

Activity 136 Landscape Area Maintenance

Description

Activity 136 involves maintaining designated roadside landscaped areas to preserve or restore appearance and control impairments to visibility and drainage. It also includes incidental litter pickup, control of noxious weeds, repairs to water systems, and payments for water, electricity, and drainage district assessments.

General Instructions

The main objectives of landscaping on the State Highway system are:

- Maintain aesthetic appeal of the area along the roadway, within available funding limits.
- Provide a buffer between the highway and adjacent residential or business areas.
- Delineate traffic paths.

Other objectives of some landscaping on the State Highway system may be:

- Reduce headlight glare.
- Partially mitigate noise.

Although ODOT is responsible to maintain most landscaping on the State Highway system, some cities may be responsible to maintain specific landscaped areas. Also, the District Manager may issue a Permit to Occupy or Perform Operations Upon a State Highway to allow:

- An organization, civic group or private individual to maintain a designated landscaped area on ODOT property under the Adopt-A-Landscape Program administered by the Vegetation Management Coordinator in the Office of Maintenance.
- A city, county, or unincorporated community to develop and maintain a landscaped area on ODOT property under the City/County Entrance Program, OAR 734-057-0010.

Refer to discussion in the Use of ODOT Property by Permit section of this Guide. The District Manager and Transportation Maintenance Manager must be aware of those maintenance responsibilities.

Maintain landscaped areas in designated rest areas under Activity 137.

Refer to Activity F03 for maintaining landscape areas at building sites.

Maintain landscaped areas to the levels dictated by the performance budget and as depicted in the *Desired Conditions of Maintenance Features on State Highways*.

Control noxious weeds as required by ORS 570.505 and OAR 603-052-1200 and as prescribed in the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Plan for the District.

Use good horticultural practices to maintain landscaped areas at the desired levels. Consult the Landscape Architect in the Roadway Engineering Section for assistance on specific questions on landscaping. Consult the ODOT Forester in the Office of Maintenance for advice on dealing with trees greater than 6" diameter at breast height (DBH). Seek other assistance from the Vegetation Management Coordinator in the Office of Maintenance.

The District Manager and Transportation Maintenance Manager should develop a maintenance schedule or plan, within the funding provided in the performance budget, for each landscaped area that may include:

- For lawn areas:
 - Condition when lawn is to be mowed. Maintain lawns at a height of 2-4 inches (50-100 mm), dependent upon type of grass and location.
 - Frequency of fertilization and type of fertilizer.
 - Control of weeds. If weeds will be controlled by application of pesticides, develop this schedule annually along with the District's IVM Plan.
 - Removal of leaves in the Fall.
 - Frequency of irrigation. Minimize irrigation to reduce costs and needed maintenance, as well as to conserve water for other important uses.
 - Repairs to the irrigation system.

- For shrub areas:
 - Frequency of and time of pruning for each species of shrub.
 - Maintaining or restoring mulch.
 - Replacing dead shrubs. If dead shrubs will be replaced, consider replacing with native species to reduce maintenance needs.
 - Frequency of fertilization and type of fertilizer.
 - Control of weeds. If weeds will be controlled by application of pesticides, develop this schedule annually along with the District's IVM Plan.
 - Frequency of irrigation. Minimize irrigation to reduce costs and needed maintenance, as well as to conserve water for other important uses.
 - Repairs to the irrigation system.

- For tree areas:
 - Frequency of and time of pruning for each species of tree.
 - Replacing dead trees. If dead trees will be replaced, consider replacing with native species to reduce maintenance needs.
 - Need for fertilization. If needed, frequency of application and type of fertilizer.
 - Control of weeds. If weeds will be controlled by application of pesticides, develop this schedule annually along with the District's IVM Plan.

- For irrigation systems:
 - Frequency and amount of irrigation.
 - Funding and priority of repairs.
 - Improvements to reduce water use.

- Precautions or actions to prevent freeze damage to the system.
During all activities in landscape areas with an underground irrigation system, take special care to prevent damage to the irrigation system.

If an area is subject to high pedestrian traffic or is used by homeless people, consider other treatments to alleviate or accommodate the use, including:

- Install aggregate or other walkways to accommodate pedestrian traffic.
- To discourage use by homeless people, prune trees and shrubs or reduce the plantings to eliminate sheltered areas.

Refer to Activity 304 to add, improve, or enhance a landscaped area.

Controlling Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollutants or Contaminants

Plan and implement methods to control erosion, sedimentation, and pollutants or contaminants, including those discussed in the Control of Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollutants or Contaminants section of this Guide and the ODOT *Routine Road Maintenance Water Quality and Habitat Guide Best Management Practices*.

As appropriate, implement and maintain devices and processes including those described in the *Field Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control*.

Temporary Protection and Direction of Traffic

Plan, implement, and maintain traffic control as addressed in *the Traffic Control on State Highways for Short Term Work Zones* handbook.

Equipment

Select equipment suitable for the work and situation.

Materials

Materials may include:

- Pesticides, with application device and protective gear.
- Fertilizer, with application device as appropriate.
- Replacement plants or seed.
- Mulch.
- Supplies to repair irrigation system.

Work Method

1. Implement appropriate traffic control.
2. Implement appropriate methods to prevent erosion or loss of pesticides, fertilizer, mulch, etc. from the landscaped area.
3. Perform maintenance according to the maintenance schedule or plan for the landscaped area.
4. Clean up areas as appropriate.
5. Remove traffic control.

Measure of Accomplishment, Expenditure Account, and Charge Activity

Measurement is the number of worker hours involved. Expenditure account type is Highway Landscape EA (use a subjob of 037) or a Highway EA if the District does not have a landscape crew.

- Do not charge any costs or work to TEAMS Activity 136.
- Charge TEAMS Activity 533 for controlling noxious weeds in landscape areas.
- Charge TEAMS Activity 660 for maintaining landscape turf and grass.
- Charge TEAMS Activity 661 for maintaining landscape shrub beds and tree areas.
- Charge TEAMS Activity 662 for applying pesticides to landscape areas.
- Charge TEAMS Activity 663 for maintaining irrigation in landscape areas.
- Charge TEAMS Activity 665 for enhancements to landscape areas.