

Shelby County IRVM Plan

2025 Update

Preface

The following is an updated plan for the Shelby County Roadside Management Department. The plan includes history, structure, and technical elements.

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2) Contributors to the plan:

The Shelby County Roadside Manager, Shelby County Engineer and the Shelby County Roadside Management Advisory Committee.

Day to day decisions are made by the Roadside Manager and County Engineer, Superintendent and Secondary Roads Foremen. Budgeting, grant writing and equipment needs are decided between the Engineer and Roadside Manager.

3) Summary

Shelby County has 950 miles of roads consisting of paved, rock and earth surfaces. This equates to thousands of acres of roadside ditches and areas that need managed for trees, brush, noxious weeds, and invasive species. Contractors and county crews doing roadwork projects disturb hundreds of acres of vegetation each year. This leads to new areas for seeding. The Shelby County Roadside Management Office oversees all aspects of vegetation management. This includes spraying roadsides for trees, noxious weeds, invasive plants, and reseeding all completed construction projects.

4) Goals

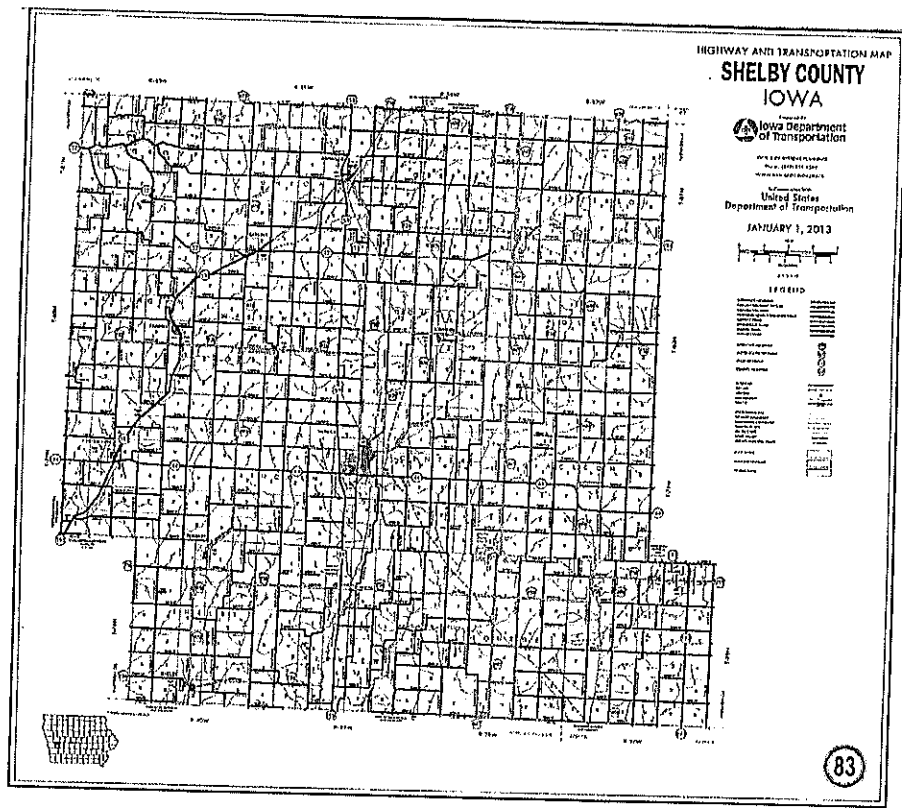
The goal for Shelby County IRVM is to control erosion. Systematically control the spread of noxious trees, brush, and invasive species. With the plan in place, we will be able to provide beauty to the roadsides and increase habitat for wildlife along the way. Much of the time this is achieved by planting and maintaining native vegetation.

5) History

Shelby County Roadside Management was established in 1995 after finding the county needed a more efficient way of controlling noxious weeds in the rights-of-way. There was also a savings projected in the revegetation projects the county had been previously contracting for.

Initially, the entire seeding, spraying program, and Weed Commissioner activities for the county was accomplished for the same dollar amount as the spraying alone the previous year. The Supervisors were sold! Since then more duties such as mowing, some snow removal and brush cutting have been added to the duties of the IRVM program.

6) Map of Shelby County



6) Jurisdictional Recognition and Approval

Management: The Shelby County Roadside Manager oversees the Shelby County IRVM program. The day-to-day duties of the Roadside Manager are set by the Roadside Manager with input from the County Engineer, Superintendent, and Road Foreman. The Board of Supervisors set budgets with input from the Engineer and Roadside Manager. This leads to all the county's citizens are happy with the production from the various departments. Rules and Regulations that must be followed by the Roadside Manager:

- Iowa Code 314.22 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management
- Pesticide Applicator License # PO 05579 000 for Shelby County Roadside Management
- Iowa Noxious Weed Law
- Iowa code 314.17 Mowing Law
- Local Laws: Shelby County has Ordinances relating to Roadsides that can be viewed at:
(URL's to these laws can be found in the Appendices)

7) Inventory and Analysis

An initial plant inventory of Shelby County Roadsides was taken in 1995. The records are stored in the Roadside Managers Office. These records have not been looked at since they were collected. They have, however, been put on a CD from a floppy disk. We also have a hard copy.

Shelby County Roadside uses paper records for spraying and seed records. We have started using the new computer entry for the TAP seed reports. We often use the counties Beacon GPS site for aerial maps, pictures and landowner information.

8) Program Structure

Flow chart: Shelby County Board of Supervisors -> County Engineer-> Roadside Manager -> full time help when assigned and all seasonal help.

The Shelby County Roadside Department employs a full-time Roadside Manager and a 3/4-time Roadside Technician. We also employ a 6-month Spray Technician or Summer Intern. Our staffing needs are adequate currently with the current budget level.

Shelby County IRVM started a Roadside Management Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of a Supervisor, the Engineer, the Roadside Manager, and 2 county landowners with knowledge of plants and agronomy.

9) Annual Operations

The Shelby County Roadside Management Office performs the following duties:

Seeding of road projects and other county projects as needed. Projects include ditch cleanings, culvert and bridge replacements, and road regrades.

Install silt fence and erosion blankets on new construction projects as needed.

Spraying of all counties owned areas including roadsides, lawns, and some conservation areas. We spray for brush control, noxious weeds and invasive plant control.

Active county Weed Commissioner

Organize crews for brush cutting and brush mowing. Crew members include maintainer, truck, and excavator operators. This is performed mainly in the winter months.

Mowing of highway shoulders and other roadside areas for sight distance safety and weed / brush control.

Native species seed harvesting.

Conduct prescribed burns on county roadsides and other county areas.

Fill in as needed with snow removal.

Grant writing and record keeping.

Purchase seed, chemicals and mulch.

Perform daily and scheduled maintenance on equipment and make repairs as needed.

Timing of Duties:

Springtime starts with burning of roadsides, drilling and hydroseeding seed, scouting for weeds.

Summer is drilling and hydroseeding as conditions allow, spraying for brush and noxious weeds, and mowing including new seeding sites and road shoulders.

Fall is drilling and hydroseeding seed as time permitted, finishing up mowing, harvesting native species, and hooking up the brush mower and mowing brush. Also winterizing equipment and getting ready for winter.

Winter, we organize brush cutting operations and cut brush and danger trees with a crew of secondary roads workers. We also keep the brush mower going when conditions allow. I also fill in as needed with snow removal. This is the time of year we also do heavier equipment maintenance such as replacing seed drill scrapers, etc.

10) Methods

All of our seeding methods are outlined in the IRVM Technical Manual found at:

<http://www.uni.edu/~irvm/techmanual/IRVM-Technical-Manual.pdf>.

We do not vary from this manual very often.

We will drill every chance when can, but if it is too steep or wet, we will hydroseed. Drilling is faster, cheaper, and offers better chance of establishment because of the increased seed to soil contact.

Seed selection is based on the site. Most of the time ditch cleanings and new construction are seeded to natives from the TAP seed. If it is a wet area, we will use cool season grasses. Occasionally we must reseed lawns due to construction and ditch cleaning activities.

We do not mulch in most situations unless it is a highly sensitive area, steep area, or lawn. We will use erosion blankets on sensitive areas also from time to time.

All other methods are outlined by detail in the IRVM Technical Manual.

11) Material Procurement

The Shelby County Supervisors ask that we buy all materials locally as often as possible.

Our cool season seed and cover crops are purchased at a local farm store. In exchange for us buying seed, they are more than happy to let us as much water as we wish from their 3-inch water line for filling our hydro seeder.

Any native seed needed is purchased from a couple of local seed growers.

Erosion mat, hydro mulch, and tackifier are purchased and delivered from ASP in Omaha. We have limited storage for pallets of mulch so ASP will deliver 6 pallets at a time for us.

Our chemicals are mostly purchased at Van Diest, which has a warehouse 1 block from our shop. We also purchase from Midwest Spray Team and Sales.

The TAP seed, and all other seeds are stored in our seed room, which is climate controlled and mouse proof. Chemicals are stored at a minimum and in a shed that houses our spray truck. Most chemicals are dry forms.

12) Equipment

2017 Ford F-450 pickup

2003 Ford F-350 pickup

1999 Ford F-350 spray truck with 500-gallon tank

2011 30 ft. Gooseneck Trailer

2018 1500-gallon Finn Hydro seeder

2012 Truax U series drill

2006 8 - foot Truax drill and 6 - foot Truax Drill

Greenscape seeder

2001 New Holland TN55 tractor

1999 Silt fence plow

2014 6-foot disk

2000 Trillion Cultipacker
 2017 John Deere UTV with sprayer and seeder attachments
 2008 Agco RT100 tractor with Diamond 25-foot boom mower
 2023 Vermeer Disk Mower
 older 3-point boom sprayer
 2000 3-point bush hog mower
 2015 Gramegna spading machine
 Bobcat forestry cutter
 2019 Landpride field cultivator

- **Grants**

Grant Applicant	Fiscal Year	Project Name	Awarded Amount
Shelby County	1996	Seed	\$15,385.05
Shelby County	1996	Inventory	\$4,500.00
Shelby County	1997	Inventory	\$4,500.00
Shelby County	1998	Equipment - Hydro mulcher	\$8,280.00
Shelby County	1999	Equipment - Truax drill	\$10,000.00
Shelby County	2000	Seed	\$5,325.00
Shelby County	2001	Seed	\$3,116.00
City of Defiance	2004	Gateway planting	\$2,654.00
Shelby County Roadside Management	2006	Equipment - Hydro seeder	\$9,200.00
Shelby County Roadside Management	2007	Equipment - Brush chipper Equipment - McCormick silt fence	\$7,500.00
Shelby County	2008	plow	\$4,420.00
City of Defiance	2009	City walking trail planting	\$1,784.93
Shelby County Roadside Management	2009	Equipment - Seeder	\$8,800.00
Shelby County Roadside Management	2010	Equipment - GPS	\$3,976.00
Shelby County	2011	Equipment - Digital camera	\$319.00
Shelby County Roadside Management	2013	Equipment - UTV	\$8,000.00
Shelby County IRVM	2014	Equipment - Mower	\$10,000.00
Shelby County Roadside Management	2015	Land Pride DH2572 Disk	\$3,040.00
Shelby County Roadside Management	2017	Bobcat 60" Forestry Cutter	\$15,000.00



Shelby County Roadside Management	2017	Heavy Duty Truck Kincaid Pro Series 1200 Hydro	\$10,000.00
Shelby County Roadside Management	2018	Mulcher	\$24,000.00
Shelby County	2019	Land Pride FC15 Field Cultivator	\$863.20
Shelby County	2019	Wohlers Slip-in Fire Unit	\$4,000.00

12) Appendices

- Iowa Code 314.22 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management
<http://coolice.legis.iowa.gov/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=iowaCode&ga=83&input=314#314.22>
- Pesticide Applicator License # PO 05579 000 for Shelby County Roadside Management
- Iowa Noxious Weed Law

<http://coolice.legis.iowa.gov/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=iowaCode&ga=83&input=317>

- Iowa code 314.17 Mowing Law
- Local Laws: Shelby County has Ordinances relating to Roadsides that can be viewed at: <http://www.shco.org/CountyDocuments.aspx?EntryId=522>

Signatures:

 _____ May 7, 2024

Roadside Manager
 _____ **Date:** May 7, 2024

County Engineer
 _____ **Date:** May 7, 2024

County Supervisor
 _____ **Date:** May 7, 2024