

## **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 Information

Also refer to discussion in the General Instructions section preceding Activity 130 in this section of the *Maintenance Guide* for additional information including environmental and traffic control recommendations and other important considerations.

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 On a State Highway to allow:

- An organization, civic group or private individual to maintain a designated landscaped area on ODOT property.
- 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.

Control noxious weeds as required by ORS 569 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 Regional Technical Center for assistance on specific questions on landscaping. Consult the ODOT Forester in the Office of Maintenance and Operations 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 and Operations.

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:

#### Lawn areas:

- Condition when lawn is to be mowed. Maintain lawns at a height of 2-4 inches 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

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 consider treatments that accommodate this use, such as aggregate or other walkways.

If an area is being used for unintended purposes or illegal activities, discourage such use by pruning trees and shrubs or reducing the plantings to eliminate sheltered areas.

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

### 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 sub job appropriate for the crew performing the work.

Use a Highway EA if the District does not have a landscape crew.

- Charge work to Activity 136 in MMS
- Use the following activities in TEAMS as applicable:
  - Charge Activity 533 for applying herbicide for noxious weed control within a designated Landscape area
  - Charge Activity 660 for maintaining turf, grass and brush within a designated Landscape area
  - Charge Activity 662 for application of pesticides to a designated Landscape area
  - Charge Activity 663 for maintaining irrigation within a designated Landscape area.