



## 2.2 Minimize Disturbed Areas

Some important decisions must be made prior to BMP selections for a proposed construction site.

Construction planning and sequencing are the least expensive methods to reduce and control erosion and sediment. The following points should be considered when to minimize disturbed areas:

1. Do not disturb areas of the construction site that are not scheduled for improvements and keep existing vegetation, even if it is scheduled to be removed, for as long as possible.
2. Carefully schedule and phase construction. Avoid grading during wet months (December through May). Use temporary cover measures (seed or mulch) whenever construction is halted for an extended period.
3. Phase site grading to limit the amount and time of an area's exposure. Exposed areas should be stabilized immediately following the completion of grading.
4. Plan and implement permanent structures throughout the earlier phases of the project. This will maximize the utility practice's usefulness and help with erosion prevention and sediment containment.
5. Avoid delays and work expeditiously on any part of the site. Install landscaping fixture upon the completion of any sequence and prior to moving on to the next phase.

Any exposed soil is subject to erosion and sediment transport, even by a single rain drop. Designers and contractors should make every effort to stabilize the following susceptible areas at a construction site prior to and throughout construction:

- Slopes
- Highly erosive soils
- Construction entrances and exits
- Stream channels
- Soil stockpiles