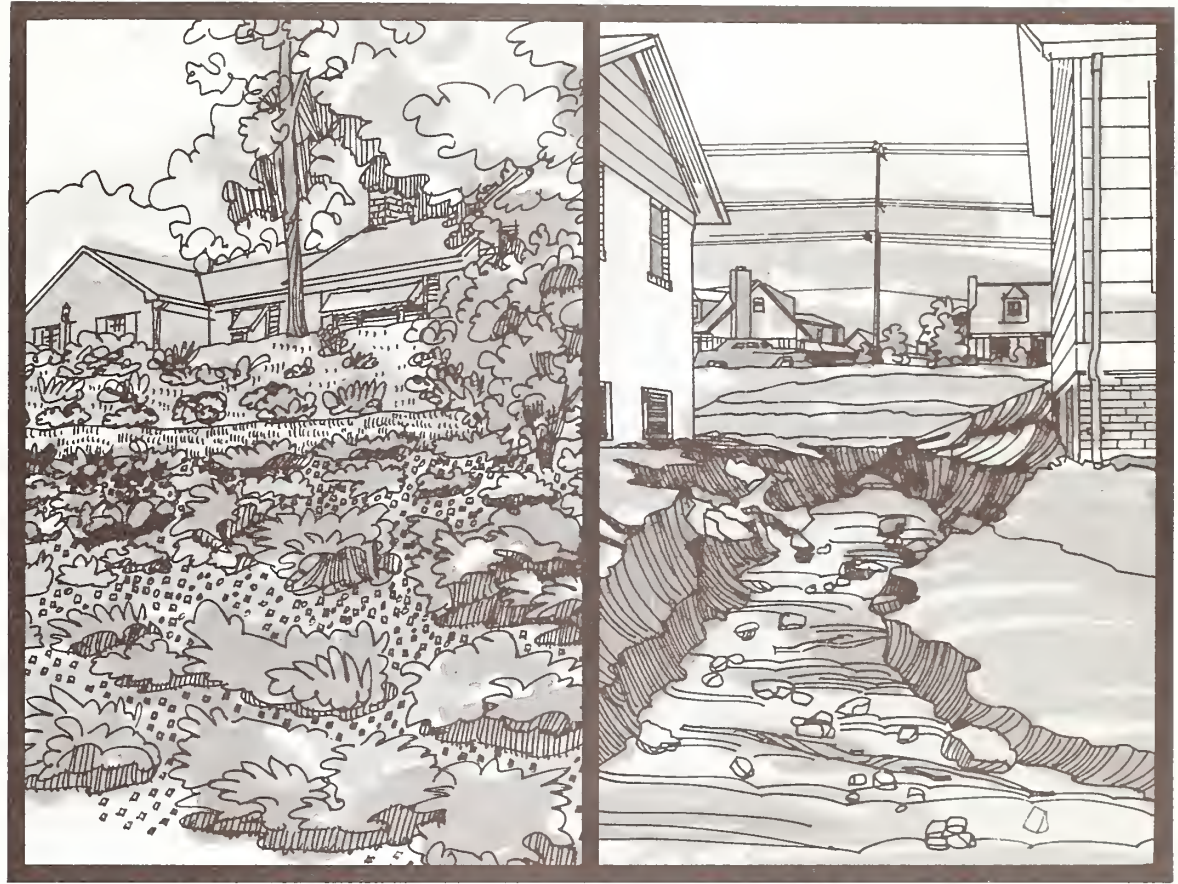


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environmental Do's and Don'ts on construction sites



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

1987-88

CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is dedicated to the conservation, development, and productive use of soil, water, and related resources so that all people may enjoy—

- Quality in the natural resource base for sustained use
- Quality in the environment for satisfying places in which to live, work, and play
- Quality in the standard of living based on community improvement and adequate income

Issued December 1974

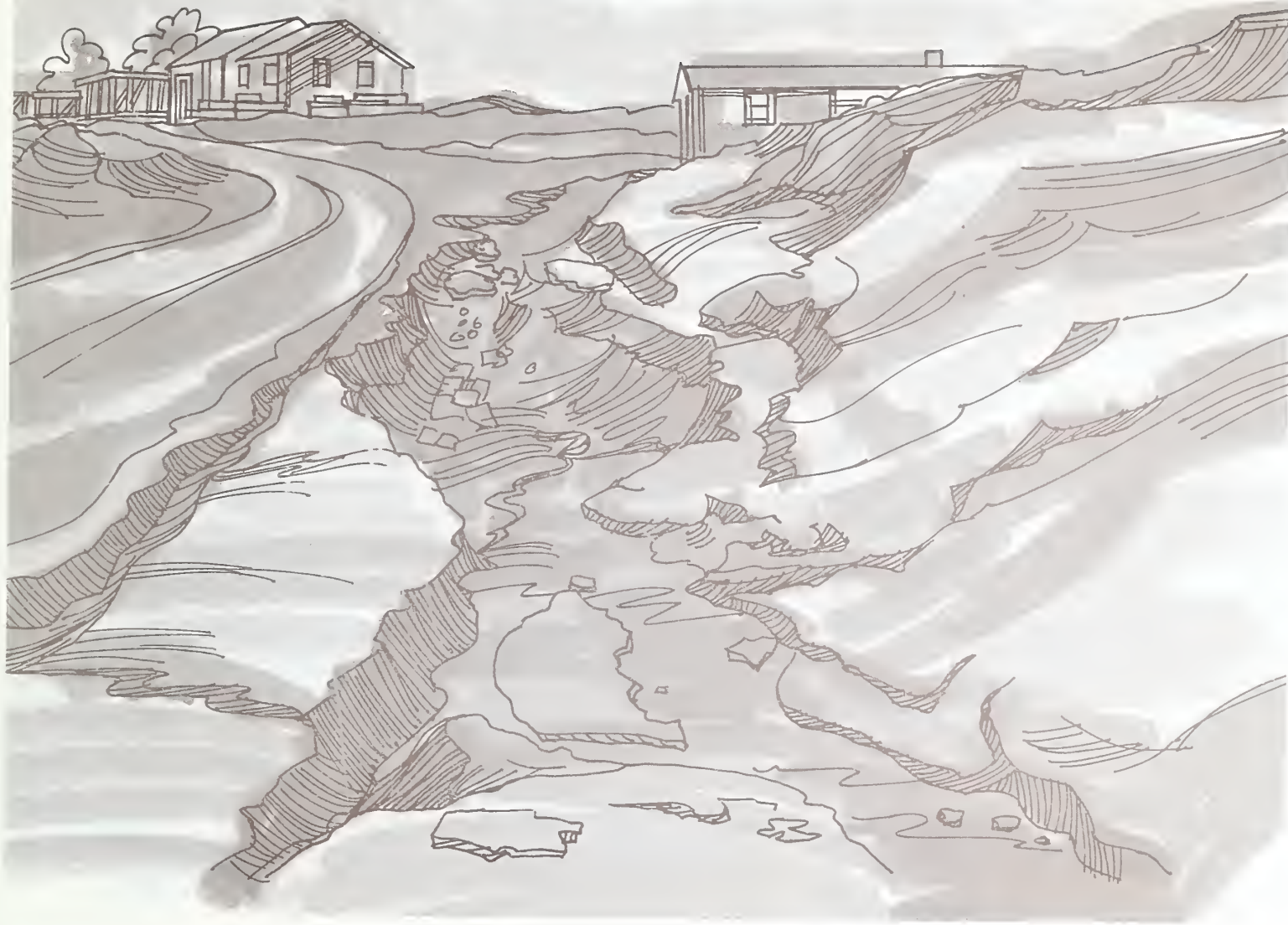
environmental Do's and Don'ts on construction sites

It's hard to build anything these days without intruding on somebody else's environment . . . his land, his water, his air, and even his field of vision. That's one of the prices we pay for living closer together. If we're not careful, soil from construction sites moves downhill when it rains, clogging streams and filling lakes and reservoirs. During dry spells, dust from earth-moving machinery annoys neighbors, and cluttered, junky building sites offend even passing motorists. Callous treatment of woodlands, farmlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and sites of historical or archeological significance is unacceptable today.

Fortunately, there are many conservation and site management practices that can reduce or eliminate these environmental hazards, often at little or no extra cost to the contractor. The practices work as well in the suburbs as they do in the country *if* they are planned as part of the job from the start. They help bring the contractor into conformity with the law and frequently make his job easier and more profitable. Trees left in place increase property values; soil left in place makes it easier to grow grass and shrubs. Borrow areas screened by trees enhance scenic and recreation values. Good construction management can help preserve stream channels and fish and wildlife habitat and result in cleaner water and less sediment downstream for somebody else to clean up.

Technical help with soil and water conservation practices is available without charge from trained conservationists of the Soil Conservation Service through some 3,000 local conservation districts.





DO

build sediment basins or traps to keep soil on the site. Stabilize cut-and-fill slopes with temporary diversions, berms,

bench terraces, or dikes to intercept and divert storm runoff.

DON'T

let the soil on your construction site wash downstream where sediment damages rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.



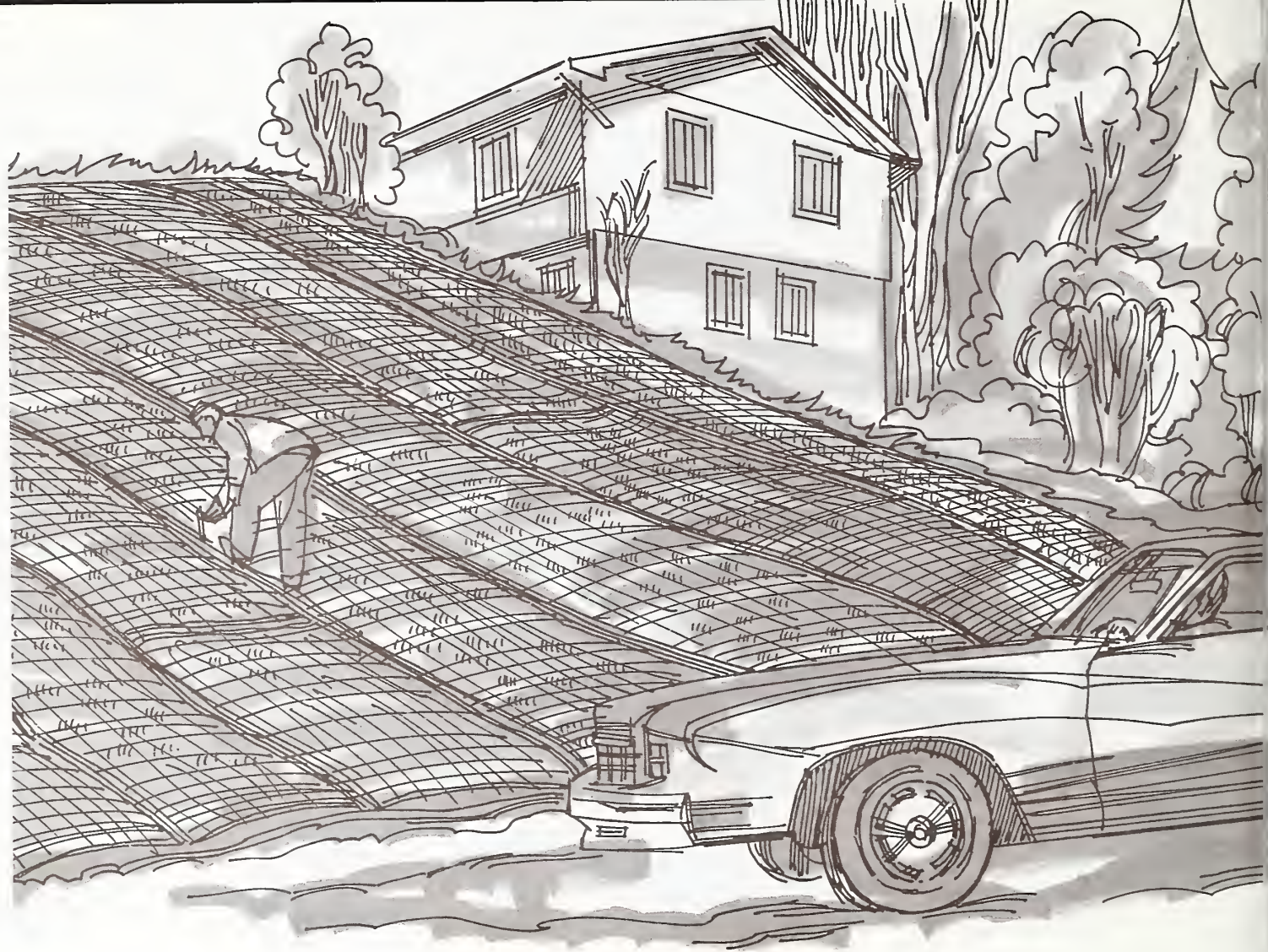
DO

leave vegetation as long as possible. Plant ryegrass or other temporary cover promptly after grading or filling. Pre-

pare a good seedbed, apply lime and fertilizer, and mulch as needed.



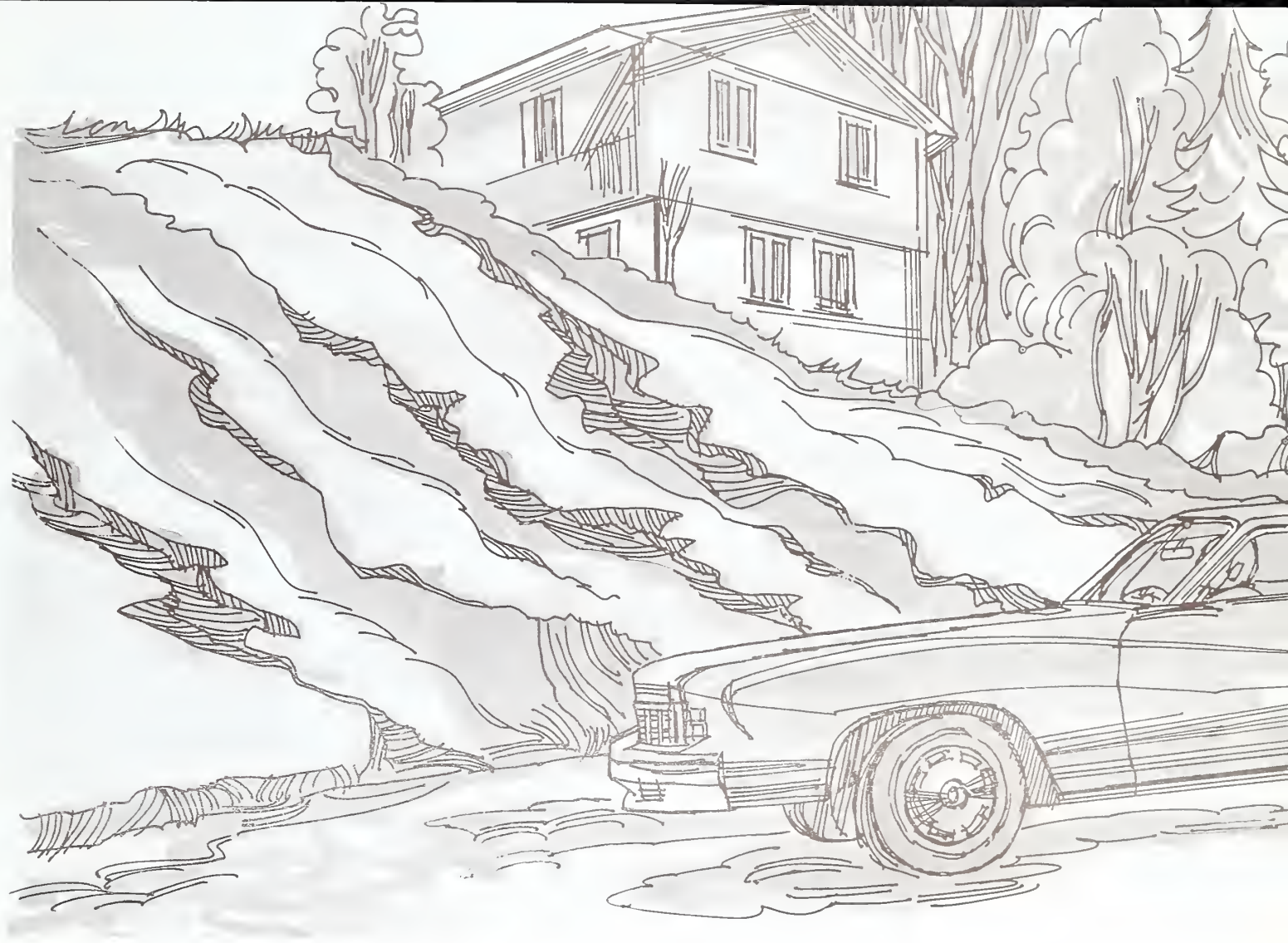
DON'T
strip away the vegetation from
a site before you have to.



DO

tie down grass seed with jute, cotton, or paper netting or with straw mulch sprayed lightly with asphalt. Consider

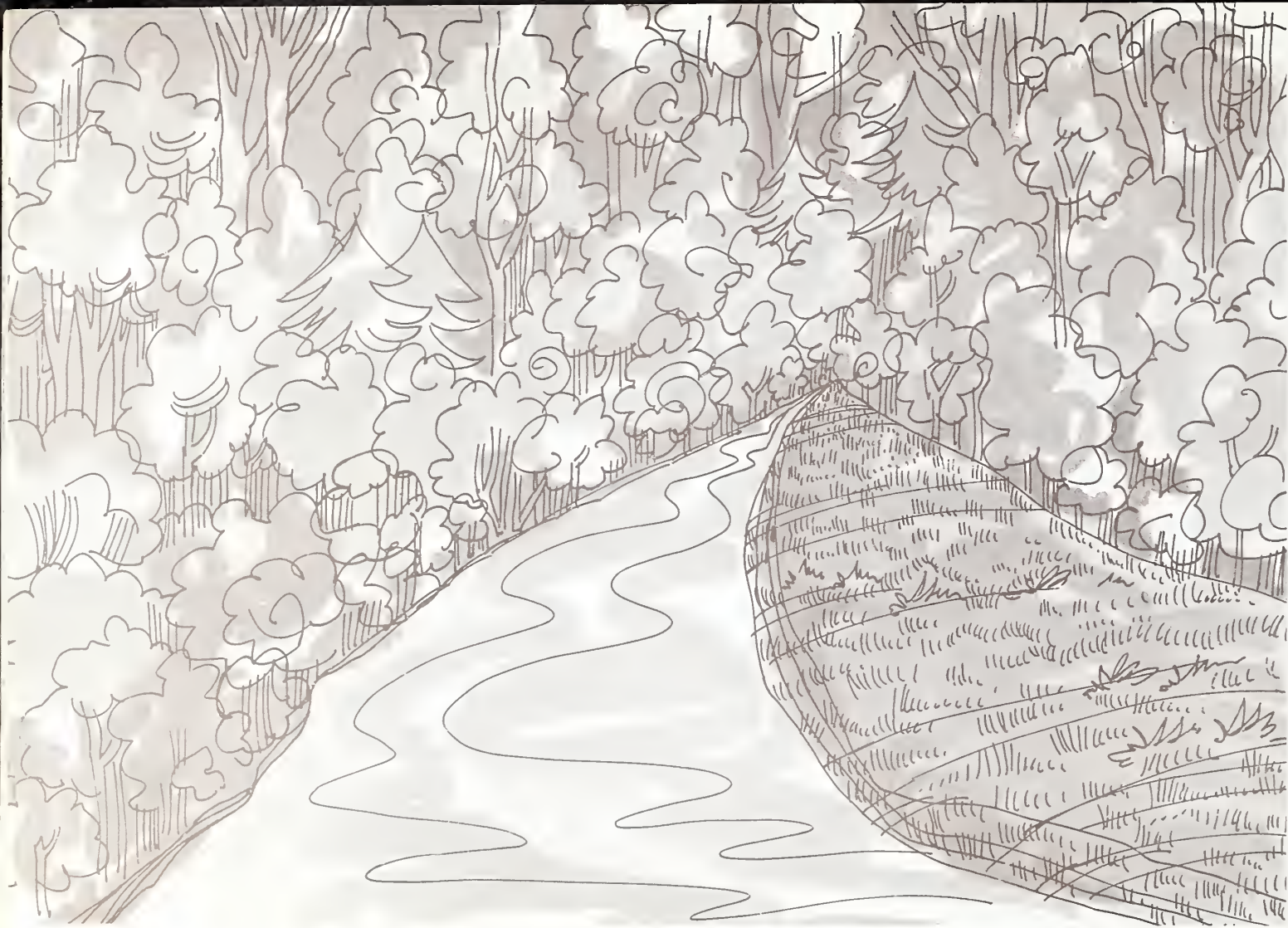
hydroseeding or sodding. Ask the Soil Conservation Service about erosion-control plants for steep slopes.



DON'T

plant grass or other cover on sloping ground without something to hold the seed and soil

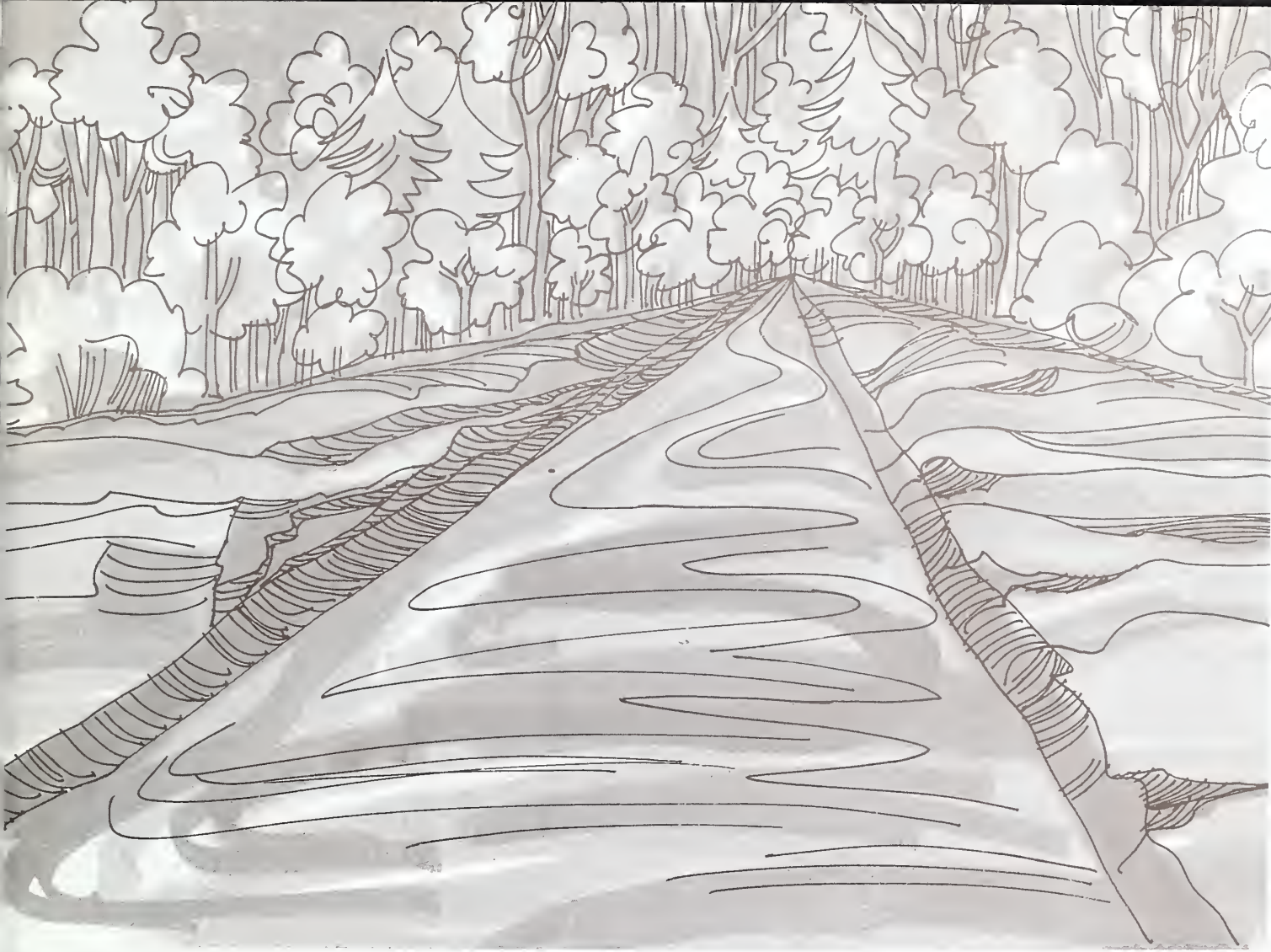
in place when rain falls and wind blows.



DO

preserve trees and shrubs on one side to shade the stream and maintain wildlife habitat.

Shape the soil on the cleared side and vegetate promptly.

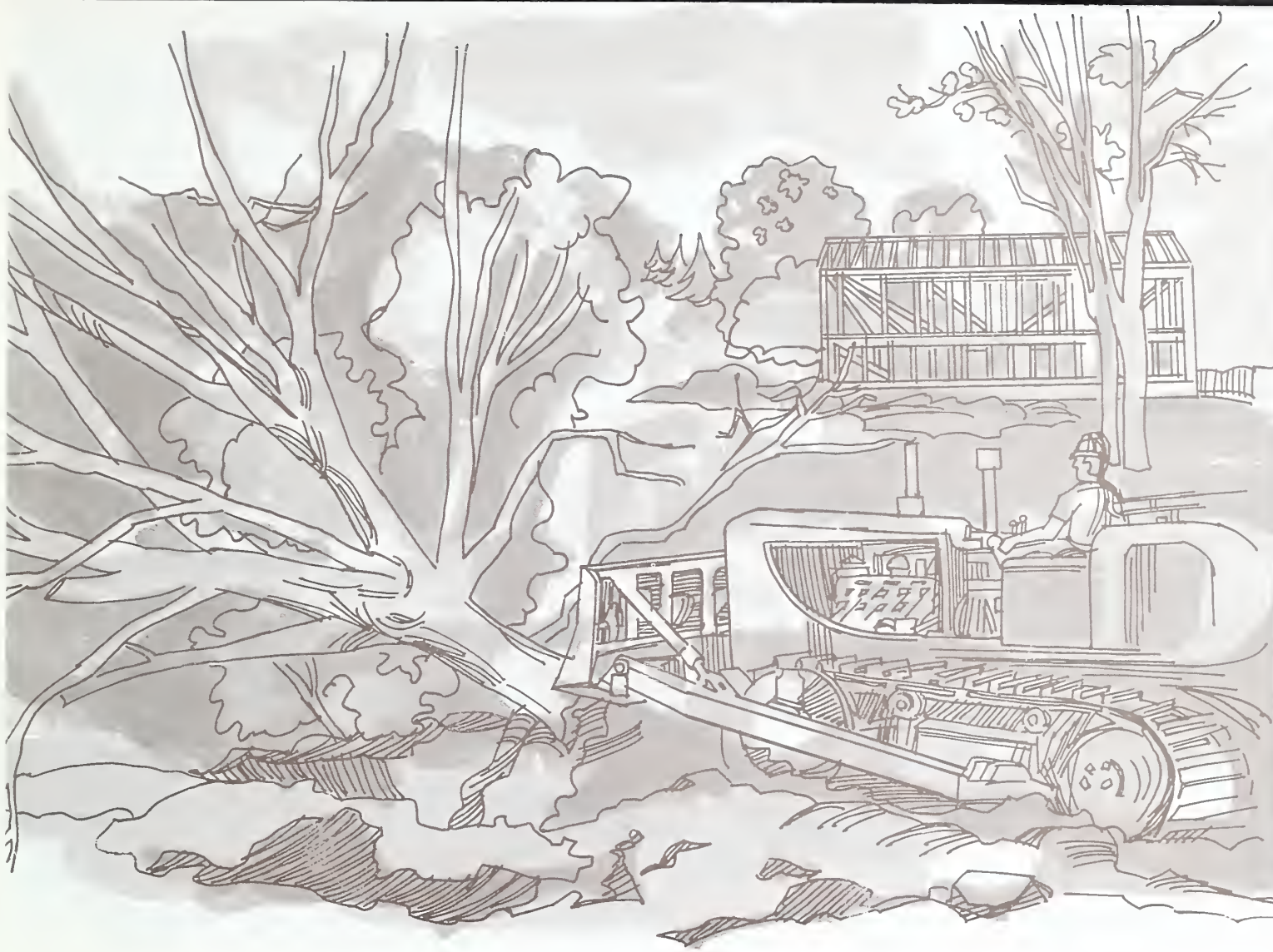


DON'T

remove trees and shrubs from any construction site unnecessarily; they help prevent erosion, enhance scenic en-

joyment, provide wildlife habitat, and shade streams, improving fish habitat.



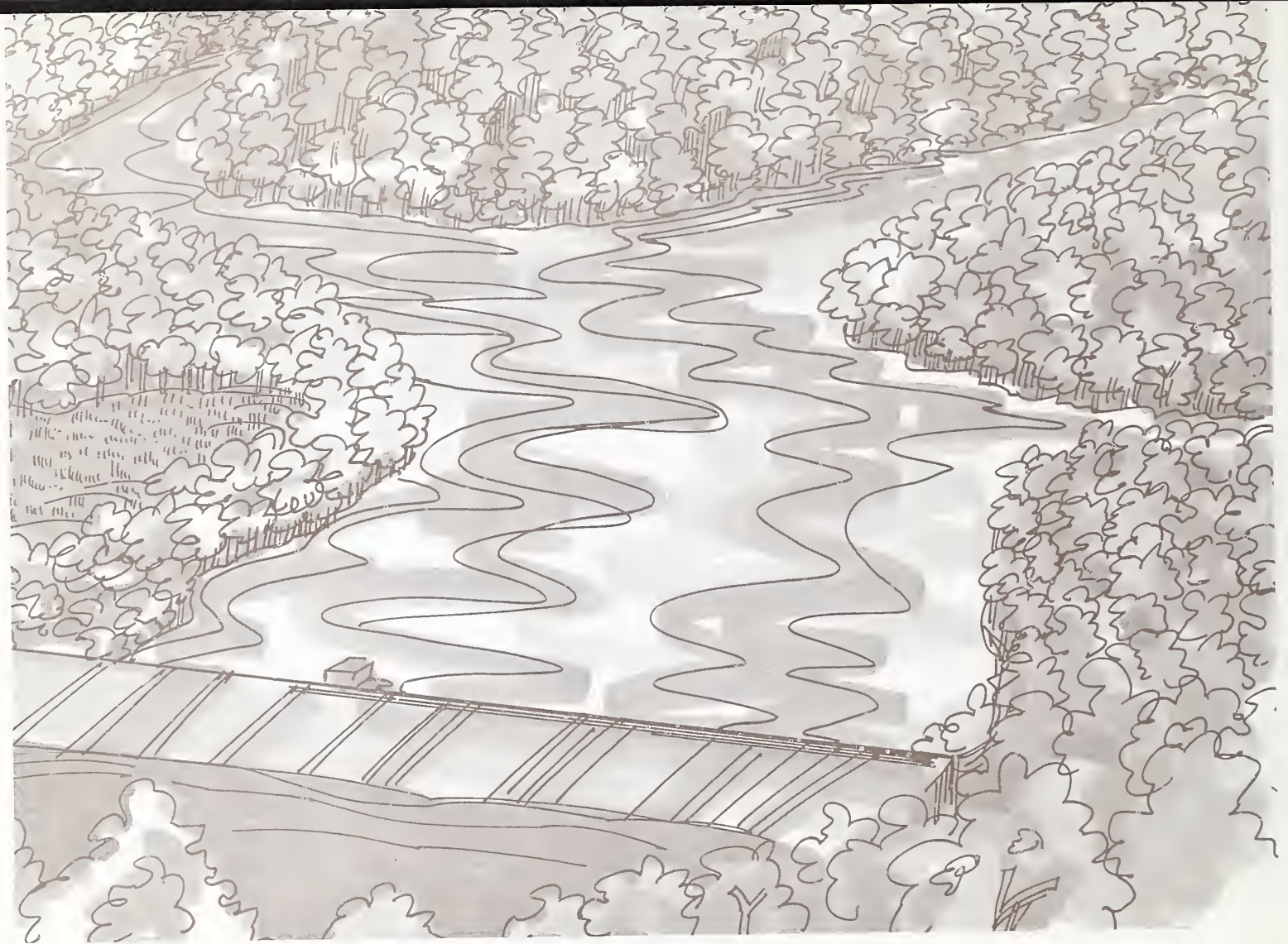


DO

notch and cut trees so that they fall away from other trees and structures. Where necessary, use ropes or guys to prevent injury and protect property.

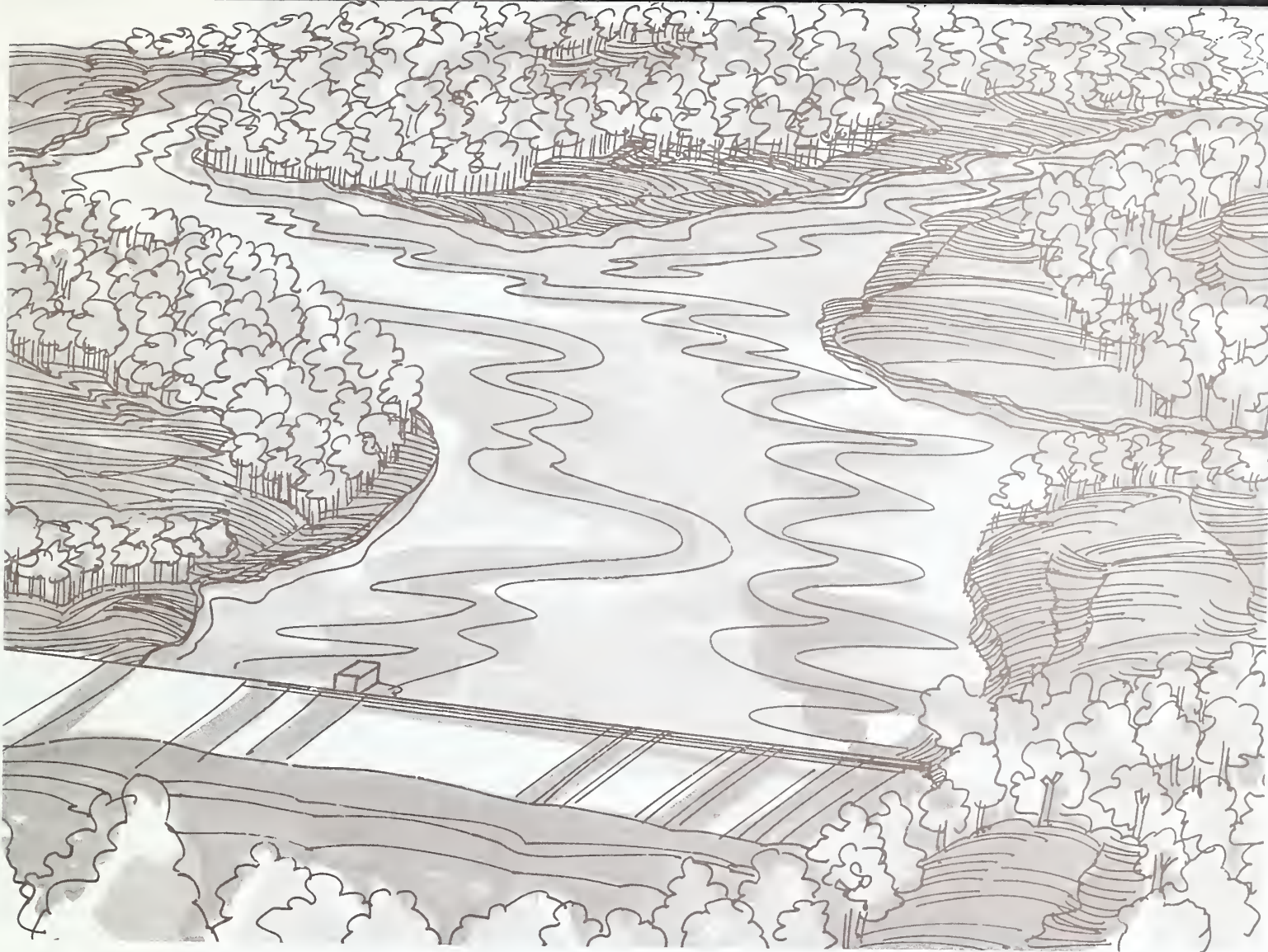
DON'T

let trees fall where they can damage other trees and shrubs that are to be left on the site. Mature trees add to the value of a development. And don't use dozers without a protective canopy.



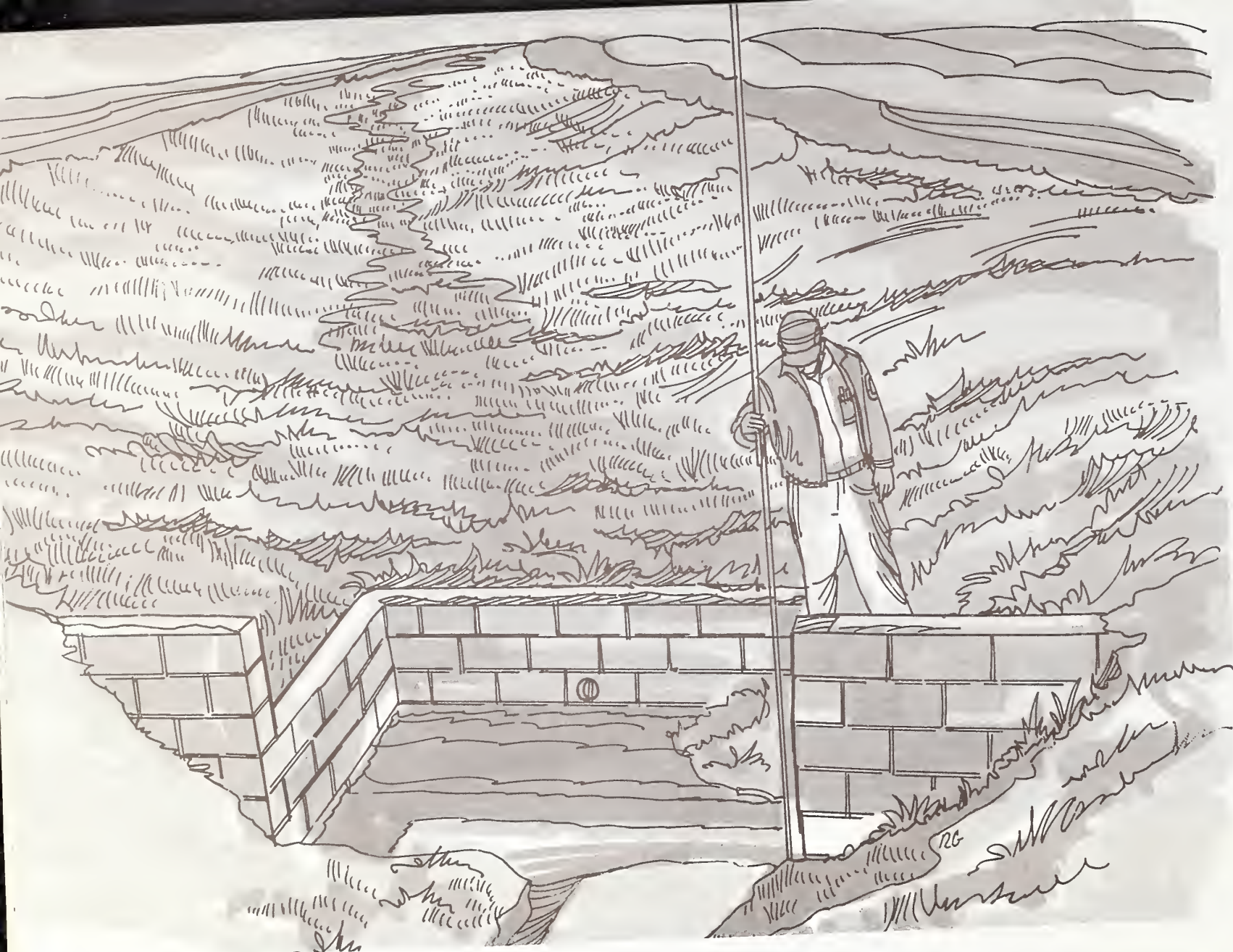
DO

screen borrow areas with trees. Grade, reclaim, and replant areas promptly to blend as much as possible with the adjacent landscape.



DON'T

leave unsightly borrow areas erosion, water pollution, and
along shorelines and other ugliness.
places. They contribute to soil



DO

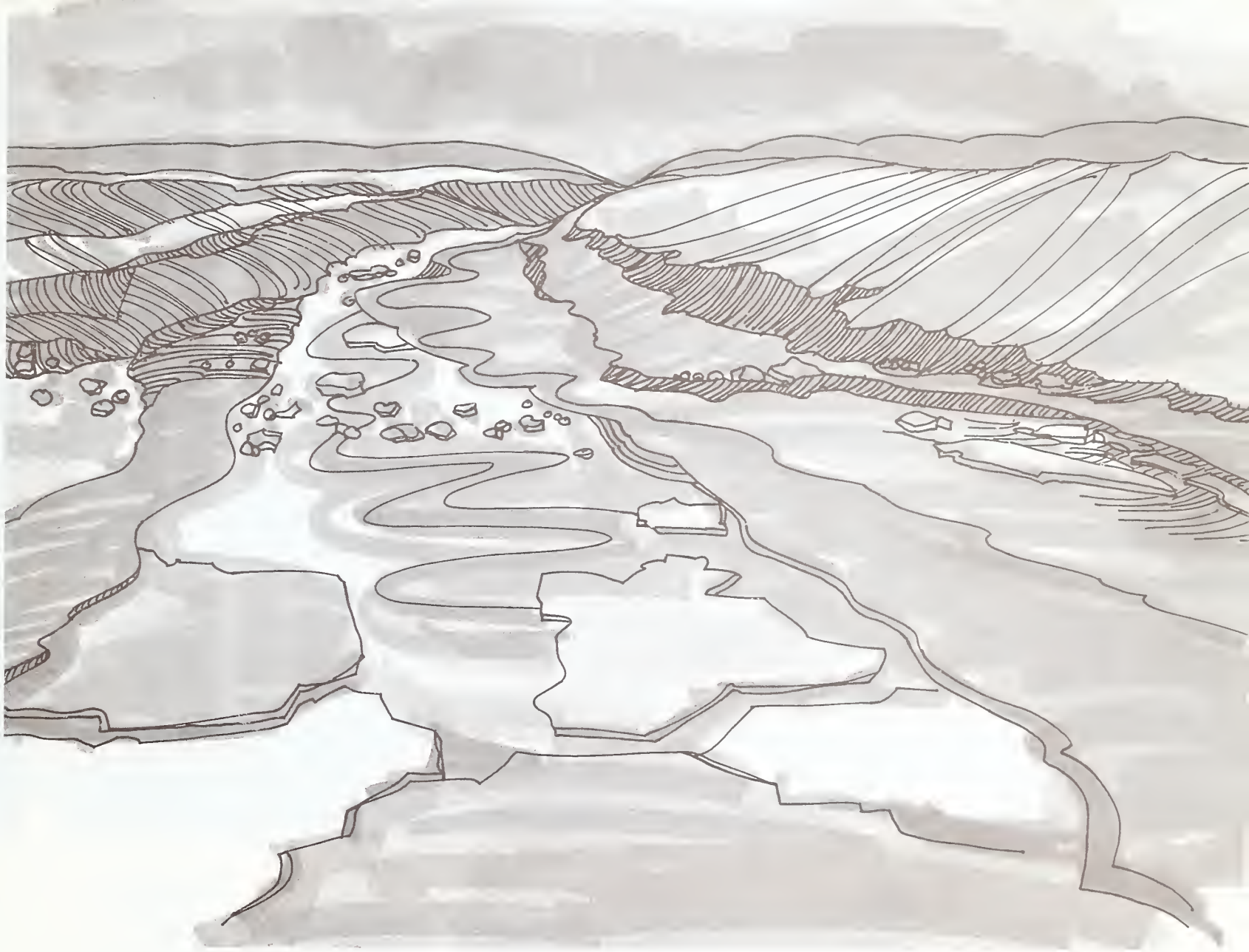
reduce runoff and
grade stabilization
grassed waterways
dissipators.

DON'T

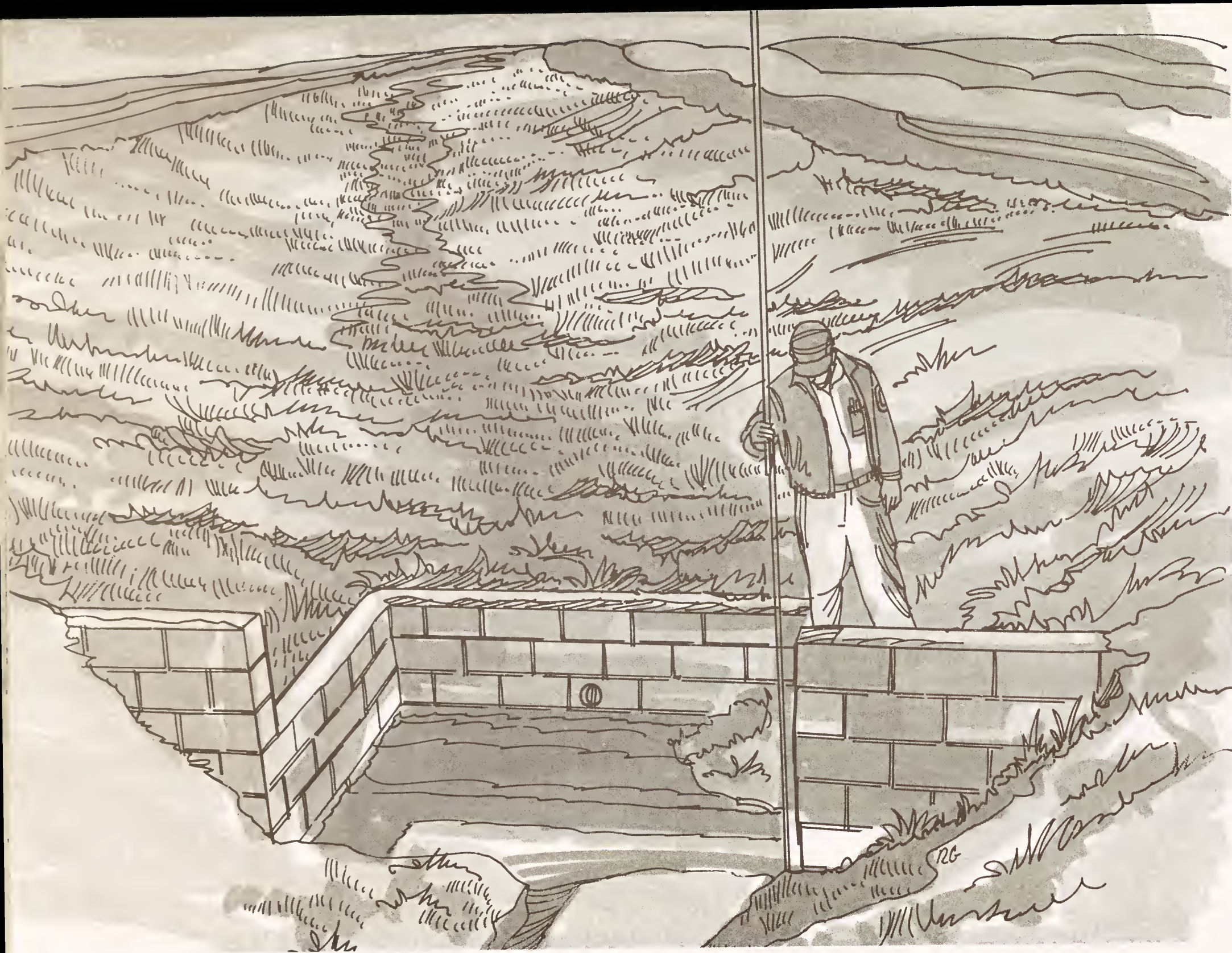
let storm runoff
that it damages
structures.

velocity with
n structures,
ys, or energy

move so fast
oil and struc-







DO

reduce runoff velocity with grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, or energy dissipators.

DON'T

let storm runoff move so fast that it damages soil and structures.





DO

make sure construction practices conform to state and local regulations. Call the local

conservation district for information.



DON'T

let soil from construction sites near streams or lakes damage fish and wildlife. Avoid dis-

turbing wildlife habitat, including nesting areas.



DO

check with local experts, possibly at nearby museums or universities, before destroy-

ing or flooding objects and landscape features of interest.



DON'T
destroy scenic landmarks or
artifacts of historical or arche-
ological value.





DO

provide temporary culverts or bridges where frequent stream crossings are necessary. Supervise the loading of trucks carefully.

DON'T

allow trucks or other construction equipment to stir up mud or spill oil and chemicals that pollute waterways. Don't spill earth on streets and highways.



DO

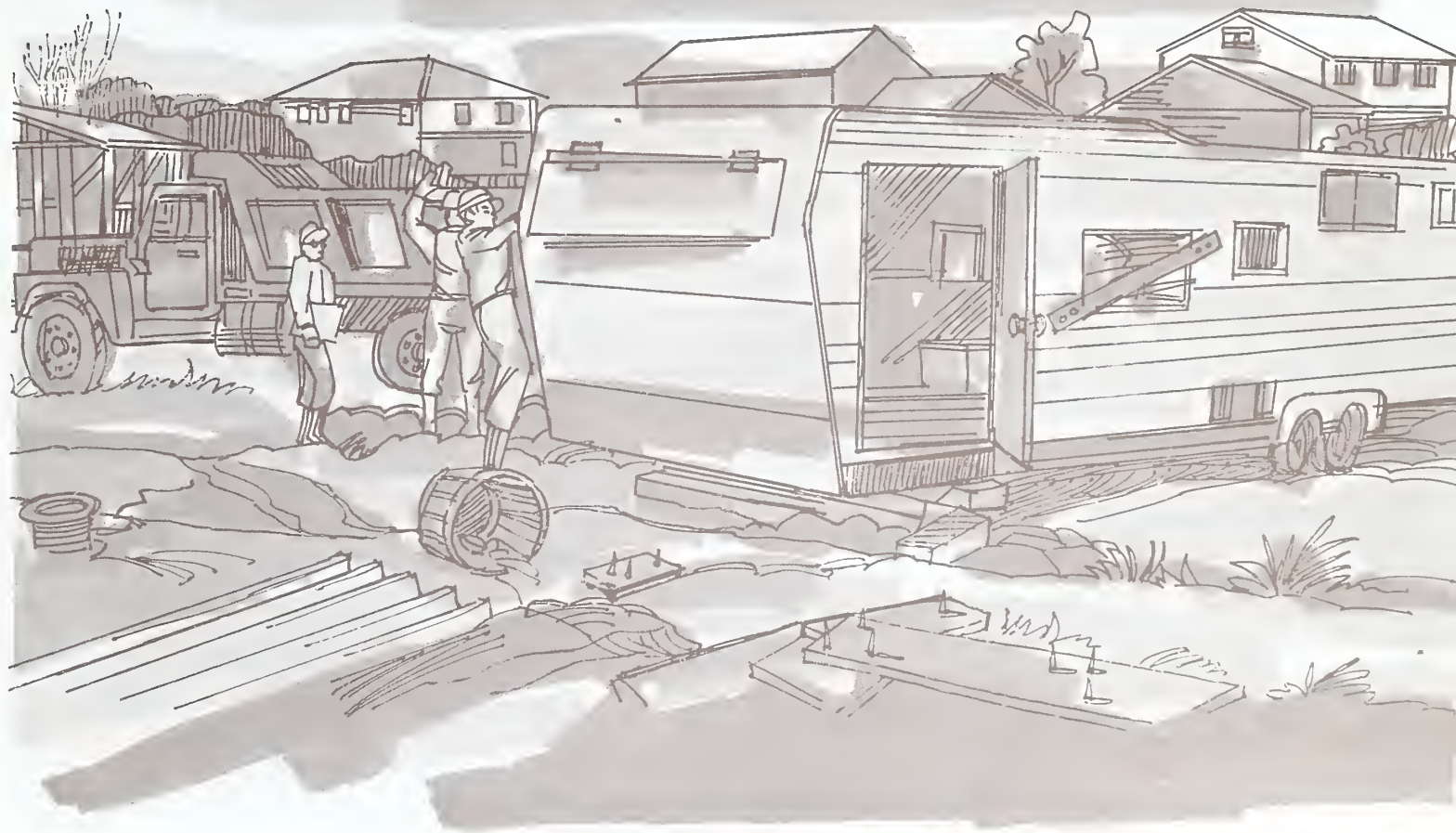
control dust by sprinkling or applying chemicals or a light bituminous coating.



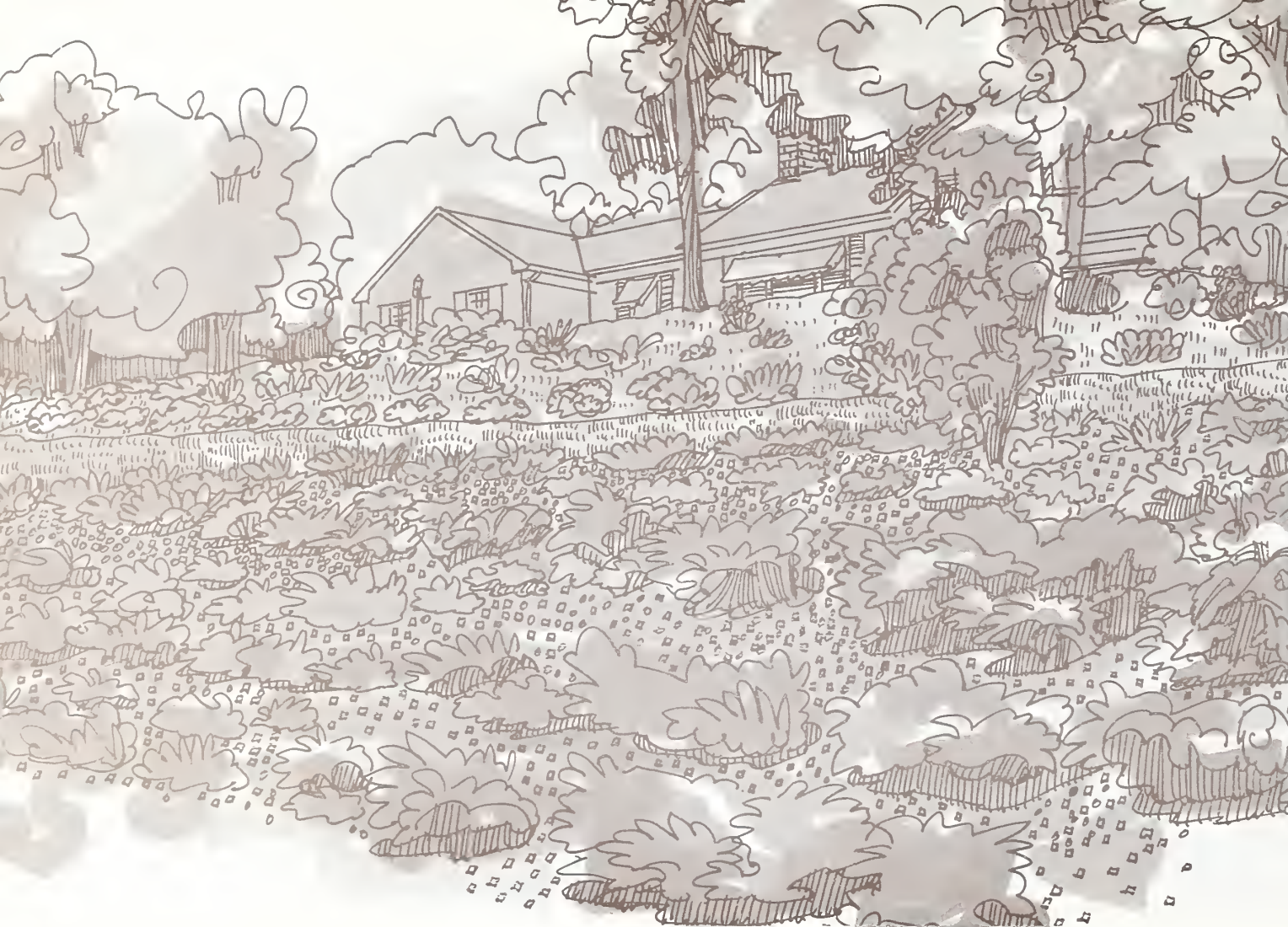
DON'T
allow construction work to
create a dust nuisance.



DO
provide safe drinking water,
chemical toilets, adequate
trash and scrap disposal facil-
ities, and safe access.

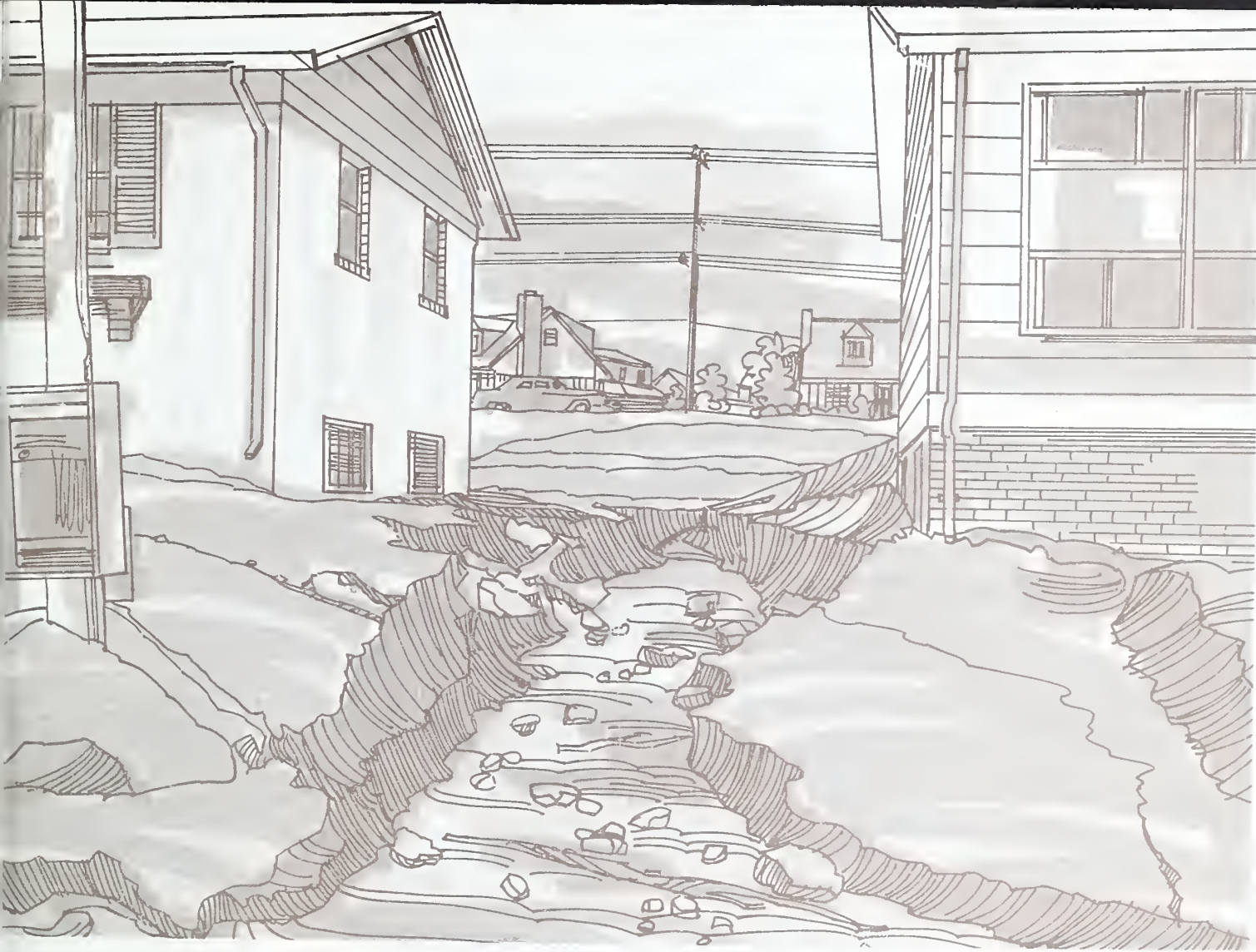


DON'T
let your work area become
trashy and unsafe.



DO

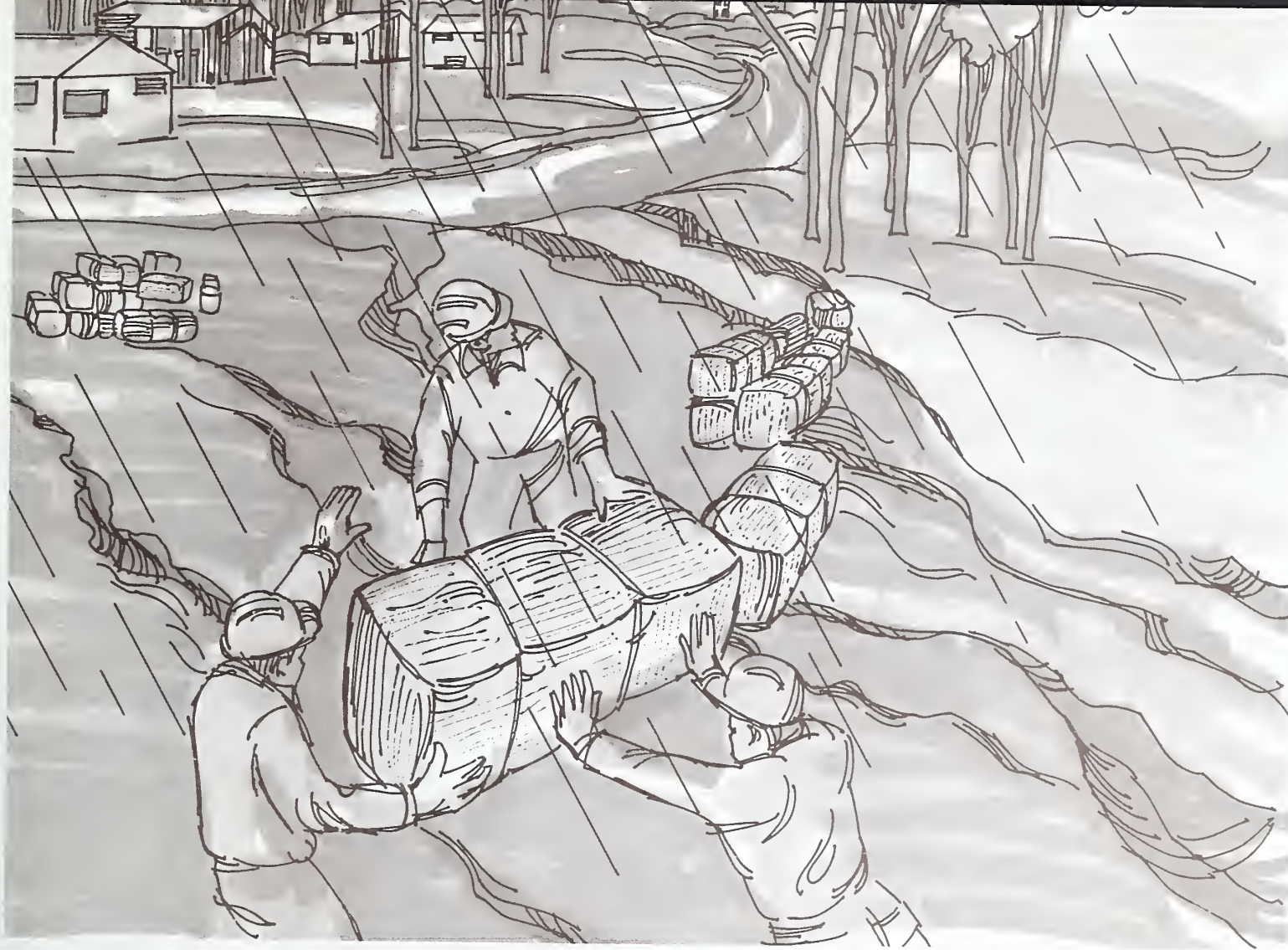
consult the soil survey or for building, about drainage check with your local conser- patterns, and about which vation district office to learn plants will grow best in your about suitability of the soils soil.



DON'T

wait until construction is complete to check the surface drainage or to discover which soils erode easily.





DO

plan and schedule storm water drainage and sediment and erosion control as part of construction operations.

DON'T

depend on emergency protective measures.

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