

Minimized Disturbed Area

Non-Structural Stormwater BMPs

This factsheet is part of our non-structural stormwater BMP series. To access this series and many other educational resources, please visit: spcwater.org.

Minimize Disturbed Area – Grading (MDA-G) is a **non-structural best management practice (BMP)** that focuses on minimizing grading and site disturbance while maximizing soil restoration and the conservation of existing site vegetation. MDA-G includes practices such as modifying the alignment of roads and disturbance areas to minimize necessary grading. MDA-G can be applied to any site development; however, it is most effective when coupled with other non-structural BMPs such as the protection of sensitive (e.g., steep slopes) and special value features (e.g., riparian areas and wetlands). Stormwater management benefits of MDA-G include runoff volume reduction, groundwater recharge, peak rate control, and the protection and improvement of water quality.



Areas that are disturbed during grading (above) are prone to soil erosion and compaction.



Protection of special value resources, such as woodlands (above), can help to prevent the generation of stormwater-related problems.

Key Considerations of Minimize Disturbed Area - Grading

- Minimize construction-traffic locations
- Minimize stockpiling and storage areas during construction
- Restore soil permeability (ability of soil to infiltrate water) through soil restoration efforts
- Does not generate additional maintenance needs
- Municipal zoning and ordinances can be used to encourage non-structural BMPs in site planning and development, including MDA-G
- Areas that have been compacted during development become semiimpervious, therefore, it is critical that disturbed soils are restored

BMP Profile

Name:

Minimize Disturbed Area - Grading

Type:

Non-Structural

Grouping:

Minimize Disturbance and Minimize Grading

Stormwater

Management Benefits:

- Peak Rate Control
- Volume Reduction
- Water Quality
- Groundwater Recharge

Potential Applications:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Retrofit
- Ultra Urban
- Highway/Road



For more information please contact:

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