

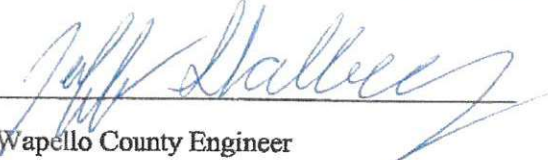
## Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Statement of Support

The Wapello County Board of Supervisors, the Wapello County Engineer, the Wapello County Conservation Board and the Wapello County Conservation Director and Education Specialist came together in cooperation, common goals and shared ideas to manage the Wapello County roads using Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) principles.

We realize IRVM will be beneficial to our roadside management goals while being economically and environmentally beneficial. We also realize the increasing importance of public education programs, community outreach and involvement in understanding roadside management practices.

We understand that working together towards 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 Wapello County. We hereby agree to manage Wapello County Roadsides according to the provisions described within this management plan.

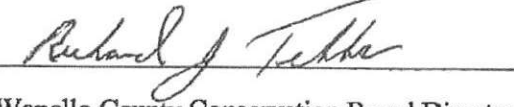
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Wapello County Engineer

5/13/21  
Date

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Wapello County Conservation Board Director

5/13/2021  
Date

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Wapello County Conservation Board Chairperson

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Date

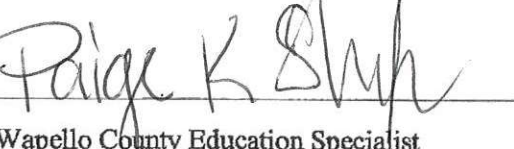
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Wapello County Board of Supervisor Chairperson

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Date

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Wapello County Education Specialist

5/13/21  
Date

# Wapello County Integrated Vegetation Management Plan

## ❖ Preface

### ➤ **Version**

- **Wapello County IRVM Plan creation May 2021 – Version 1**

### ➤ **Contributors**

- **Paige Shafer – Education Specialist**

### ➤ **Table of Contents**

- **Preface ..... pg 2**
  - **Version**
  - **Contributors**
  - **Table of Contents**
- **Executive Program Elements ..... pg 3**
  - **Goals**
  - **Program History**
  - **IRVM Decision Making Process**
  - **Executive Summary**
  - **Area Map**
  - **Program Type**
- **Jurisdictional Approval ..... pg 4**
  - **Management**
  - **Board of Supervisors**
  - **Iowa Code, Local Laws and Regulations**
  - **Permits**
- **Program Organizational Structure .....pg 5**
  - **Staff Organizational Structure**
  - **Staffing Needs**
- **Inventory and Analysis.....pg 6**
  - **Natural Resources**
  - **Equipment**
- **Program Operations.....pg 7**
  - **Annual Operations**
  - **Vegetation Types for Specific Uses**

- **Methods .....pg 7**
  - **Vegetation Establishment and Maintenance**
- **Material Procurement.....pg 8**
  - **Sourcing**
  - **Material Handling and Storage**
- **Plan Review.....pg 9**
  - **Signatures**
- **Appendix .....pg 10**

❖ **Executive Program Elements**

➤ **Goals**

- Establish an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management program as a joint effort between Wapello County Secondary Roads Department and Wapello County Conservation with support from the Board of Supervisors and Conservation Board.
- Evaluate the possibility of establishing a full time Roadside Manager position.
- Completed an updated roadside inventory.
- Provide safe, functional, and ecologically improved corridors of travel throughout the county.
- Reduce the presence of noxious weeds on County property and right of ways through effective and efficient management techniques.
- Utilize a long term integrated management program that promotes native plant communities that are resilient.
- Continue to control brush within County right of ways to ensure safe travel and reduce maintenance efforts.

➤ **Program History**

- Wapello County has never had an IRVM program. The County did receive seed through the LRTE program in the early 1990's.
- A roadside inventory was completed in 1997.

- **IRVM Decision Making Process**
  - Wapello County Secondary Roads and Wapello County will collaborate to use IRVM techniques to address roadside projects and potential problems that arise. This collaboration process will be led by the Education Specialist.
  
- **Executive Summary**
  - Wapello County's vegetation management goals will meet safety and functional requirements for departmental maintenance and the public. These are to maintain a clear zone recovery area, meet minimal sight distance requirements, and improve roadway characteristics related to drainage, erosion and snow removal.
  - Wapello County is also required by Iowa law to control noxious weeds. Through the use of IRVM techniques it will also assist in noxious weed management.
  - Paved and non-paved roadways will be managed differently because of the different levels of service, traffic volumes and other differing management needs.
  
- **Map**
  - Please refer to Figure 1 in the Appendix
  
- **Program Type**
  - The Education Specialist within the Wapello County Conservation Board will serve as the roadside manager until a fulltime roadside manager is hired. Equipment and staff expertise from the Wapello County Secondary Roads Department and Wapello County Conservation Board will be shared to maximize the effectiveness and success of the program. Decision making will be a joint effort between the Education Specialist, Conservation Director, County Engineer and delegated members of their departments.
  
- ❖ **Jurisdictional Recognition and Approval**
  - **Management**
    - Education Specialist
      - Maintains roadside inventory and monitors vegetative communities.
      - Makes recommendations and provides expertise designed to promote, establish, and maintain native plant communities.
      - Control and manage noxious weeds.
      - Reviews IRVM funding needs on annual basis and applies for LRTF funding and other grants as needed.
      - Assist with the control of noxious weeds, brush control and mowing.
      - Performs public relations, outreach and education.

- Conservation Director
  - Assigns staff and equipment for the use in IRVM
  - Reviews IRVM funding needs on annual basis and applies for LRTF funding and other grants as needed.
- County Engineer
  - Makes decisions where road maintenance and constructions projects will take place throughout the county.
  - Reviews IRVM funding needs on annual basis and applies for LRTF funding and other grants as needed.
  - Assigns staff and equipment for the use in IRVM
- Secondary Roads and Conservation Employees-
  - Oversee equipment maintenance and purchase.
  - Control noxious weeds through various management tools.
  - Remove brush and coordinate mowing.
- **Board of Supervisors**
  - The Board of Supervisors aids in hearing public input in IRVM operations. Through the approval of the budgets for the Conservation and Secondary Roads, Supervisors will also review and approve the budget for IRVM operations.
- **Applicable State Laws and Regulations**
  - Iowa Law Section 314.17 Mowing on Secondary Roads
  - Iowa Law Section 314.22 IRVM
  - Iowa Law Section 317 Noxious Weeds
  - Iowa Law Section 318.3 Obstructions in Highway Right of Way
- **Permits and Agreements**
  - Permits are filed through the Wapello County Engineer's Office. Permits are filled out by the applicant then submitted to the County Engineer for approval. Applications possibly affecting the IRVM program can be found in the appendix.
- ❖ **Program Organizational Structure**
  - **Staff Organizational Structure**
    - The Education Specialist will work with the Conservation Director and County Engineer to distribute the workload to follow the IRVM plan. The hierarchy is listed below:
      - Education Specialist
      - County Engineer/County Conservation Board Director
      - County Conservation and Secondary Roads Staff

➤ **Staffing Needs**

- Wapello County's IRVM plan requires staff to be available for seeding, spraying, mowing and brush removal. Staff will be utilized when their schedules allows.
- Currently there are 3 secondary road employees and 4 conservation employees that are certified pesticide applicators.

❖ **Inventory and Analysis**

➤ **Natural Resources**

▪ **Tools**

• **Mapping**

- Wapello County will maintain a living project list for the Education Specialist and or Roadside Manager to develop a list of seeding projects.

- Maps will be created annually that show where landowners request no spray or no mowing. The maps are created each as signed agreements are good for 1 year.

▪ **Recordkeeping**

- Wapello County will record seeding dates, quantities used, and maintenance plan in an excel file organized by Township, Range, Section and Road Name.

▪ **Geospatial**

- Wapello County will use GIS and GPS data to track the IRVM program goals and accomplishments.

➤ **Vegetation**

- Inventory of existing vegetation conditions of the right of ways is vital to the success of the goals of the IRVM plan. This inventory will consist of official and unofficial reports. The official reports includes data collection and records on a county wide scope to keep track of areas where vegetation has been planted and roadsides improved to minimize erosion and undesirable plants. Unofficial inventory includes county staff identifying problem areas and creating a management plan to address it.

➤ **Equipment**

- Wapello County has a variety of pieces of equipment that are used on a regular basis as part of our roadside management program. See the equipment list attached in the appendix.

❖ **Program Operations**

➤ **Annual Operations**

- January – March
  - Cutting trees and brush
  - Repairing equipment
  - Planning upcoming projects
  - Ordering equipment and supplies
- April – September
  - Seeding
  - RX fires
  - Erosion control projects
  - Mowing
  - Spraying
- October – December
  - Cutting trees and brush
  - Equipment maintenance
  - Dormant Seeding
  - Monitoring site

➤ **Vegetation Types for Specific Uses**

- Selection of plant material will be based on the site, plant performance, cost and availability. Prairie seed or native seed mixes will be used on steeper ROWs where future maintenance is harder to reach. In front of houses or in areas where traffic is heavier, a higher diversity mix will be used if available.
- Construction projects performed under contract will typically use IDOT grasses or other mixes as directed by the permit.

➤ **Mowing**

- Mowing is typically completed between Memorial Day and Labor Day but is adjusted as needed.
- Shoulder mowing is completed on all roads once per year and paved roads twice per year.
- Paved roads the entire right of way is mowed once per year.

❖ **Methods**

➤ **Vegetation Establishment and Maintenance**

- Procedures
  - Wapello County will follow the procedures used in the IRVM technical manual.
- Site Preparation

- Equipment is used to level the soils surface by breaking up dirt clods and removing debris.
- **Seed Mixtures and Rates**
  - Prairie seed is planted at the rate suggested by University of Northern Iowa's Tallgrass Prairie Center. At steep right of way locations the seeding rate will be doubled.
- **Seeding techniques**
  - This will be determined on a site by site basis. Techniques include but are not limited to; hydro seeding, broadcasting and drilling.
- New and established plantings will be monitored actively for further management. Management includes but is not limited to:
  - Mowing
  - Spot spraying
  - Cover crops
  - Rx fire
- All management performed will be documented and kept in records.
- **Mowing**
  - Maintenance mowing of new prairie plantings are carried out as needed especially during the first or second year.
- Chemical control for noxious weeds - herbicides are used by either hand or truck mounted sprayers and are performed by certified pesticide applicators.

❖ **Material Procurement**

➤ **Sourcing**

- 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. Wapello County will participate in LRTF grants.

➤ **Material Handling and Storage**


- Materials are to be stored in a sheltered area when available. Critical items like seed and chemicals are stored in their designated areas.

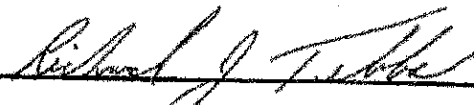
❖ **Plan Review**

- This is a flexible plan requiring common sense interpretation with changes as needed to fit the ever changing circumstances that involve IRVM.



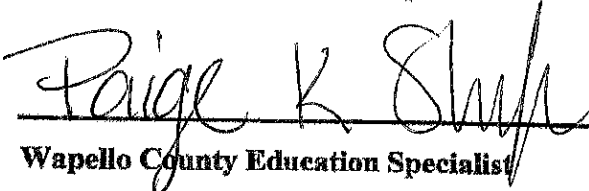
❖ Signatures

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wapello County Engineer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wapello County Conservation Board Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wapello County Conservation Board Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wapello County Board of Supervisor Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wapello County Education Specialist

❖ Appendix

### WORK IN RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT WAPELLO COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS

536 Mill Street  
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Phone: (641) 684-5425 | Fax: (641) 684-8539

Email: [all\\_engineer@wapellocounty.org](mailto:all_engineer@wapellocounty.org)

The applicant agrees to comply with the following permit requirements. 31.8.8 Code of Iowa

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil Township: \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

<p>Description of Work:</p>          
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**The applicant agrees to all of the following:**

- At least two (2) working days prior to the proposed work, an applicant shall file with the County Engineer a notice stating the time, date, location, and nature of the proposed work.
- The County Engineer may provide an inspector during the work to ensure compliance with this Utility Permit. The inspection shall be limited to any construction work performed within the right-of-way as it relates to the condition of the right-of-way; the applicant shall provide reasonable cooperation.
- Provide all traffic control devices required in conformance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Preserve or restore all parts of the public right-of-way to a condition at least as good as that prior to commencement of this work and to such conditions as deemed acceptable by the County Engineer.
- Provide Wapello County with a certificate of insurance indicating that Wapello County is **additionally insured** and that applicant has in effect for the duration of described work, insurance with the following minimum coverage:

<u>Public Liability Insurance</u>	<u>Property Damages Insurance</u>
Per Person: \$100,000	Each Occurrence \$50,000
Each Occurrence: \$300,000	

- 6. Backfill all trenches or excavation made between the outside edges of the shoulders of the road with compacted granular materials.
- 7. Perform all work necessary for right-of-way restoration in conformance with the Standard Specifications for Highway and Bridge Construction of the Iowa Department of Transportation, including all current additions and revisions. The applicant further agrees to perform this work in accordance with any applicable standards of the Wapello County Secondary Road Department.
- 8. Provide Wapello County with a \$1,000 guarantee (Bond or Check) that the described work will be performed as indicated.
- 9. The County reserves the right to halt the work at any time if the applicant's work does not meet the requirements set forth in this Permit. The County reserves the right to inspect and approve any work performed within its right-of-way as it relates to the condition of the right-of-way; compliance shall be determined by the sole discretion of the County Engineer. These requirements shall apply unless waived in writing, due to unique local conditions, by the County Engineer prior to installation; any such waiver shall be attached to the permit.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify any utilities that may be in the right-of-way at the proposed site. Location of these utilities are obtained by phoning One Call at 1-800-292-8989. One Call shall be notified at least 48 hours prior to construction.

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Special Provisions:

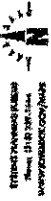
APPROVAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 COUNTY ENGINEER

\_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION MAP

**WAPELO COUNTY**  
IOWA



Revised by  
United States  
Department of Transportation  
JANUARY 1, 2020



LEGEND

[Symbol]	Interstate
[Symbol]	U.S. Highway
[Symbol]	State Highway
[Symbol]	County Road
[Symbol]	Local Road
[Symbol]	Waterway
[Symbol]	Other

