



City of Albuquerque
Planning Department

600 2nd St. NW,
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87102

www.cabq.gov/planning
planningdepartment@cabq.gov

Dated: March 25, 2022

**DRAINAGE PONDS:
SLOPE STABILIZATION and
SEEDING REQUIREMENTS**

The following Interim Guidelines outline requirements for the seeding and stabilization of drainage pond side slopes and bottoms {*ref. IDO §5-6(C)(13)(b)*¹ and *DPM§6-11(H)(5)*² }³ and provide the NEW City of Albuquerque Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (City Standard Specifications) Section 1013 'Drainage Pond Seeding & Slope Stabilization.' These guidelines shall be consistently applied to achieve pond stabilization that controls erosion and reduces long-term maintenance requirements through the appropriate use of rock aggregate along with native plant material that will regenerate with the natural rainfall in Albuquerque's climate.

These specifications further the ABC Comprehensive Plan by promoting high quality, innovative design⁴ and the Design Process Manual *Section 6-12(A)*:

A stormwater management facility can be an attractive addition to the site, rather than just an unimproved dirt area. In addition, landscaping will minimize the potential for erosion and therefore minimize the amount of required maintenance.

The specifications also establish compliance methods for the Erosion & Sediment Control Plan.

Drainage ponds for all residential subdivisions must use these Interim Guidelines to provide seeding on the **pond bottom** and aggregate with seeding for erosion control on the **pond sides**. In the 'notes' section of the Infrastructure list, include "Pond stabilization to follow Section 1013." In lieu of following these guidelines, the applicant may submit a landscaping plan for approval that will provide an equivalent or better outcome to erosion control, stabilization, maintenance, and aesthetic quality

¹ IDO 5-6(C)(13)(b) Required landscape and buffer areas shall be designed pursuant to the DPM and the City Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction.

² *DPM 6-11(H)(5)* 1. Vegetation will be accepted if seeded per the City of Albuquerque Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (City Standard Specifications). 2. Aggregate or rip-rap may be used as an erosion control mulch for 3:1 and steeper slopes.

³ *DPM 6-11(E)* states that ponds 2-acre feet or larger are required to be built to Public Pond Specifications.

⁴ *DPM, Article 1-2 Purpose of the DPM:* The general purpose of the DPM is to carry out the goals and policies of the ABC Comp Plan by encouraging high-quality, innovative design; variety in choice of neighborhoods and lifestyles; preservation of natural features and resources; and ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

than these interim guidelines.

1. Follow Section 1013: diagram A1 for **slopes flatter than 3:1** whether privately or publicly maintained.
2. Follow Section 1013: diagram A2 for **slopes between 3:1 and 2:1** whether privately or publicly maintained.

Drainage ponds for non-residential development may show pond seeding, landscaping, and stabilization on the landscaping plan that will provide an equivalent or better outcome to erosion control, stabilization and aesthetic quality than these interim guidelines. The minimum acceptable treatment is the seeding and stabilization prescribed in these guidelines; the landscaping plan should include a note “Pond stabilization to follow Section 1013.”

3. Follow Section 1013: diagram A3 for non-residential ponds to be privately maintained with **slopes flatter than 3:1**.
4. Follow Section 1013: diagram A4 for non-residential ponds to be privately maintained with **slopes between 3:1 and 2:1**.

In the rare case slopes are approved to be 2:1, the developer may use shotcrete.

Seed Mix. Section 1013.2.1.4 identifies a seed mix for three general soil types in Albuquerque. The appropriate seed mix shall be used for the soil at the project site.

1. Gravely Uplands and Slopes (mainly East Foothills)
2. Sandy Soils (mainly Westside areas)
3. Clay Loam Soils (mainly Valley and Bosque areas)

Products and Execution. Section 1013.2 and 3 outline products and execution methods. The wood mulch and seed used in the seeding and stabilization process are recommended to be from local suppliers—but the developer may choose any supplier.

Wood Mulch: Any product that has a variation in the shape and size of the pieces. (The variety in pieces create a mat that stays in place). Example of product: **‘Native Mulch’** (available from Soilutions)

Seed: The two primary seed suppliers for NM are **Curtis and Curtis** and **Granite Seed**.