

Jasper County
Secondary Road
Department

Integrated
Roadside
Vegetation
Management Plan

1ST EDITION

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Summary of IRVM Plan

This is the first Jasper County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Plan to be adopted. Equipment has been purchased and techniques to seed, apply herbicide, and control brush have become an integral part of our program. The Tallgrass Prairie Center and Living Roadway Trust Fund have become an integral part of county IRVM programs, including Jasper County.

This IRVM plan begins with a mission statement describing the purpose of IRVM in Jasper County. Section 314.22 of the Iowa Code describes the objectives of Iowa's roadsides, with Jasper County pursuing the same approaches. The formation of an IRVM Manager with responsibilities and description of facilities follow the mission statement.

A large part of the content of the IRVM plan contains current practices that the IRVM Manager either directs or is associated with. The programs are brush control, herbicide spraying, seeding, our seeding program has evolved since the inception of the IRVM program, Mowing, Erosion control, and the last current practice is the Weed Commissioner position in Jasper County. The duties and the assignment of the position are explained as are the responsibilities for the control of noxious weeds.

The IRVM plan contains goals for the program. There are goals for each of the current programs that Jasper County exercises. Brush control, spraying, seeding, mowing, and erosion control all contain goals for the future.

Finally, the IRVM plan includes an appendix which contains supporting information. Documents include noxious weed control policy, county map, various Iowa Codes pertaining to roadside vegetation management.

1.2 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Mission Statement

The Jasper County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) program's purpose is to promote practices in the right-of-way that complement the surrounding landscapes and provide long term results for a successful roadside. IRVM was created in Jasper County and the state of Iowa to better serve the public through an environmentally safe, ecologically friendly, and visually appealing approach. These practices, in cooperation with the secondary road department, provide a roadside that is safe, healthy, and attractive for future generations.

Section 314.22 of the Iowa Code states: 1. Objectives. It is declared to be in the general public welfare of Iowa and a highway purpose for the vegetation of Iowa's roadsides to be preserved, planted, and maintained to be safe, visually interesting, ecologically integrated, and useful for many purposes.

IRVM is a long term approach to vegetation management that:

- Systematically evaluates each area to be managed.
- Determines which plant communities best fit the area.
- Develops procedures that will encourage, enhance, or re-establish desirable plant communities.
- Provides self-sustaining, diversified, visually interesting vegetation.
- Keeps safety and an improved environment as priorities.
- Utilizes the most beneficial methods to prevent or correct undesirable situations caused by disturbance or less than optimum vegetative ground cover.

1.3 Jasper County IRVM

Although Jasper County has had programs and or practices relating to the IRVM program it was not until 2015 that the first IRNM Program Manager was named, the Jasper County Engineer. Funding for the IRVM program is derived from the Rural Services Basic Fund (Fund 11) per Code 331.428 of Jasper County through the Auditor's Office. The Board of Supervisors supports the IRVM program and understands that the IRVM budget is administered by the Secondary Road Department and is incorporated into the Secondary Road budget spread out through the official DOT codes. Duties of the IRVM Manager include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Administering the Jasper County Secondary Road Department IRVM program.
- Ongoing continuing education/instruction/learning opportunities.
- Networking with other IRVM programs, both county and state.
- Organizing and maintaining IRVM equipment.
- Coordinating and participating in the brush control program.
- Spraying for control of unwanted vegetation around guardrails and the roadsides.
- Responding to weed control activities as a result of weed commissioner issues.
- Creating a comprehensive seeding program.
- Documenting all brush control, spraying, seeding activities.
- Researching current and future trends in vegetation management.
- Securing funding and grant opportunities.
- Formulating and monitoring the IRVM budget.
- Preparing an annual report on the IRVM program activities and future plans.

Currently the Jasper County IRVM program's supplies, material, seed and equipment are housed throughout the main facility and satellite shops of the Secondary Road Department.

With the County Engineer being the IVRM Program Manager the IRVM office is located at the central location of the Jasper County Secondary Road Department. This location contains the Engineer's Office, the central county shop, and materials/parts/supplies. All office/computer/data entry/mapping/etc. occur at this location.

CHAPTER 2 CURRENT PRACTICES

2.1 Brush Control Program

The first priority in brush control in Jasper County is for the safety of those who use the roadways. Motorists must have proper sight distance, good visibility, obstruction free roads and shoulders, and clear roads during the winter season. With these practices in place, roads become safer and reduce the potential for accidents.

The second priority in brush control in Jasper County is to maintain the rights-of-way that are already clear. Preventative maintenance is the least expensive means of keeping the roadsides free and clear of obstacles. Thick brushy roadsides require more effort to clear; which results in more man hours, more machinery, and greater expense. By maintaining an area that is already clear of trees the time and expense required remain minimal.

The third priority in brush control is to promote vegetation that can replace the brush in the roadsides. Native plants are the preferred vegetation as they provide many benefits to the roadside including erosion control, water infiltration, reduced maintenance, and an aesthetically pleasing roadside.

The fourth priority in brush control in Jasper County is to continue clearing brush infested areas throughout the rights-of-way. The more brushy areas that are cleaned up, the safer the roads become and the more economical the roadsides are to maintain.

Jasper County uses several methods of tree removal along the roadsides. Those methods include herbicides, mowing, saws, and excavators or dozers.

Herbicide use is Jasper County's number one technique in brush control. However, as the IRVM program continues to grow, our goal is to decrease the amount of herbicide used to control brush. Jasper County hopes to achieve this with increasing the grasses and flowers along the roadsides.

Mowing is the other dominant technique in Jasper County's brush control. The boom brush mower is the most successful means of brush control by mechanical means. Other mowers used include a disk mower, primarily used, and 2 batwing mowers with side mount mowers. The disk mower and batwings with side mount mowers maintain all shoulders on paved roadways in the county as well as wide rights-of-way that can be safely traversed.

Chainsaws are primarily used during the winter season in all parts of Jasper County for tree removal, but trouble spots are identified by the road crews ahead of time. Those are the areas concentrated on first. Jasper County uses private tree removal services to reach the difficult trees/limbs and trucks to haul the brush to burn piles. A wood chipper is also utilized in certain situations.

The final method of tree removal in Jasper County is through the use of excavators and dozers. This equipment provides the opportunity for removal of large trees, multiple trees in one location, and trees around drainage features. In addition to removing the brush, this equipment is also reshaping the ground for a safer and more functional right-of-way.

2.2 *Spraying Program*

The Jasper County spraying program concentrates in three areas. They are guardrails, noxious weeds, and brush. Each area utilizes different herbicides and application methods.

The guardrails require preventative maintenance in the form of vegetation control each summer, so the type of control that Jasper County uses is through herbicide. Two times per summer the guardrails are sprayed and the herbicide is applied in front of the guardrail and over the top to a point approximately two feet behind the guardrail. Reduction of vegetation around the guardrails results in a safer roadway for motorists and an easier inspection opportunity for road crews.

Noxious weeds create many difficult circumstances for Jasper County, both in its own efforts to control the weeds and in working in cooperation with land owners/renters as they manage their own ground.

Of all the noxious weeds in Jasper County, the most visible ones are Musk Thistle, Bull Thistle, Canada Thistle, and Teasel. The public identifies these plants as the ones that pose the most problems. Through the cooperation of the IRVM Manager, weed commissioner, and land owners/renters; an annual attack on these noxious weeds is launched. Jasper County works to assist in controlling noxious weeds in troublesome locations. Musk Thistle, Bull Thistle, Canada Thistle, and Teasel are sprayed when found in the roadsides at all times during the spraying season, but are solely concentrated on in the spring up until June 15 and again as fall approaches. Most of the spraying is hand spraying.

Brush control is an ongoing responsibility in Jasper County. Through the efforts of all road crews and the IRVM Manager, much progress has been made in the last few years. Specific locations that were once a major concern have been brought under control and other locations that pose a threat to safety of motorists or decay of the roadways continue to be identified. In the efforts to control brush in Jasper County, herbicide is one technique used.

Herbicide use has begun to decrease as control of brush has increased. A goal of Jasper County is to lessen the dependence on herbicide use as more and more roadsides become clear of trees. Maintaining a clean right-of-way is easier and less costly than a brushy one and the use of herbicide decreases and is less expensive over time because less brush to treat results in less herbicide to use.

2.3 Seeding Program

Seeding in Jasper County has improved and increased over the years with the addition of equipment and a commitment to reestablishing favorable vegetation in the roadsides. The vegetation is in the form of yard grasses, cool season grasses, and native vegetation depending upon the location and circumstances surrounding each disturbed roadside. The disturbances requiring seeding include construction sites, ditch clean outs, culvert replacements, and re-grades.

In the future Jasper County looks to implement a record keeping system so that every site that is seeded has a record that goes with it. Included in the information are types of seed planted, fertilizer use (if any), cover crop, mulch, acres seeded, and location including a GPS location and footage of the seeding.

The preparation and seeding equipment used in order to establish a plant community varies according to the conditions of each site. Areas not accessible with equipment will be broadcast seeded by hand, if small. Other areas use the hydroseeder with both seed and mulch applied; either in a one-step method where both the seed and mulch are applied at the same time or in a two-step method where the seed is applied with water in the first application and mulch and water are applied in the second application. Areas accessible with a tractor receive seedbed preparation, if deemed necessary. Seeding in these areas occur by hydroseeder.

Because of location and population, many rural developments exist around the county. This results in disturbances of property owner's yards periodically. It is the Jasper County Road Department's practice to reseed disturbed areas. Seeding in these areas occur by hydroseeder.

Cool season grasses are seeded wherever native vegetation is not appropriate or practical to use. Some locations not practical for natives are next to some farmers row crop fields or in a small disturbed cross road culvert. Each location is unique and the decision is made whether to use cool season grasses or native vegetation. Mulch is almost always used with the seed through the hydroseeder.

Native Vegetation is becoming the seed of choice for Jasper County as the county actively participates in the reintroduction of native vegetation to the roadsides as a component of the conservation of Iowa's soils and water resources. Iowa ecotype seed is used in all locations and provides a diverse mix of prairie grasses and wildflowers suited to a wide range of growing conditions in Jasper County. The benefits of native vegetation in the roadside include improved erosion control, improved water infiltration, the low maintenance of natives, and the beauty of the roadsides with colorful wildflowers and rich golden colors of grasses.

Inspecting the seeding site will determine what method of preparation and seeding will be used. Seeding will be with a broadcast seeder, or hydroseeder. Mulch is applied with the hydroseeder to protect the seed and soil.

All seeding sites are monitored throughout the season to determine growth success, weed pressure, and erosion issues. If necessary, action is taken to improve the results of the location.

2.4 Mowing Program

Mowing is one of the most visible ways for individuals to change the appearance of the landscape. From yards to pastures to hay fields to waterways, the results are seen statewide. Jasper County has its own mowing program in place to serve many functions. It is administered by the Jasper County Engineer/IRVM Manager.

Jasper County is equipped with three tractors a disk mower, primarily used, and 2 bat wing mowers with side mounts to mow the shoulders of all paved roadways. Mowing highways begins a week before Memorial Day and all mowing concludes sometime in October, with exceptions due to weather and shortened growing seasons. The objectives of Jasper County's mowing of shoulders are for safety of motorists, increased sight distance, control of weeds along the roadway, and prevention of snow drifting.

Mowers are also used for brush control. Where safe to do so, the mower will mow beyond the shoulders and down into the ditch to mow off small saplings or small diameter trees as a way to prevent brush from pressuring the roadway or reducing sight distance. Most of these locations where the mowers can safely mow are in wide rights-of-way with gentle slopes. Fore slopes and ditch bottoms are the most common mowing locations for these mowers when down in a ditch.

2.5 Erosion Control Program

Jasper County's erosion control methods contain many different approaches, depending upon location, circumstances, and objectives. Every work order requires an erosion control plan and ultimately, whether good or bad, it is the vegetation covering the ground that most people look at as the major line of defense against erosion.

Native vegetation provides the best defense against erosion with its deep root system. One big task in this area is educating the public and sometimes co-workers about the advantages and benefits of native vegetation. With the IRVM program, the resources to teach, show others, and demonstrate native vegetation exist and continue to improve. Teaching others about natives is ongoing. Natives, once established, provide increased water infiltration and conservation of Iowa's soils. Native vegetation is the preferred choice for seeding, but there are circumstances that require other types of seed.

Examples of other seed include yard grasses and cool season grasses. It is usually the decision of the IRVM Manager that determines which seed to use.

Other erosion control measures include rock checks, rip rap, re-grading, matting, fabric, and silt fence. Many of these approaches are used together or in combination to provide the best erosion control. Communication between the crews and IRVM Manager determine the types of erosion control efforts to use.

Every effort is made to control erosion in Jasper County. However, first attempts at erosion control aren't always successful, so there are times when crews must return to a site and repair the failure.

2.6 Weed Commissioner

The position of Weed Commissioner for Jasper is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The IRVM Manager and the Weed Commissioner are one in the same. The IRVM Manager / Weed Commissioner works to control noxious weeds in Jasper County through a cooperative effort involving all property owners and tenants in the county. The Board of Supervisors, IRVM Manager / Weed Commissioner encourage all property owners and tenants to become familiar with the various species of noxious weeds in the state and take the necessary control measures, during the prime growing season, to control these weeds.

The responsibility for the control of noxious weeds is established by Chapter 317 of the Code of Iowa. The code further defines what a noxious weed is and the role of the County Weed Commissioner. The code requires each property owner to control the noxious weeds that may be on their property.

A notice published in local newspapers each year explains the Jasper County Weed Program as it describes proper and timely eradication of weeds, lawfully designated as noxious, by all owners of land in Jasper County. Persons can contact the Weed Commissioner with questions, wishing information, or to report a violation. The notice also states when thistles should be cut by or, if spraying them, when the application of spraying should be done.

2.7 Material Procurement

a. Sourcing

Seed, herbicide, erosion control materials, mulch, and any other materials necessary to perform IRVM functions are purchased as needed at fair market value through reliable vendors. Prices for seed, herbicide, and mulch are reviewed annually by the roadside manager, vendors are contacted, and pricing made available. Materials are then purchased at the lowest price.

b. Material Handling and Storage

- Seed, Herbicide, Mulch and Erosion Control Materials are stored inside the one of the Secondary Roads building out of the weather.

The Jasper County Road Department buys all materials local as often as possible.

Yard seed, cool season seed, and cover crops are purchased at a local farm store. In exchange for the purchase of seed, they are a valuable resource for promoting Jasper County's IRVM program to the local landowners.

CHAPTER 3 IRVM PROGRAM GOALS

As a part of the Jasper County IRVM program, a series of goals have been created for program development. These goals outline the direction and objectives of an integrated approach to roadside management. The goals are as follows:

3.1 Brush Control – as a way to assist with road maintenance, improve motorist safety, reduce obstacles, and improve sight distance.

3.2 Spraying – to reduce the use of herbicides as a way to control weeds and brush in the roadsides.

3.3 Seeding – the use of native vegetation wherever possible to protect against erosion, reduce unwanted vegetation, improve water infiltration, create a beautiful roadside, and reduce herbicide use.

3.4 Mowing – to keep shoulders trimmed, provide improved visibility for motorists, assist with brush control, control unwanted vegetation, and educate land owners about mowing and haying laws in Iowa.

3.5 Erosion Control – protecting soil surfaces through many practices and techniques. a. Promote native vegetation as a soil stabilizing erosion control option.

3.6 Other Goals

- a. implement a roadside inventory of Jasper County. An inventory will reflect the progress made and the locations that need improvement. The Engineer's Office has the most current records of native vegetation seeding locations, which can help in the start of an inventory. Once the inventory has been completed, a continual survey should be kept by the IRVM manager of drastic changes such as new plantings, new discoveries of natives, or invasions of noxious weeds.

JASPER COUNTY IOWA

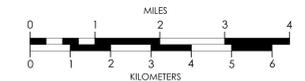


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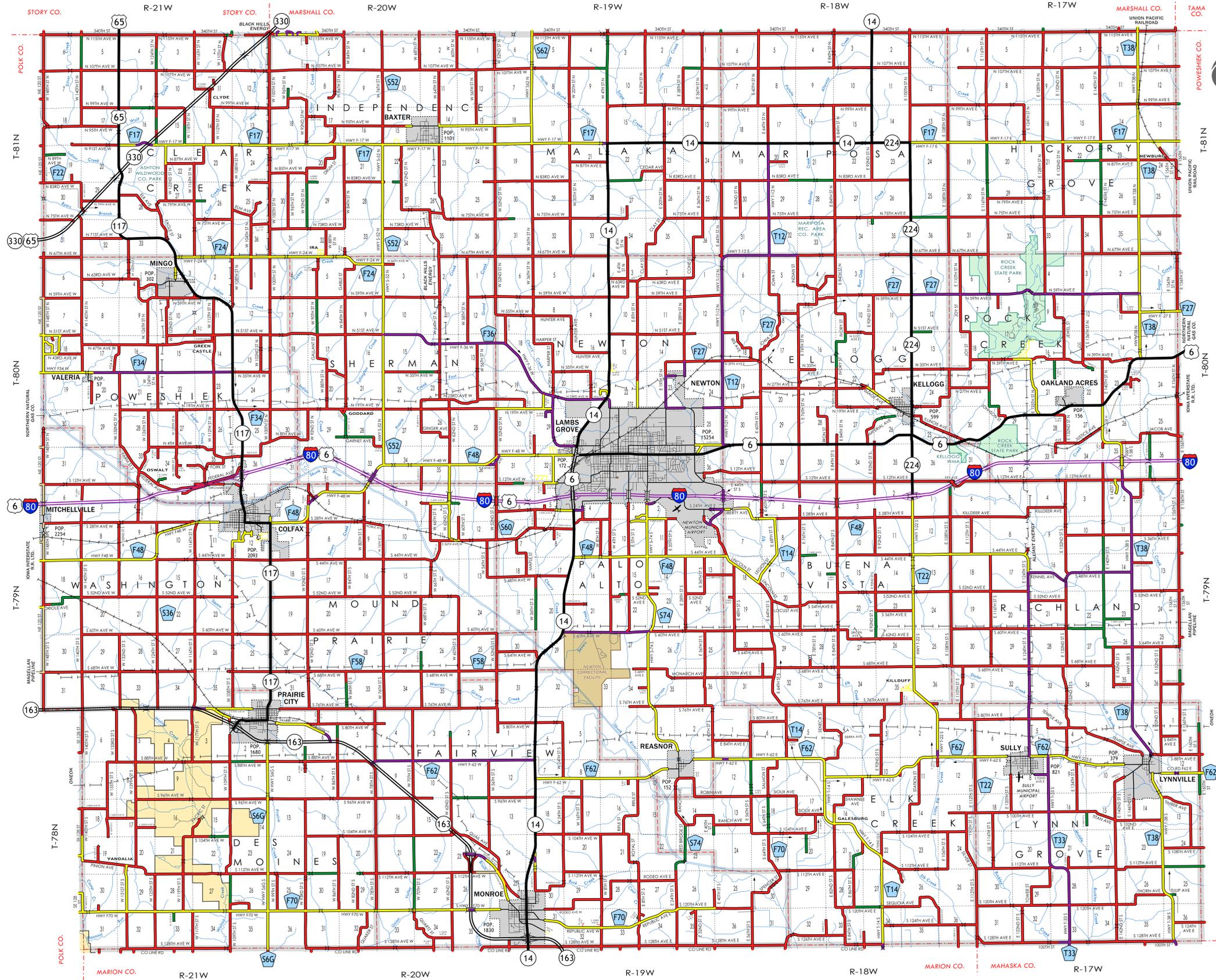
In Cooperation With
**United States
Department of Transportation**

JANUARY 1, 2014



LEGEND

- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- PRIMARY HIGHWAY-DIVIDED
- PRIMARY HIGHWAY
- PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD
- ASPHALT ROAD
- BITUMINOUS ROAD
- GRAVEL ROAD
- EARTHEN ROAD
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- UNITED STATES HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY HIGHWAY
- RAILROAD
- PIPELINE
- AIRPORT
- HYDROLOGY
- BRIDGE
- STATE BOUNDARY
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CORPORATE BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP LINE
- SECTION LINE
- ROAD NAMES
- UNINCORPORATED PLACE
- STATE PARKS
- STATE INSTITUTIONS
- FEDERAL LAND



Resolution 09- 19
Weed: Noxious Weeds to be Destroyed

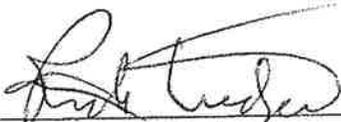
The Jasper County Board of Supervisors, in their official meeting
May 5, 2009, adopted the following resolution:

1. Each owner and person in possession or control of any lands in Jasper County shall be responsible for controlling noxious weeds in such a way as to prevent them from reseeding or otherwise coming to maturity. Special precautions should be taken where said weeds would interfere with safe use of public roadways.
2. Date for control of noxious weeds for all species is June 1, 2009
3. Failure to comply with the provisions of this policy will result in the Weed Commissioner causing control measures to be implemented, and the cost of these measures, including the cost of serving notice, to be assessed against the landowner(s). In the case of noxious weeds on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands, fines will be assessed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Newton. In all cases, the weeds will still have to be destroyed.
4. The Jasper County Auditor is directed to publish this notice in each of the official newspapers in the county.

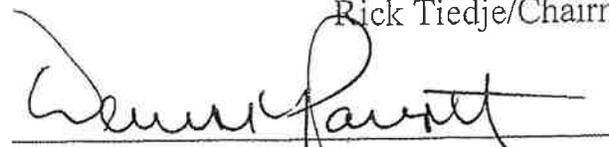
YEA: Parsons, Stevenson, Tiedje

NAY: _____

Approved this 5th day of May, 2009



Rick Tiedje/Chairman

ATTEST: 

Dennis Parrott/Auditor

RECORDED IN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
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4.3 Iowa Code 314.17 Mowing in the Right-of-Way

314.17 MOWING ON INTERSTATES AND PRIMARY HIGHWAYS.

On or after January 1, 2003, the department shall not mow roadside vegetation on the rights-of-way or medians on any primary or interstate highway. Mowing shall be permitted as follows:

1. On rights-of-way which include drainage ditch areas.
2. On rights-of-way within three miles of the corporate limits of a city.
3. To promote native species of vegetation or other long-lived and adaptable vegetation.
4. For establishing control of damaging insect populations, noxious weeds, and invader plant species.
5. For visibility and safety reasons.

This also includes the secondary roads in Iowa and has been extended to July 15.

4.4 Iowa Code 317.1A Noxious Weeds

317.1A NOXIOUS WEEDS.

The following weeds are hereby declared to be noxious and shall be divided into two classes, namely:

1. Primary noxious weeds, which shall include quack grass (*Agropyron repens*), perennial sow thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), bull thistle (*Cirsium lanceolatum*), European morning glory or field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), horse nettle (*Solanum carolinense*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), perennial pepper-grass (*Lepidium draba*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus*, not to include *Rhamnus frangula*), and all other species of thistles belonging in genera of *Cirsium* and *Carduus*.

2. Secondary noxious weeds, which shall include butterprint (*Abutilon theophrasti*) annual, cocklebur (*Xanthium commune*) annual, wild mustard (*Brassica arvensis*) annual, wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) biennial, buckhorn (*Plantago lanceolata*) perennial, sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) perennial, sour dock (*Rumex crispus*) perennial, smooth dock (*Rumex altissimus*) perennial, poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), wild sunflower (wild strain of *Helianthus annus* L.) annual, puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*) annual, teasel (*Dipsacus*) biennial, and shattercane (*Sorghum bicolor*) annual. The multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) shall not be considered a secondary noxious weed when cultivated for or used as understock for cultivated roses or as ornamental shrubs in gardens, or in any county whose board of supervisors has by resolution declared it not to be a noxious weed. Shattercane (*Sorghum bicolor*) shall not be considered a secondary noxious weed when cultivated or in any county whose board of supervisors has by resolution declared it not to be a noxious weed.

4.5 Iowa Code 314.21 Living Roadway Trust Fund

314.21 LIVING ROADWAY TRUST FUND.

1. a. The living roadway trust fund is created in the office of the treasurer of state. The moneys in this fund shall be used exclusively for the development and implementation of integrated roadside vegetation plans. Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, the moneys shall only be expended for areas on or adjacent to road, street, and highway right-of-ways. The state department of transportation in consultation with the department of natural resources shall establish standards relating to the type of projects available for assistance. For the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1988, and ending March 31, 1990, the moneys in the fund shall be expended as follows: fifty-six percent on state department of transportation projects; thirty percent on county projects; and fourteen percent on city projects.

b. A city or county which has a project which qualifies for the use of these funds shall submit a request for the funds to the state department of transportation. A city or county may, at its option, apply moneys allocated for use on city or county projects under this subsection toward qualifying projects on the primary system. The state department of transportation in consultation with the department of natural resources shall determine which projects qualify for the funds and which projects shall be funded if the requests for the funds exceed the availability of the funds. In ranking applications for funds, the department shall consider the proportion of political subdivision matching funds to be provided, if any, and the proportion of private contributions to be provided, if any. In considering the proportion of political subdivision matching funds provided, the department shall consider only those moneys which are in addition to those which the political subdivision has historically provided toward such projects. Funds allocated to the cities, the counties, and the department which are not programmed by the end of each fiscal year shall be available for redistribution to any eligible applicant regardless of the original allocation of funds. Such funds shall be awarded for eligible projects based upon their merit in meeting the program objectives established by the department under section 314.22. The department shall submit a report of all projects funded in the previous fiscal year to the governor and to the general assembly on January 15 of each year.

c. Beginning April 1, 1990, the moneys in the living roadway trust fund shall be allocated between the state, counties, and cities in the same proportion that the road use tax funds are allocated under section 312.2, subsection 1, paragraphs "a", "b", "c", and "d". However, after April 1, 1990, a city or county shall not be eligible to receive moneys from the living roadway trust fund unless the city or county has an integrated roadside vegetation management plan in place consistent with the objectives in section 314.22.

2. a. The department may authorize projects which provide grants or loans to local governments and organizations which are developing community entryway enhancement and other planting demonstration projects. Planning, public education, installation, and initial maintenance planning and development may be determined by the department to be eligible activities for funding under this paragraph. Projects approved under this paragraph require a local match or contribution toward the overall project cost.

b. The department may authorize projects which provide grants or loans to local governments for the purchase of specialized equipment and special staff training for the establishment of alternative forms of roadside vegetation. Projects approved under this paragraph require a local match or contribution toward the overall project cost.

c. The department, in order to create greater visual effect, shall investigate alternatives for concentrating plantings at strategic locations to gain a greater visual impact and appeal as

well as stronger scenic value. Equal attention shall be given to providing safe and effective habitats for wildlife which can coexist with highways.

d. The department may authorize projects which provide grants or loans to local jurisdictions for increased protection through the use of easements, fee title acquisition, covenants, zoning ordinances, or other provisions for protection of vegetation and desirable environment adjacent to the right-of-way. Off-right-of-way projects shall emphasize vegetation protection or enhancement, scenic and wildlife values, erosion control and enhancement of vegetation management projects within the right-of-ways.

3. a. Moneys allocated to the state under subsection 1 shall be expended as follows:

(1) Fifty thousand dollars annually to the department for the services of the integrated roadside vegetation management coordinator and support.

(2) One hundred thousand dollars annually for education programs, research and demonstration projects, and vegetation inventories and strategies, under section 314.22, subsections 5, 6, and 8.

(3) All remaining moneys for the gateways program under section 314.22, subsection 7.

b. Moneys allocated to the counties under subsection 1 shall be expended as follows:

(1) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995, and ending June 30, 1996, and each subsequent fiscal year, seventy-five thousand dollars to the university of northern Iowa to maintain the position of the state roadside specialist and to continue its integrated roadside vegetation management program providing research, education, training, and technical assistance.

(2) All remaining money for grants or loans under subsection 2, paragraph "a". c. Moneys allocated to the cities shall be expended for grants or loans under subsection 2, paragraph "a".

4.6 Iowa Code 314.22 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management

314.22 INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.

1. *Objectives.* It is declared to be in the general public welfare of Iowa and a highway purpose for the vegetation of Iowa's roadsides to be preserved, planted, and maintained to be safe, visually interesting, ecologically integrated, and useful for many purposes. The state department of transportation shall provide an integrated roadside vegetation management plan and program which shall be designed to accomplish all of the following:

- a. Maintain a safe travel environment.
- b. Serve a variety of public purposes including erosion control, wildlife habitat, climate control, scenic qualities, weed control, utility easements, recreation uses, and sustenance of water quality.
- c. Be based on a systematic assessment of conditions existing in roadsides, preservation of valuable vegetation and habitats in the area, and the adoption of a comprehensive plan and strategies for cost-effective maintenance and vegetation planting.
- d. Emphasize the establishment of adaptable and long-lived vegetation, often native species, matched to the unique environment found in and adjacent to the roadside.
- e. Incorporate integrated management practices for the long-term control of damaging insect populations, weeds, and invader plant species.
- f. Build upon a public education program allowing input from adjacent landowners and the general public.
- g. Accelerate efforts toward increasing and expanding the effectiveness of plantings to reduce wind-induced and water-induced soil erosion and to increase deposition of snow in desired locations.
- h. Incorporate integrated roadside vegetation management with other state agency planning and program activities including the recreation trails program, scenic highways, open space, and tourism development efforts. Agencies should annually report their progress in this area to the general assembly.

2. *Counties may adopt plans.* A county may adopt an integrated roadside vegetation management plan consistent with the integrated roadside vegetation management plan adopted by the department under subsection 1.

3. *Integrated roadside vegetation management technical advisory committee.*

a. The director of the department shall appoint members to an integrated roadside vegetation management technical advisory committee which is created to provide advice on the development and implementation of a statewide integrated roadside vegetation management plan and program and related projects. The department shall report annually in January to the general assembly regarding its activities and those of the committee. Activities of the committee may include, but are not limited to, providing advice and assistance in the following areas:

- (1) Research efforts.
- (2) Demonstration projects.
- (3) Education and orientation efforts for property owners, public officials, and the general public.
- (4) Activities of the integrated roadside vegetation management coordinator for integrate roadside vegetation management.
- (5) Reviewing applications for funding assistance.
- (6) Securing funding for research and demonstrations.
- (7) Determining needs for revising the state weed law and other applicable Code sections.
- (8) Liaison with the Iowa state association of counties, the Iowa league of cities, and other organizations for integrated roadside vegetation management purposes.

b. The director may appoint any number of persons to the committee but, at a minimum, the committee shall consist of all of the following:

- (1) One member representing the utility industry.
- (2) One member from the Iowa academy of sciences.
- (3) One member representing county government.
- (4) One member representing city government.
- (5) Two members representing the private sector including community interest groups.
- (6) One member representing soil conservation interests.
- (7) One member representing the department of natural resources.
- (8) One member representing county conservation boards.

Members of the committee shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for allowable expenses from the living roadway trust fund created under section 314.21. No more than a simple majority of the members of the committee shall be of the same gender as provided in section 69.16A. The director of the department shall appoint the chair of the committee and shall establish a minimum schedule of meetings for the committee.

4. *Integrated roadside vegetation management coordinator.* The integrated roadside vegetation management coordinator shall administer the department's integrated roadside vegetation management plan and program. The department may create the position of integrated roadside vegetation management coordinator within the department or may contract for the services of the coordinator. The duties of the coordinator include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Conducting education and awareness programs.
- b. Providing technical advice to the department and the department of natural resources, counties, and cities.
- c. Conducting demonstration projects.
- d. Coordinating inventory and implementation activities.
- e. Providing assistance to local community-based groups for undertaking community entryway projects.
- f. Being a clearinghouse for information from Iowa projects as well as from other states.
- g. Periodically distributing information related to integrated roadside vegetation management.
- h. General coordination of research efforts.
- i. Other duties assigned by the director of transportation.

5. *Education programs.* The department shall develop educational programs and provide educational materials for the general public, landowners, governmental employees, and board members as part of its program for integrated roadside vegetation management. The educational program shall provide all of the following:

- a. The development of public service announcements and television programs about the importance of roadside vegetation in Iowa.
- b. The expansion of existing training sessions and educational curriculum materials for county weed commissioners, government contract sprayers, maintenance staff, and others to include coverage of integrated roadside management topics such as basic plant species identification, vegetation preservation, vegetation inventory techniques, vegetation management and planning procedures, planting techniques, maintenance, communication, and public relations. County and municipal engineers, public works staffs, planning and zoning representatives, parks and habitat managers, and others should be encouraged to participate.
- c. The conducting of statewide and regional conferences and seminars about integrated roadside vegetation management, community entryways, scenic values of land adjoining roadsides, and other topics relating to roadside vegetation.

d. The preparation, display, and distribution of a variety of public relations material, in order to better inform and educate the traveling public on roadside vegetation management activities. The public relations material shall inform motorists of a variety of roadside vegetation issues including all of the following:

- (1) Benefits of various types of roadside vegetation.
- (2) Long-term results expected from planting and maintenance practices.
- (3) Purposes for short-term disturbances in the roadside landscapes.
- (4) Interesting aspects of the Iowa landscape and individual landscape regions.
- (5) Other aspects relating to wildlife and soil erosion.

e. Preparation and distribution of educational material designed to inform adjoining property owners, farm operators, and others of the importance of roadside vegetation and their responsibilities of proper stewardship of that vegetation resource.

6. *Research and demonstration projects.* The department, as part of its plan to provide integrated roadside vegetation management, shall conduct research and feasibility studies including demonstration projects of different kinds at a variety of locations around the state. The research and feasibility studies may be conducted in, but are not limited to, any of the following areas:

a. Cost effectiveness or comparison of planting, establishing and maintaining alternative or warm-season, native grass and for roadside vegetation and traditional cool-season nonnative vegetation.

b. Identification of the relationship that roadsides and roadside vegetation have to maintaining water quality, through drainage wells, sediment and pollutant collection and filtration, and other means.

c. Impacts of burning as an alternative vegetation management tool on all categories of roads.

d. Techniques for more quickly establishing erosion control and permanent vegetative cover on recently disturbed ground as well as interplanting native species in existing vegetative cover.

e. Effectiveness of techniques for reduced or selected use of herbicides to control weeds.

f. Identification of cross section and slope steepness design standards which provide for motorist safety as well as for improved establishment, maintenance, and replacement of different types of vegetation.

g. Identification of a uniform inventory and assessment technique which could be used by many counties in establishing integrated roadside management programs.

h. Equipment innovations for seeding and harvesting grasses in difficult terrain settings, roadway ditches, and fore-slopes and back-slopes.

i. Identification of the perceptions of motorists and landowners to various types of roadside vegetation and configuration of plantings.

j. Market or economic feasibility studies for native seed, forb, and woody plant production and propagation.

k. Impacts of vegetation modifications on increasing or decreasing wildlife populations in rural and urban areas.

l. Effects of vegetation on the number and location of wildlife road-kills in rural and urban areas.

m. Costs to the public for improper off-site resource management adjacent to roadsides.

n. Advantages, disadvantages, and techniques of establishing pedestrian access adjacent to highways and their impacts on vegetation management.

o. Identification of alternative techniques for snow catchment on farmland adjacent to roadsides.

7. *Gateways program.* The department shall develop a gateways program to provide meaningful visual impacts including major new plantings at the important highway entry points to the state and its communities. Substantial and distinctive plantings shall also be designed and installed at these points. Creative and artistic design solutions shall be sought for these

improvements. Communications about these projects shall be provided to local groups in order to build community involvement, support, and understanding of their importance. Consideration shall be given to a requirement that gateways projects produce a local match or contribution toward the overall project cost.

8. *Vegetation inventories and strategies.*

a. The department shall coordinate and compile integrated roadside vegetation inventories, classification systems, plans, and implementation strategies for roadsides. Areas of increased program and project emphasis may include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Additional development and funding of state gateways projects.

(2) Accelerated replacement of dead and unhealthy plants with native and hardy trees and shrubs. (3) Special interest plantings at selected highly visible locations along primary and interstate highways.

(4) Pilot and demonstration projects.

(5) Additional snow and erosion control plantings.

(6) Welcome center and rest area plantings with native and aesthetically interesting species to create mini-arboretums around the state.

b. The department shall coordinate and compile a reconnaissance of lands to develop an inventory of sites having the potential of being harvested for native grass, forb, and woody plant material seed and growing stock. Highway right-of-ways, parks and recreation areas, converted railroad right-of-ways, state board of regents' property, lands owned by counties, and other types of public property shall be surveyed and documented for seed source potential. Sites volunteered by private organizations may also be included in the inventory. Inventory information shall be made available to state agencies' staffs, county engineers, county conservation board directors, and others.

MINORITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to 2008 Iowa Acts, HF 2393, Iowa Code Section 8.11, all grant applications submitted to the state of Iowa that are due beginning January 1, 2009 shall include a Minority Impact Statement. This is the state's mechanism for requiring grant applicants to consider the potential impact of the grant project's proposed programs or policies on minority groups.

Please choose the statement(s) that pertains to this grant application. Complete all the information requested for the chosen statement(s). Submit additional pages as necessary.

- The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **positive** impact on minority persons.

Describe the positive impact expected from this project.

Indicate which group is impacted:

- Women Persons with a disability Blacks Latinos Asians
 Pacific Islanders American Indians Alaskan Native Americans Other

- The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **negative** impact on minority persons.

Describe the negative impact expected from this project.

Present the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy.

Provide evidence of consultation with representatives of the minority groups impacted.

Indicate which group is impacted:

- Women Persons with a disability Blacks Latinos Asians
 Pacific Islanders American Indians Alaskan Native Americans Other

The proposed grant project programs or policies are **not expected to have** a disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons.

Present the rationale for determining no impact. This project is for the benefit of all Jasper County residents and visitors. The goals and practices of the program don't especially affect any specific minority persons or group of any kind.

I hereby certify that the information on this form is complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge:

Name: Russell Stutt, P.E.

Title: County Engineer/Roadside Manager

Definitions

"Minority Persons," as defined in Iowa Code Section 8.11, means individuals who are women, persons with a disability, Blacks, Latinos, Asians or Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaskan Native Americans.

"Disability," as defined in Iowa Code Section 15.102, subsection 7, paragraph "b," subparagraph (1):

b. As used in this subsection:

- (1) "*Disability*" means, with respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, a record of physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, or being regarded as an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual.

"*Disability*" does not include any of the following:

- (a) Homosexuality or bisexuality.
(b) Transvestism, transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments or other sexual behavior disorders.
(c) Compulsive gambling, kleptomania, or pyromania.
(d) Psychoactive substance abuse disorders resulting from current illegal use of drugs.

"State Agency," as defined in Iowa Code Section 8.11, means a department, board, bureau, commission, or other agency or authority of the state of Iowa.

The Jasper County Board of Supervisors, the Jasper County Secondary Roads Department, the Jasper County IRVM department came together in cooperation, common goals and shared ideas to manage roadsides in Jasper County by and through integrated roadside principals. We realize that I.R.V.M. will be beneficial to our roadside management goals while being economically and environmentally beneficial. We understand that working in unison toward improving roadside vegetation is the most efficient way to accomplish the goal of improved, safe, and weed free roadsides. These roadsides will also add to the habitat and natural beauty of Jasper County. We hereby agree to manage Jasper County roadsides according to the provisions described within this management plan.

Jasper County Board of Supervisors

_____ Date: _____
Dennis Carpenter, Chair

Jasper County Secondary Roads Department

_____ Date: _____
Russell Stutt, Engineer

IRVM Department

_____ Date: _____
Russell Stutt, Roadside Vegetation Manager

4.7 Contributors to the Jasper County IRVM Plan

Russell Stutt – Jasper County Engineer/ County IRVM Manager

Pamela Olson – Jasper County Assistant to the Engineer

Dennis Carpenter – Jasper County Board of Supervisors

Dennis Stevenson – Jasper County Board of Supervisors

Joseph Brock – Jasper County Board of Supervisors