

**GRASSED WATERWAY****(CODE 412)****DESCRIPTION**

A natural or constructed waterway, either shaped or graded and established in suitable vegetation, in order to safely convey water across areas of concentrated flow.

**PURPOSE**

To provide protection from erosion or prevention of pollutants from nutrients, sediment, animal wastes or agricultural chemicals from reaching the waters of the State.

**CONDITION**

This practice shall be applied to farmland needing permanent graded waterways to safely convey excess surface runoff water in a manner that will prevent erosion and the transportation of pollutants carried by runoff to the waters of the State. This practice may also be applied as part of a system needed to divert clean water around areas where animal wastes are stored or where they accumulate in significant amounts. It may also be utilized as part of a system to intercept and store waste-contaminated water.

**POLICIES**

1. In the case of either diverting clean water or diverting waste-contaminated water, the area around which the water is being diverted must be a permanent feature of the operation and it must be an area where livestock wastes accumulate or are stored in large amounts, no estimate of soil savings is required. Justify the project on its water quality benefits.
  - a. A minimum of **fifteen (15)** animal units (AU) must regularly use or occupy the area being addressed, cost-share funds will be based on applicable flat rates and project limits. Operations with **one (1) to less than fifteen (15)** animal units (AU) may be eligible based on the animal unit pro-rated cost-eligibility formulas. (SECTION III, *Water Quality Project Application Instructions*, #44B).
2. Cost-sharing **is authorized** for:
  - a. Site preparation, grading, shaping, filling, lime, fertilizer, and seed for establishing a permanent vegetative cover, filter cloth, mulch, and/or erosion control matting plus anchoring materials.
  - b. Subsurface drains that are necessary for proper protection or functioning of the waterway.
  - c. Permanent Fencing (Code 382) to protect water quality and/or the water body banks and beds from damage by domestic livestock. This should be listed as a separate BMP on the Water Quality Project form.
3. Cost-sharing **is not authorized** for pipe, stone, or concrete to serve as a crossing or lane over or through the waterway.

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4. The cost-shareable permanent cover may consist of sod-forming grasses, legumes, mixtures of grasses and legumes, or other types of vegetative cover that will provide the needed protection from erosion. Close-sown small grains, annuals or mulching may be used for temporary protection if followed by eligible, permanent, vegetative cover established by seeding or natural revegetation.
5. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Grassed Waterways (Code 412) and seed recommendations for their appropriate areas shall be followed when applying this practice.
6. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of ten (10) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor, and materials needed to meet this requirement.
7. The applicant and the farm's Nutrient Management Plan must be in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management regulations (COMAR 15.20.08) at the time of Application. No Applications will be approved without a Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).

## COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment will not exceed 100% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$150,000 per project.

## ATTACHMENTS

***Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of BMP Maintenance and Use of previous project(s) may be ineligible for MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.***

*The following items are needed:*

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.
2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's website ([www.dat.maryland.gov](http://www.dat.maryland.gov)) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.
3. An aerial photograph indicating the property lines as well as all existing and proposed BMPs. For sediment control practices, indicate the drainage area and the direction of flow.
4. A plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the proposed BMP.
5. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).