

**Oak Park Conservancy District
Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Site Planning and Design Practices (SPD's)**

SPD-03.4

Activity: Disturbed Area Stabilization (Mulch)

**PLANNING
CONSIDERATIONS:**

Planning:
Required

Training:
Required

Recommended
Personnel
Involvement:
Town Engineer
Town Attorney
Developers
IDEM
IDNR



Target Pollutants

Significant ♦

Partial ♦

Low or Unknown ◇

Sediment ♦ Heavy Metals ◇ Nutrients ◇ Oxygen Demanding Substances ◇ Toxic Materials ◇
Oil & Grease ◇ Bacteria & Viruses ◇ Floatable Materials ◇ Construction Waste ◇

Description

Mulch is used to promote vegetation during vegetative stabilization practices to reduce stormwater runoff and erosion, conserve moisture, promote germination of seed, prevent surface compaction or crusting, protect seed from birds, modify soil temperature and increase biological activities in the soil.

**Suitable
Applications**

- Cleared areas where seed may not promote an erosion-retardant cover.
- Protection of seed from birds.
- Reduction of soil surface temperature is desired.

**Design
Criteria:**

- Select mulching material depending on desired soil coverage.
- Anchor mulch immediately after application.

**Installation
Procedures**

- Grade to enable use of equipment for mulch application.
- Install BMP as required (diversions, terraces, and/or sediment barriers).
- Loosen compacted soil to a minimum depth of 4 inches if using mulch while seeding.
- Anchor mulch by using emulsified asphalt, hay and straw mulch or synthetic tackifiers.
- Emulsified asphalt should be sprayed uniformly onto the mulch with 100 gallon water to 100 gallon of asphalt ratio per ton of mulch.
- Hay and straw are to be pressed into the soil immediately after the mulch is spread.

Activity: Distributed Area Stabilization (Mulch)**Maintenance**

- When applying mulch, protect state waters, the public, adjacent property, pavements, sidewalks and curbs, and other structures from asphalt discoloration.
- Mulch should not be plowed into the soil.
- Synthetic tackifiers should be mixed and applied according to manufacturer's specification.
- Areas disturbed by blowing wind should be retreated.
- Maintenance needs identified should be repaired before the next storm event or within 7 days after being identified.

Inspection Checklist

- Inspection should coincide with other erosion and sediment control inspections.
- Site reviewed after wet weather event.