

LOUISA COUNTY

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management General Plan

The Louisa County Roadside Vegetation Management Plan is based on the program philosophy that roadside vegetation performs many functions on the landscape. It is important to look not only at controlling erosion and sediment delivery, but also at keeping safety and an aesthetic environment as priorities along the county roadsides.

This plan is a comprehensive approach to the integration of establishing the correct vegetation throughout the roadsides in Louisa County.

1) Definition of IRVM

The definition of Louisa County's IRVM Plan is based on keeping safety as a priority. It involves the following areas of focus:

Serve a variety of public services including erosion control, wildlife habitat, weed control, utility easements, scenic qualities, and sustainability of water quality

Establish practices that will encourage, enhance, and reestablish native plant species that are matched to the unique environment found in and adjacent to the Adair County roadside

Systematically assess roadside conditions and adopt a comprehensive plan for cost-effective maintenance of right-a-ways and vegetation planting.

Incorporate integrated management practices for the long-term control of weeds, brush, invasive plants and damaging insect population.

Utilize the most beneficial, cost-effective method to prevent soil erosion caused by the disturbance of less than optimum ground cover

Welcome input from adjacent land owners and the general public

Encourage cooperation and planning with other public agencies and entities

2) Legislative Language

Louisa County is consistent with the plan and goals established by the Department of Transportation in following the Iowa Codes IRVM and Noxious Weeds.

Section 314.22 of the Iowa Code: Integrated Vegetation Management

Section 317 of the Iowa Code: Noxious Weeds

Section 314.17 of the Iowa Code: Mowing

Section 318 of the Iowa Code: Obstructions in the Right of Way

3) Purpose of IRVM

The primary purpose of the Louisa County IRVM Plan is to preserve and provide a safe, functional, environmentally approved corridor of travel throughout the county. In addition, this plan is designed to provide a long-term roadside program that promotes a desirable, self-sustained plant community that is native to Iowa and is free of brush and invasive plants. The vegetation management goals must meet certain safety and functional requirements before aesthetic, recreational, or economic considerations can be addressed. These areas include maintaining a clear zone recovery area, meeting minimal sight distance requirements, and providing erosion control. Iowa law also dictates that each county control noxious weeds.

4) History/Vision Statement

Louisa County IRVM started about 1998, with the same vision we carry on today. To enhance the scenic qualities of Louisa County roadsides and their value as roadside habitat while using native plantings as a way of controlling weeds and preventing erosion. Our chemical, fuel, parts and equipment is purchased locally. This ensures that we do our part to help local businesses.

5) Primary Objectives

The primary objectives of the Louisa County IRVM require certain strategies for implementation to make it an integrated and successful plan. These strategies are presented below in the following areas:

1. Seeding Plans

- a. Site preparation is needed to ensure proper planting conditions, which includes walking the site for hazards
- b. Equipment such as disks or chain harrows may be used to level and break up heavily compacted soil
- c. Oats, annual rye and winter wheat are excellent cover crops that are necessary to help hold soil in place
- d. Several methods of seeding are available: drilling, broadcast seeding, and hand seeding- each method has many advantages
- e. Native and cool season sites must be monitored for weeds and mowed when necessary

2. Chemical Application

- a. Selection of chemicals based on their label constraints and residual effects on the environment
- b. Spot spraying of roadsides for invasive and brush in spring, summer and early fall
- c. Fall basal bark treatment as necessary for brush plants
- d. Stump treatment on trees cut in the winter

3. **Brush Control**

- a. Provide safe roads for travelers
- b. Spraying of small trees and brush in late summer is scheduled by Contract.
- c. Secondary road personnel use tractors and mowers, a truck mounted brush mower, and chain saws in the winter to control brush

4. **Fire Management**

- a. Controlled burning during optimal conditions by enhancing and maintaining native prairie grasses while eliminating the growth of weeds, brush, and trees
- b. Only prescribed burn equipment is used; which includes ATV sprayers, slide in sprayers, protective clothing and signage
- c. Local fire departments will be involved when necessary

5. **Erosion and Sediment Control**

- a. Soil preparation: strike a balance when preparing a seed bed. Loosen rough soil surfaces to provide better infiltration
- b. Use cover crops when seeding
- c. Silt fence in appropriate areas
- d. Use check dams that are constructed of clean rock and will allow water to pass through, in order to slow the velocity

6. **Encroachment, Disturbance & Land Owner Relations**

- a. Discouraging spraying and mowing by landowners of roadsides
- b. Written correspondence with landowners regarding violations of encroachment on right of ways, including spray overlap and right-of-way disturbances
- c. Meet with local agribusiness applicators

7. **Coordination with Other County Departments**

- a. Periodic meetings with Louisa County colleagues
- b. Attend annual Louisa County Board of Supervisors meetings
- c. Inter department collaboration with Conservation Department, including employees

8. **Public Awareness & Outreach**

- a. Public notices published in local newspapers
- b. Meets personally with area farmers regarding right of way planting decisions
- c. Collaborates with local schools and educates students about the virtues of IRVM

9. **Organization**

IRVM is under the management of the County Engineer and the Louisa County Weed commissioner who is attached organizationally to the Secondary Road Department. Direction for maintenance is provided to the Maintenance Superintendent and carried out by the Secondary Road Maintenance Workers. Secondary Roads Coordinates with the County Conservation Department as necessary.

10. **Outreach Education and Alliances**

As part of the County's IRVM plan, outreach, education, and alliances include:

- a. Develop a public awareness campaign to gain support for integrated management through media, established organizations, seminars and brochures
- b. Obtain educational and informational material on IRVM to be presented in seminars and distributed to adjacent landowners, the general public, consultants and contractors
- c. Provide guidelines and directives for contractors and others who seed, plant and maintain roadsides
- d. Prepare and distribute instructions on preservation of desirable areas and treatment of areas that need improvement
- e. Gather, develop and distribute information with other jurisdictions; seek and share information with other counties
- f. Encourage research in all aspects of IRVM, such as: road design for improving IRVM, planting methods, management practices, seed sources, seeding rates, seed mixes, and planting materials
- g. Encourage use of native seeds and plant materials native to Iowa

11. **Material Procurement**

1. Sourcing

1. Seed, fertilizer, mulch, and other materials needed for IRVM practices are purchased at fair market value through reliable vendors. Material pricing is reviewed annually after contacting the area vendors to provide quotes on the needed items for the coming year. This review is done to purchase the products at the best price possible and to meet our needs. Louisa County does and will continue to participate in LRTF grant process for native seeds.

2. Material Handling and Storage

1. Materials are to be stored in a sheltered area when possible. Critical items like seed are purchased on an as needed basis to minimize storage time and an inventory of upcoming seeding projects is made to determine quantity required.

13. EQUIPMENT

2003 GMC TruckKat with Tiger Boom Mower

1992 Cat End Loader 1T28B

1995 Ford Tractor 6640L

1998 New Holland 6640

2014 Kubota M110 Tractor

2018 Massey Ferguson Tractor

2014 Schulte Batwing Mower

2016 Schulte Rock Retriever

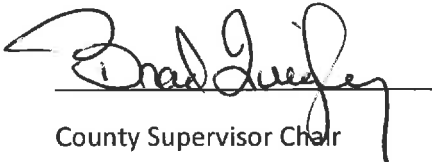
2013 New Holland Disc Mower

2015 New Holland Disc Mower

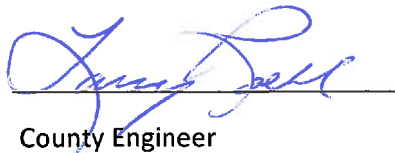
2018 Kubota Disc Mower

12. Plan Review

This is a flexible plan requiring common sense interpretations with changes as necessary to fit the ever-changing complex circumstances realized in roadside vegetation management.


County Supervisor Chair

12/23/19
Date


County Engineer

12/23/2019
Date

Appendix:

Louisa County Transportation Map

Permit for use of Road Right-of-Way

Application for Approval of Underground Construction

Application for Driveway and Field Access

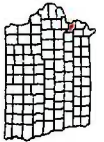
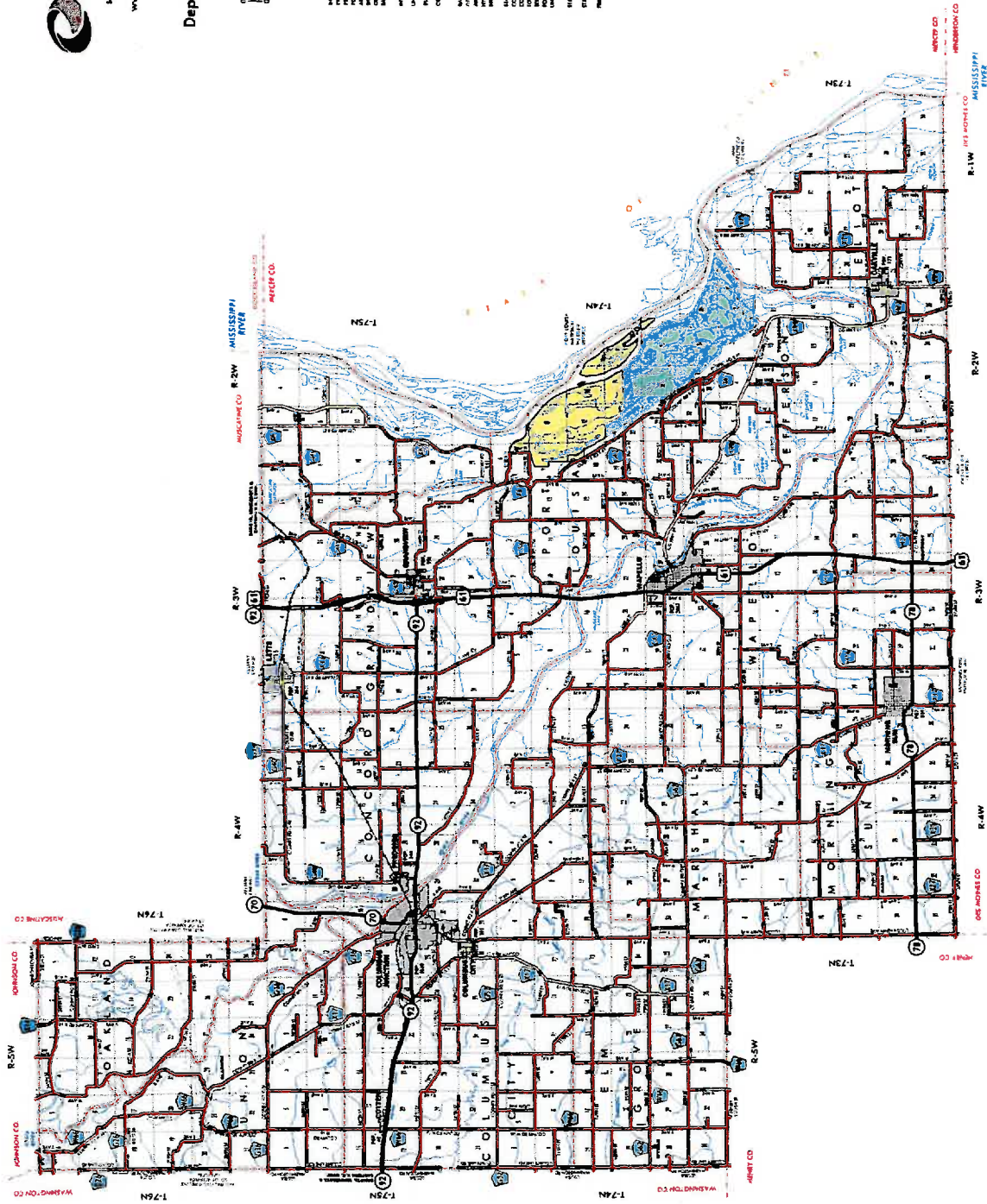
LOUISA COUNTY IOWA



In Cooperation With
United States
Department of Transportation
JANUARY 1, 2019



- LEGEND**
1:50,000
- [Symbol] FEDERAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM
 - [Symbol] STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM
 - [Symbol] COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM
 - [Symbol] LOCAL ROAD SYSTEM
 - [Symbol] UNIMproved HIGHWAY
 - [Symbol] RAILROAD
 - [Symbol] AIRPORT
 - [Symbol] MAR. TERMINAL
 - [Symbol] COUNTY HIGHWAY
 - [Symbol] COUNTY ROAD
 - [Symbol] COUNTY TRAIL
 - [Symbol] UNIMproved ROAD
 - [Symbol] UNIMproved PLACE
 - [Symbol] STATE HIGHWAY
 - [Symbol] STATE HIGHWAY
 - [Symbol] PRIVATE ROAD



LOUISA COUNTY, IOWA

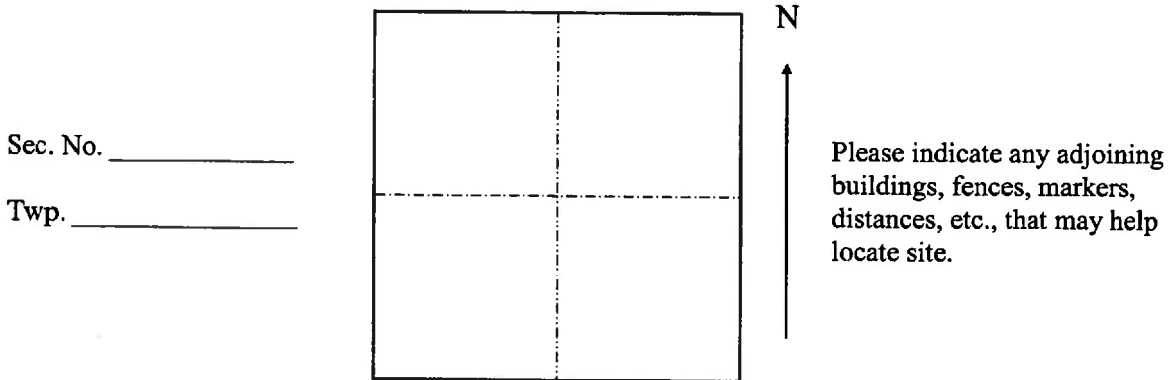
PERMIT TO ENCROACH UPON RIGHT-OF-WAY

Applicant _____ Telephone Number _____

Address _____
 (Street/Post Office Box) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

In accordance with the policy of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors, applications for plowing, tilling or planting of grasses within County right-of-way; fencing across an open waterway or in the right-of-way; excavation in the roadway or road ditches including the deepening of a ditch, excavation, fill or physical change in the right-of-way; or any other use of the right-of-way other than specified above must be approved by the Engineer's Office.

Please use the following diagram of a typical section to locate the proposed encroachment.



Describe intended use of right-of-way: _____

Comments: _____

Restrictions: _____

Date: _____

 Signature of Applicant

----- Office Portion -----

Reviewed by _____ Date _____

Approved by _____ Date _____

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF UTILITY CONSTRUCTION
ON LOUISA COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY**

This is a Utility Permit for telecommunications, electric, gas, water, and sewer utilities. The applicant agrees to comply with the following permit requirements. Compliance shall be determined by the sole discretion of the County Engineer as deemed necessary to promote public health, safety, and general welfare. These requirements shall apply unless waived in writing by the County Engineer prior to installation.

APPLICANT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____ PHONE: _____

1. **LOCATION PLAN.** An applicant shall file a completed location plan as an attachment to this Utility Permit Application. The location plan shall set forth the location of the proposed line on the secondary road system and include a description of the proposed installation.
2. **WRITTEN NOTICE.** At least 10 working days prior to the proposed installation, an applicant shall file with the County Engineer a written notice stating the time, date, location and nature of the proposed installation.
3. **INSPECTION.** The County Engineer may provide a full-time inspector during the installation of all lines to insure compliance with this Utility Permit. The inspector may have the right, during reasonable hours and after showing proper identification, to enter any installation site in the discharge of the inspector's official duties, and to make any inspection or test that is reasonably necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.
4. ***INSPECTION FEE.** Upon approval of the application by the Board of Supervisors, the Utility Permit will be issued by the County Engineer upon payment of the required prepaid inspection fee made payable to the County Treasurer's Office. The fees shall be as follows:

Telecommunications	\$1,000.00	Electric	\$1,000.00
Gas	\$1,000.00	Water	\$1,000.00
Sewer	\$1,000.00		

***Inspection Fee may be waived by the County Engineer.**

5. **REMITTANCE OF FEES.** The applicant shall pay actual costs directly attributable to the installation inspection conducted by the County Engineer. Payment shall be made out of the prepaid inspection fee. Within thirty (30) days after completion of the installation, the County Engineer shall remit any unused portions of the prepaid inspection fee to the applicant, along with a statement for services rendered. Excess inspection fees above \$1,000.00 must be paid by the applicant.
6. **REQUIREMENTS.** The installation inspector shall assure that the following requirements have been met:
 - A. Construction signing shall comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
 - B. **Depth:** (Add additional depth if ditch has silted to the thickness of the deposited silt.) The minimum depth cover shall be as follows:

Telecommunications.....	36"	Electric.....	48"
Gas.....	48"	Water.....	60"
Sewer.....	60"		
 - C. The Applicant shall use reference markers in the right-of-way (R.O.W.) boundary to locate line and changes in alignment as required by the County Engineer. A permanent warning tape shall be placed one (1) foot above all underground utility lines.
 - D. All tile line locations shall be marked with references located in the R.O.W.
 - E. No Underground utility lines shall cross over a crossroad drainage structure.
 - F. Residents along the utility route shall have uninterrupted access to the public roads. An all-weather access shall be maintained for residents adjacent to the project.
 - G. A joint assessment of the road surfacing shall be made by the applicant and the County Engineer both before and after construction. After construction, granular surfacing shall be added to the road by the applicant to restore the road to its original condition. After surfacing has been applied, the road surface shall be reviewed by the County Engineer once the road has been saturated, to determine if additional surfacing on the roadway by the applicant is necessary.
 - H. All damaged areas within the R.O.W. shall be repaired and restored to at least its former condition by the applicant or the cost of any repair work caused to be performed by the County will be assessed against the applicant.

- I. Areas disturbed during construction that present an erosion problem shall be solved by the applicant in a manner approved by the County Engineer.
 - J. All trenches, excavations, and utilities that are knifed shall be properly tamped.
 - K. All utilities shall be located between the bottom of the backslope and the bottom of the foreslope, unless otherwise approved in writing by the County Engineer prior to installation.
 - L. Road Crossings shall be bored. The depth below the road surface shall match the minimum depth of cover for the respective utility.
7. **NON CONFORMING WORK.** The County Engineer may halt the installation at any time if the applicant's work does not meet the requirements set forth in this Utility Permit.
 8. **EMERGENCY WORK.** In emergency situations, work may be initiated by an applicant without first obtaining a Utility Permit. However, a Utility Permit must be obtained within fourteen (14) days of the initiation of the work. All emergency work shall be done in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance and shall be inspected for full compliance.
 9. **COUNTY INFRACTION.** Violation of this permit is a county infraction under Iowa Code section 331.307, punishable by a civil penalty of \$100 for each violation. Each day that a violation occurs or is permitted to exist by the applicant constitutes a separate offense.
 10. **HOLD HARMLESS.** The utility company shall save this County harmless of any damages resulting from the applicant's operations. A copy of a certificate of insurance naming this County as an additional insured for the permit work shall be filed in County Engineer's Office prior to installation. The minimum limits of liability under the insurance policy shall be \$1,000,000.
 11. **PERMIT REQUIRED.** No applicant shall install any lines unless such applicant has obtained a Utility Permit from the County Engineer and has agreed in writing that said installation will comply with all ordinances and requirements of the County for such work. Applicants agree to hold the County free from liability for all damage to applicant's property which occurs proximately as a result of the applicant's failure to comply with said ordinances or requirements.
 12. **RELOCATION.** The applicant shall, at any time subsequent to installation of utility lines, at the applicant's own expense, relocate or remove such lines as may become necessary to conform to new grades, alignment or widening of R.O.W. resulting from maintenance or construction operations for highway improvements.

DATE: _____

NAME OF COMPANY: _____

BY: _____

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:

DATE: _____

 COUNTY ENGINEER

 CHAIRPERSON, LOUISA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION
ON LOUISA COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY**

APPLICANT: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CONTRACTOR: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

LOCATION OF CONSTRUCTION: _____

ANTICIPATED DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: _____

PURPOSE FOR CONSTRUCTION: _____

Louisa County
Application for Entrance Culvert or Fill

DATE: _____

APPLICANT: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO. _____

REQUESTING ENTRANCE TO BE: ADDED _____ or MOVED _____

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ENTRANCE: (ATTACH MAP)

Reason for construction of entrance: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

For Office Use Only:

Requires Pipe _____ Does Not Require Pipe _____

Diameter Required _____ Inch

Approved By: _____

Maintenance Superintendent

Date: _____