



# Tree and Shrub Establishment

Operations and Maintenance Plan

**Practice Type:** Tree and Shrub Establishment (NRCS 612)

**Date:** 12/5/2024

**Effective Life:** 15 years

**Contract Number:** FY25-02 HELP

Land Occupier Name The Ponds at Heifort Hills HOA	Address 8753 Neal Ave N #9495	City/State Stillwater, MN	Zip code 55082	
Township Name Stillwater Township	Township 30N	Range 20W	Section 20	1/4,1/4 NWNW

Operation and maintenance (O&M) is necessary for all conservation practices and is required for all practices installed with Washington Conservation District assistance. Implementation of Tree and Shrub Establishment will help you to improve resource conditions including protection of water quality, improvements to wildlife habitat, and restoration of plant communities. This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance through the effective life of 15 years.

Operation refers to operation of the practice in compliance with all laws, regulations, ordinances, and easements; and in such a manner that will result in the least adverse impact on the environment and will permit the practice to serve the purpose for which it was installed. Maintenance includes work to prevent deterioration of the practice, repairing damage, or replacing components which fail.

#### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

1. Select good planting sites ideal for understory vegetation and evaluate periodically for potential site changes and associated impacts.
2. Control access by vehicles and equipment during or after tree-shrub establishment to protect new plants and minimize erosion, compaction, and other site impacts.
3. Manage competing vegetation (including Federal or State invasive species and noxious weeds), as needed, until the desired trees and shrubs are established without competing for sunlight, water, or nutrients. Provide supplemental water if needed during the establishment period.
4. Fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals used to manage competing vegetation or facilitate tree and shrub establishment shall not impact water quality or non-target organisms.
5. Periodically inspect established trees and shrubs and protect them from adverse impacts of competing vegetation, pesticides, fire, wildlife, nonfunctioning tree shelters, weed barriers, etc. Remove protective structures (e.g. tube shelters, cages) when plants are large enough to withstand environmental stressors.
6. Inspect the site at appropriate time intervals following planting, seeding, or natural regeneration to determine whether the survival rate for trees and shrubs meets the intended practice purposes and client objectives. When survival of planted trees or shrubs falls below 50 percent, or is not adequate to meet the intended objective, replant or supplement the planting as needed to meet the management goals. Practice inspection by WCD staff shall occur in the first, third, and ninth years following practice certification.

*I have reviewed this operation and maintenance plan and will contact WCD for any additional technical assistance needed for implementation of this operation and maintenance plan.*

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Landowner/Operator

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Date

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Technical Assistance Provider

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Date