed width by lifting or disengaging tillage equipment properly. Avoid farming operations along the waterway, which would hinder water entry. Fill and seed all rills or small gullies that occur in the waterway.
- ⇒ Maintain effective erosion control on the contributing watershed to prevent sedimentation and the resulting loss of capacity.
- ⇒ Reestablish vegetative cover immediately where scour erosion has removed established seeding.
- ⇒ Do not spray the waterway with herbicides intended for adjacent crops. Avoid crossing waterways during spray operations, and then cross only if the spray equipment is completely shut off.
- ⇒ Fertilize waterways the first spring after seeding and thereafter as necessary to maintain a vigorous stand of grass.
- ⇒ Mow waterways regularly to maintain a healthy, vigorous sod. Time the first mowing for after nesting birds have hatched (about August 15). Remove excess top growth. The designed height of the vegetation is from _____inches to_____inches. Do not burn or overgraze the waterway. Prevent trees and brush from growing in the waterway. Regular mowing will control woody vegetation.
- ⇒ Where rock checks are installed, replace any dislodged rock and fill back to grade if displacement or settlement occurs.
- ⇒ Repair all broken subsurface drain lines adjacent to or in the waterway.

Special Considerations:_____

(Adapted from Michigan NRCS)