

# AUDUBON COUNTY INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GENERAL PLAN

## I. PREFACE

### a. Update / Version

March, 2015

2<sup>nd</sup> update of the Audubon County IRVM General Plan

### b. Contributors to the Plan

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**II. EXECUTIVE PROGRAM ELEMENTS**

**a. Goals**

Goal 1: Establish and maintain a self-sustaining and visually interesting plant community within the county right-of-way that provides for public safety, controls weeds, reduces erosion, improves infiltration, maintains drainage patterns, provides habitat, and provides a reduction in long term maintenance costs.

Objectives:

- Promote, establish, and manage native plant materials whenever possible
- Survey and maintain an updated inventory of the vegetative community and plant species found within the county right-of-way
- Determine and implement the best IRVM practices for maintaining the right-of-way for public safety and an economically and environmentally sustainable plant community
- Continually evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of implemented IRVM techniques
- Work with landowners, and community groups to implement IRVM principles and roadside beautification projects
- Adjust the plan as needed to accommodate new concepts

Goal 2: Provide a public relations program to build community support for the Audubon County Roadside Management Program

Objectives:

- Develop and submit news releases to the local print and media
- Develop and present oral presentations to local community groups including government officials
- Provide printed materials such as brochures and signage to promote the IRVM program
- Provide support and endorse special roadway designations such as the Scenic Byways Program

Goal 3: Network with other organizations to provide an efficient and cost effective program for the residents of Audubon County

Objectives:

- Coordinate roadside management activities with the State IRVM Coordinator and DOT Living Roadways Trust Fund Coordinator
- Coordinate roadside management activities with the Tallgrass Prairie Center, University of Northern Iowa

- Work with officials representing local conservation organizations to establish support for the IRVM program

Goal 4: Implement Chapter 317 of the Code of Iowa, Iowa’s Noxious Weed Law, using principles adopted by the IRVM program

Objectives:

- Work with the Audubon County IRVM Committee to determine and implement a specific approach to manage and control noxious weeds
- Work with private landowners to implement IRVM practices in controlling noxious weeds
- Maintain written records and submit reports as required by the Noxious Weed Law

Goal 5: Work towards a roadside spraying program that promotes the reduction of herbicide use whenever possible

Objectives:

- Favor equipment and best management practices for weed and brush control that maximize efficiency and effectiveness of herbicide applications
- Constantly scrutinize those species of brush and weeds that need to be controlled with herbicides and those that do not, as well as the effectiveness of the herbicides and control measures used
- Focus herbicide applications on those species of weeds, including State Listed Noxious Weeds, un-listed invasive species, and other species, that need to be controlled with herbicide on the basis of their current potential economic threat or hardship to agriculture, ecological threat to natural areas, as well as their potential threat to the establishment of a sustainable vegetative community in roadsides
- Ensure that any comprehensive spraying program for weeds and / or brush is economically and environmentally sustainable

#### **b. Program History**

Audubon County set in place its first Roadside Management Plan on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1992. The main goals were to reestablish native vegetation and reduce the amount of spraying that was being done. An updated version was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1996. The plan added GIS software and mapping capabilities, it was also more detailed than the original plan.

#### **c. IRVM Decision Making Process**

Disturbance and change in roadsides is inherent and unavoidable in many cases. New construction and drainage maintenance, along with utilities and other actions covered by Alteration of Right-of-Way Permits, are opportunities to re-establish a ground cover

of diverse native plant communities as outlined in the Mission / Vision of IRVM in Audubon County. Current IRVM methods will be used as these instances arise, and those actions most consistent with the goals and concepts of roadside vegetation management in this plan are considered first priority.

**d. Executive Summary**

The Audubon County IRVM Program recognizes that it is in the general public welfare of Audubon County and a prudent use of county roadsides that the vegetation of Audubon County's roadsides be preserved, planted and maintained to be safe, visually interesting, ecologically integrated, and useful for many purposes. The Audubon County Secondary Roads Department in cooperation with the Audubon County Conservation Board provides an annual roadside vegetation management program which is designed to promote the following:

- Maintenance of a safe travel environment by providing adequate line of sight at intersections, minimizing snow drifting, and removing potentially dangerous trees and other obstructions.
- Serve a variety of public purposes including drainage, erosion control, wildlife habitat, recreational uses, noxious weed control, scenic qualities, utility easements, and sustenance of water quality.
- Emphasize the establishment of adaptable and long lived vegetation, often native species, matched to the unique environment found in and adjacent to the roadside.
- Be based on a systematic assessment of the conditions existing in roadsides, preservation of valuable vegetation and habitats in the area, and the adoption of a comprehensive plan and strategies for long-term, cost effective maintenance of roadsides.
- Build upon a public education program allowing input from adjacent landowners and the general public.

**e. Area Map (Appendix)**

**f. Program Type**

The Audubon County IRVM Program is housed and administered through the Audubon County Secondary Roads and Roadside Departments

**III. JURISDICTIONAL RECOGNITION AND APPROVAL**

**a. Management**

The Roadside Manager works under the County Engineer and in daily coordination with the Maintenance Superintendent in the following context:

County Engineer: Makes decisions on where major construction takes place (re-grades, re-surfacing, bridge replacements, etc.), which, by default determines where the larger native seeding projects are carried out. The Engineer is also involved in the permitting process (Storm water, Wetland Mitigation, Entrances, Alteration or ROW, No Spray Requests). The Engineer and Roadside Manager make the final decisions on all contracted services and annual budget. In direct communication with the Roadside Manager on special projects and day to day work priorities.

Maintenance Superintendent: Delegates daily workload to maintenance employees, approves entrance permits, decides where and when ROW maintenance projects occur (ditch cleanouts, crossroad pipes, entrances, etc.). The Superintendent works with the Roadside Manager with detailed location information on all maintenance work, which determines where seeding takes place. The Superintendent provides the Roadside Manager with laborers as needed. In direct communication with Roadside Manager on special projects and day to day work priorities.

Roadside Manager: Administers the Roadside Program; seeds all bare soil in a timely manner, decides what types of seed to use and when it should be planted, what types of soil prep work are needed, additional erosion control measures, management of native vegetation after establishment (burning, spraying, etc.). Administers roadside spraying program; determines what areas of the county are treated, what types of herbicides are used, what types of vegetation those herbicides are used on. Does Public Education work as opportunities develop. The Roadside Manager decides on budget requests. In direct communication with the Engineer, and Maintenance Superintendent on special projects and day to day work priorities.

**b. Board of Supervisors**

In cooperation with the County Engineer, Roadside Manager, County Conservationist, the Board of Supervisors oversee the planning and implementation of the County Roadside Plan. This includes the Roadside Budget, Equipment updates or additions. The Roadside Manager gives The Board an annual report that points out herbicide use, equipment evaluations, future personnel changes, etc.

**c. Iowa Code and Administrative Rules – State Laws and Regulations**

Section 314.22 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management

Section 314.17 Mowing Law – No mowing before July 15th

Section 317.11 Weeds on Roads - Harvesting of Grass

Section 318.3 Obstructions in ROW / Destruction of plants placed in ROW / Crops in ROW

Chapter 317 Iowa Weed Law – Noxious Weeds and Enforcement Procedures

**d. Local Laws and Regulations**

Local Laws, Regulations, and Policies pertaining to IRVM in Audubon County reflect that of the Iowa Code, as well as any other State and Federal Regulations that are specific to management activities that occur within the jurisdiction of the Audubon County Secondary Roads System. These include but are not limited to:

Iowa Code Chapter 314.22 – IRVM. Adopted by resolution by Audubon County Board of Supervisors.

Iowa Code Chapter 317 – Governs county noxious weed spraying program and Weed Commission actions.

No Spray Requests – Allows landowners to opt out of roadside spraying adjacent to their property in the form of a request.

**e. Permits**

Permits and Requests are obtained at the Audubon County Engineers Office. Individuals describe what work is being performed or the issue of concern and the appropriate permit or request is retrieved. After the permit or request is filled out with the necessary information and fees collected, the permit or request is issued to the individual and a copy is filed with the county.

No spray request

New Entrance Permit

**IV. PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**a. Staff Organizational Chart**

County Engineer  
Roadside Manager  
Maintenance Superintendent  
Seasonal Staff

The County Engineer works with, and through, the Maintenance Superintendent on delegation of workload. The Roadside Manager manages the seeding, spraying, and erosion control as time, availability of equipment and labor, and weather allow. Through

daily communication and prioritization, all Secondary Roads Department staff is subject to department work duties as needed.

**b. Staffing Needs**

Audubon County hires 2-3 Seasonal part-time help each spring in order to get the spraying, seeding, mowing done in a timely manner. The Seasonal workers primarily do the seeding and mowing as directed by the Roadside Manager. Spraying is done by the Roadside Manager and another full time County employee that has a current Iowa Commercial spraying license. In 2014, Audubon County hired a Licensed Commercial Applicator for spraying 18 miles of volunteer trees in the R.O.W. This helped the Roadside Manager with the narrow time frame of application and will be implemented in the future.

Seeding and Erosion Control: Hydro seeding and broadcast seeding are the 2 ways that are currently being implemented. A No-Till drill is planned to be purchased as soon as the Roadside budget allows.

A GIS/GPS Trimble unit was purchased in 2013. Seasonal personnel use this unit to map existing culverts and seeding projects. More personnel need to be trained on the unit to be more versatile.

**V. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

**a. Steering Committee**

The Audubon County IRVM Steering Committee consists of six members as follows:

- County Engineer, Audubon County Secondary Roads Department
- Three members of the Audubon County Board of Supervisors
- One member of the Audubon County Conservation Dept.
- Audubon County Roadside Manager

**b. Partners**

- Audubon County Conservation Department
- Pheasants Forever

- Soil and Water Conservation District

**c. Stakeholders**

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management is implemented on behalf of the citizens of Audubon County.

**d. Education and Outreach**

The main goal of IRVM in Audubon County focuses on the use of specific ideas that aid in the establishment of a thriving and maintainable native plant/animal ecosystem that is consistent with the overall goals of IRVM. Public awareness of these goals and ideas is a high priority for the program.

**e. Communication Mechanisms**

- Local Media
- Internet
- Newspapers
- Brochures
- Oral and visual programs

**VI. INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS**

**a. Tools**

- Mapping – comprehensive records for seeding projects
- Aerial Photography
- GIS – design coherent records
- GPS – records and highlighting planted areas
- Paper Records – trucks, office use
- Ground Photography “before and after” pictures

**b. Vegetation**

Vegetation inventory is done by the Roadside Manager on a daily basis. When spraying, mowing, cutting trees, seeding, the Roadside Manager is aware of the neighboring ditches to the amount of weeds that may need mowed or sprayed. He is also aware of Native vegetation that may need special attention to help get established. A detailed mapping system is very important for this reason. It will tell when the area was seeded, sprayed, mowed, and can be used to plan future projects or actions that may need to be done.

## **C. Equipment**

### Large Equipment

- Brillion drop seeder
- Morbark 2012D Chipper
- 1994 Case-IH 895 Tractor
- 2005 John Deere 6410 Tractor
- IH Bucket truck
- 1998 Chevy 1 ton Pickup
- 2014 Chevy Pickup
- Bowie 800 gallon Hydro seeder
- John Deere CX 15 rotary mower

### Small Equipment

- 2004 Honda ATV
- Trimble GPS Unit
- Del Laptop computer
- 26 gallon ATV sprayer
- ATV 3 point disc
- Chainsaws of various ages
- Chainsaw chaps and other safety equipment
- Miscellaneous hand tools

The current condition and selection of IRVM equipment is overall satisfactory. At this time, these include:

Truck: The 1998 Chevy 1 ton pickup has 200,000 miles on it. This truck has a slide-in sprayer during the summer/fall months but the transmission is not reliable. The sprayer was purchased in 1978 and although it still works, does needs to be updated. The Bowie hydro seeder has a diesel engine with low hours and is in excellent condition. Both tractors are in good working condition, both also have front wheel assist and should be useful for years to come. The used bucket truck was recently purchased by the Roadside Department for tree trimming in the right of way. It is in excellent condition and will provide a safe way of removing aerial obstructions in the County.

ATV: Currently the IRVM Program does have a Honda ATV with various attachments for roadside work such as spraying, prescribed burning, basal spraying, and isolated smaller seeding projects.

Seed Storage: The IRVM program currently has a humidity/temperature controlled seed storage room. It is fitted with a thermostatically controlled heater, an air conditioning unit suitable for this storage room should be considered in the future.

## **VII. A. PROGRAM OPERATIONS**

January – March: Cut trees and brush, update seeding areas, Weed Commissioner Annual Conference, Annual weed report to Supervisors and State Commissioner, Meet with Board of Supervisors on Roadside Budget, equipment maintenance

March – April: Prescribed burning, LRTF Grants, inventory, spring seeding as weather allows, hire/ train seasonal employees.

April – October: Seeding, Weed Commissioner duties, spraying road ditches, spraying brush, mowing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year seeded areas, manage seasonal employees

October – December: Cut trees and brush, fall seeding, equipment maintenance, reports, material inventory, roadside budget

### **B. Work Area Types**

- Rural

Treatment in rural areas of Audubon County is the primary areas that are treated.

- Urban

Unincorporated towns make up a very small area in Audubon County but treatment does occur on an “as needed” basis.

### C. Vegetation Types for Specific Uses

- Residential ROW – Mowed areas in front of houses-Type of grass is usually determined by resident and purchased accordingly.
- Non-Residential ROW – Seed mixture from Tall Grass Prairie Center along with cover crop seed

### D. Special Projects

- Audubon County is working with contractors on moving and replacing field entrances for a major Wind Turbine project. This includes putting in temporary culverts, dry fills, all of which will have to be seeded when contract work is completed. Audubon Roadside is also working with the Western Skies Scenic Byways project to better promote the natural beauty of Western Iowa. In the future, this will consist of native seeding projects at minimum.

## VIII. METHODS

### A. Vegetation Establishment

- Site Preparation - Soil is leveled and cultivated to a depth of 2 to 3 inches/ or as needed for different soil types.
- Seed Mixes and Rates

#### Native

Big bluestem	1.5 lbs. /ac	Purple coneflower	1.6 oz. / ac
Side oats gramma	2 lbs. /ac	Rattlesnake master	2.4 oz. / ac

Canada wild rye	2.5 lbs. /ac	Ox-eye sunflower	4 oz. / ac
Little bluestem	2 lbs. /ac	Round headed bush clover	1 oz. / ac
Indian grass	1.5 lbs. /ac	Wild bergamot	0.6 oz. / ac
Partridge pea	8 oz. / ac	Foxglove pen stamen	0.5 oz. / ac
Leadplant	0.5 oz. / ac	large flowered penstemon	0.5 oz. / ac
Butterfly milkweed	0.8 oz. / ac	Prairie blazing star	0.8 oz. / ac
Swamp milkweed	1 oz. / ac	Yellow coneflower	4 oz. / ac
New England aster	0.3 oz. / ac	Black-eyed Susan	3 oz. / ac
Canada milk vetch	0.8 oz. / ac	Compass plant	0.5 oz. / ac
White wild indigo	0.5 oz. / ac	Stiff goldenrod	0.3 oz. / ac
Purple prairie clover	4 oz. / ac	Ohio spiderwort	0.8 oz. / ac
Showy tick trefoil	0.5 oz. / ac	Hoary vervain	0.5 oz. / ac
Goldenrod	0.8 oz. / ac	Rough drop seed	16 oz. / ac

The general type and seeding rates are subject to change

#### Cool Season / Non-Native

Alsike Clover	1 lb. /ac
Medium Red Clover	1.5 lb. /ac
KY 31 Fescue	10 lb. /ac
Gulf Annual Ryegrass	10 lb. /ac
Climax Timothy	2.5 lb. /ac

#### Spring Cover Crop

Cover Crop Oats	80 lbs. /ac
Annual Ryegrass	10 lbs. /ac
Timothy	1 lb. /ac

#### Fall Cover Crop

Winter Wheat	100 lbs. /ac
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#### Residential Mix

Usually determined by resident, then purchased accordingly.

- Seeding Techniques

Hydro seeders – broadcast then cover with mulch  
Brillion Broadcast Seeder

- Erosion and Sediment Control  
 Small square bales of Oat straw is chopped and fed into the County owned Chipper at a rate of 1 ½ to 2 tons per acre. An 800 gallon capacity hydro seeder is used with purchased bales to seed ditch cleanouts and other bare ground areas. Fast growing cover crops are used in most areas especially on steep elevations. Check dams are used on long slopes along with silt fences and occasionally reinforcement mats. Also rip rap is used for some temporary situations.
  
- Vegetation Establishment and Maintenance  
  
 After seed bed preparation and initial seeding is completed, several steps are used to maintain the wanted vegetation, including the following: Burning, mowing, spot spraying.
  
- Planting Evaluation and Documentation  
  
 Records including seeding dates, mix used, acreage, plants per square foot, cover crop used, all contribute to the evaluation on determining what steps will be taken to promote desired vegetation.
  
- Mowing  
  
 Shoulder mowing on County hard surfaced roads occurs 2-3 times per year and as needed on gravel roads. It is County policy that on gravel roads, the landowner is responsible for mowing the shoulder.
  
- Chemical Control for Noxious Weeds, Invasive Species, and Bare Ground  
  
 The Roadside Manager makes the decision on what products are used for weed control. This includes noxious weeds, Invasive species and bare ground. All decisions are based upon what type of species needs to be controlled, environment concerns, amount of product, if there is an alternative method for controlling verses chemical.
  
- Tree and Brush Control  
  
 Trees and brush are controlled in the right of way in Audubon County. Larger trees are cut as close to ground level as possible, then a chemical stump treatment is

used. Smaller trees are mowed close to ground level whenever possible. This helps cut labor and chemical costs.

- **Prescribed Burning**

Audubon County uses a “work order” system to keep records of prescribed burning areas. Also local Fire Departments are used to help with burning areas; this helps the County get more burning accomplished and helps the Fire Department for extensive training.

- **Burning Plan**

A burn plan is determined by the Roadside Manager. The “work order” system used by Audubon County, records areas scheduled to be burnt; it also keeps a record (log) of time, date, location, personnel, etc. That burning had been done. All landowners and near-by residences are notified prior to burning (IA DNR rules)

## **IX. MATERIAL PROCUREMENT**

### **a. Sourcing**

- Seed, herbicides, erosion control products, and other materials that are needed to complete jobs, are purchased locally if at all possible. Price and availability also determine where items may be obtained from. Some specialty items can only be obtained through certain vendors.

### **b. Material Handling and Storage**

- Seed – Seed is stored in humidity and temperature controlled building.
- Herbicide – All herbicide is stored in an approved, locked storage cabinet inside the Roadside building. Clearly marked with appropriate signage.
- Mulch and Erosion Control Materials – are stored inside the Roadside building.
- Straw Bales – purchased as needed and used in a timely manner, not stored. This keeps rodents under control and overhead low.

## **X. APPENDICES**

### **c. Position Description and Qualifications**

**DEFINITION:** The Roadside Manager is an employee of the Audubon County Secondary Roads Department whose responsibilities are to address the provisions of Section 314.22 of the Code of Iowa, the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Law, and Section 317, the Noxious Weed Law. The Manager shall administer, develop, plan, and conduct a program of vegetative habitat management that seeks to control unwanted vegetation and promote desirable vegetation on Audubon County rights-of-way and public drainage ditches, and perform related duties as required by the Audubon County Engineer.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Roadside Manager coordinates activities with the Audubon County Engineer and Secondary Roads Department, as well as with the Audubon County Conservation Board. The Manager's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Control of noxious weeds in rights-of-way and public drainage ditches, particularly those species identified by the Audubon County Committee.
2. Planting and maintenance of native and introduced grass/forb communities in newly graded, cleaned out, or otherwise disturbed sites on county rights-of-way.
3. Development of a program of public information and education to promote public understanding of IRVM, and wise land use that contributes to the goals of the IRVM program.
4. Inventorying and documenting plant communities and trends along county rights-of-way.

5. Managing those areas of native vegetation identified by the inventory process to improve their diversity and promote their continued health.
6. Remove all trees and brush causing safety concerns along county roadways.
7. All Weed Commissioner duties and responsibilities.
8. Other duties and in the Audubon County Secondary Roads Department as assigned by the Audubon County Engineer.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

The Roadside Manager shall:

1. Maintain a valid pesticide applicator's license in Category 6, Right-of-Way, and Category 1A, Agriculture; or be able to obtain in 60 days.
2. Maintain a valid Iowa class A or B Commercial Driver's License.
3. Continue in-service training as needed.
4. Maintain all necessary records and MSDS files on chemicals used.
5. Submit and keep on file annual reports to the Iowa Department of Agriculture pertaining to the application of herbicides
6. Oversee maintenance and record keeping on all equipment and vehicles assigned to the IRVM program. Practical "hands on" experience operating roadside equipment.
7. Have prior practical experience or job related education involving a comprehensive knowledge of plants, plant physiology with emphasis on native grasses and flowers.

#### NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

1. Knowledge of principles of land use and the environmental, social, and economic problems that affect it.
2. Ability to plan work, thinks clearly, analyze data, observe and evaluate, and make sound decisions and recommendations.
3. Ability to work well with the public and private sector.
4. Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
5. Ability to use a computer in word processing, data management, and Geographical Information Systems.
6. Ability to identify native and introduced plant species, including weeds.
7. Knowledge of principles of wildlife management.
8. Familiarity with traditional and new sustainable agricultural methods.
9. Ability to supervise support staff engaged to carry out program.
10. Ability to operate and maintain power equipment.

**b. No Spray Request**

Permit No. S-\_\_\_\_\_

**Audubon County Secondary Roads**

2147 HWY 71  
Audubon, IA 50025  
712-563-2486

**No Spray Request**

Location:

ROAD NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIDE OF ROAD      NORTH      SOUTH      EAST      WEST

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_ TOWNSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ request that the portion of Audubon County road right-of-way as described above, not be sprayed under the regular roadside spraying program.

I understand that by requesting that herbicide not be used in this section of right-of-way, I assume responsibility for vegetation control in this area. I understand that the vegetation that I am required to control includes noxious weeds (as listed in the Iowa Weed Law, Chapter 317 of the Iowa Code) and brush and trees.

I further understand that my request will automatically expire upon failure to control noxious weeds and brush/trees or post signs to the satisfaction of county officials. I am aware that if my request expires, the Secondary Roads Department will maintain the roadside using the same measures it uses throughout the county road system, including mowing and/or spraying with herbicides.

I understand that Audubon County is not bound by this request and that Audubon County, its agents, or parties acting at the direction of Audubon County shall not be held liable for failure to abide by this request.

NOTE: No Spray signs are available through the Audubon County Roads Department at a rate of \_\_\_\_\_ per set. Signs must be posted within 2 feet of the right-of-way line and be a minimum of 4 feet high. Only Audubon County issued signs will be honored.

<hr/>	
Print Name	Phone
<hr/>	
Signature	Date
<hr/>	
Street Address / City / State / Zip	
<hr/>	
Authorized County Representative	Date

ATTACHMENT TO NO SPRAY REQUEST

- 1.) It is the landowner's responsibility to request that herbicide not be used along their frontage. This No Spray Request applies only to those sections of ROW that are adjacent to land owned by the applicant.
- 2.) The landowner is responsible for proper placement of the signs and maintaining visibility of the signs. Signs must be placed within 2 feet of the ROW line and be a minimum of 4 feet high, facing the road. Each No Spray area requires 2 signs (one at each end), with arrows pointing towards the No Spray area. Only Audubon County issued signs will be honored.
- 3.) Audubon County's spray program is intended to reduce the spread of noxious weeds and brush, reduce snow trap problems, and aid visibility along county roads.
- 4.) Audubon County Secondary Roads Department will continue to mow or cut in areas to maintain line of sight, eliminate snow traps, and remove trees that pose a hazard to motorists. Audubon County Secondary Roads Department maintains the right to spray herbicides along all county roadsides in conjunction with road maintenance activities and the Iowa Weed Law.

**c . Burn Memo**

AUDUBON COUNTY ENGINEER  
2147 HWY 71 AUDUBON, IA  
712-563-4286

- 5.) The Iowa Department of Agriculture requires a Category 6 Right-of-Way Commercial Applicator's license to apply any herbicide in any road ROW within the State of Iowa.
  
- 6.) Audubon County Secondary Roads Department requires an Alteration of Public Right-of-Way permit that includes provisions for doing work in the county ROW.

For any questions, comments, or concerns about Audubon County's noxious weed and brush control programs and policies, or for information on alternative methods to noxious weed and brush control, please contact:

Roadside Manager / Audubon County Weed Commissioner  
2147 HWY 71  
Audubon, IA 50025  
Ph. 712-563-2486

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**MEMO**

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**TO:** RESIDENT  
**FROM:** KENT GRABILL  
**DATE:**  
**RE:** CONTROLLED BURNING IN RIGHT-OF-WAY

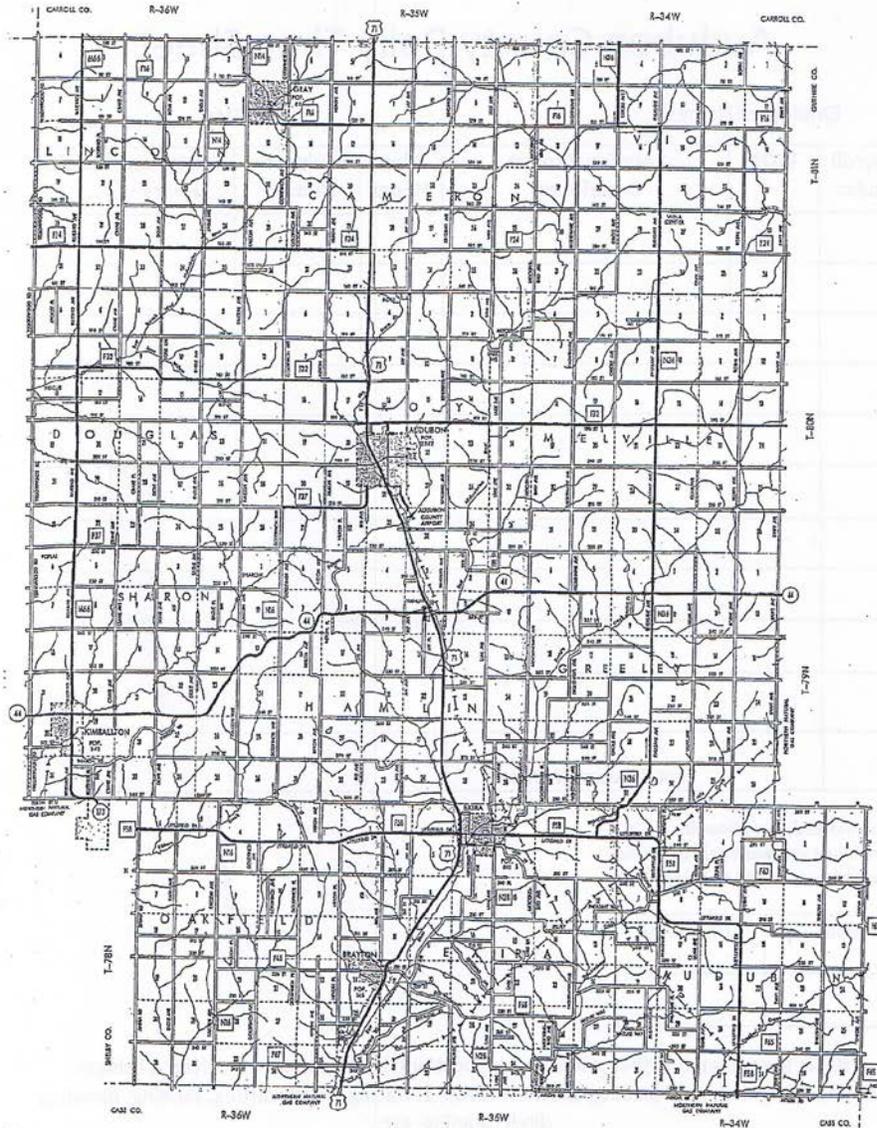
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A prescribed burn for the right-of-way in the vicinity of your residence is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_. The burn will be conducted by properly trained personnel. The purpose of this memo is to notify you that a prescribed burn will take place; smoke will be produced in and around the vicinity of the burn for a short time.

Specific location:

For any questions, comments, or concerns about this notice, please contact:

Kent Grabill Roadside Manager / Weed Commissioner  
Audubon County Roadside Department  
2147 HWY 71  
Audubon, IA 50025  
Ph. 712-563-2486





## AUDUBON COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Department:</b>	Roadside Management
<b>Title:</b>	Roadside Manager/Weed Commissioner	<b>FLSA:</b>	Exempt
<b>Date:</b>	April 22, 2010	<b>Reports to:</b>	County Engineer

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### PURPOSE OF POSITION

Develops, promotes and implements a biologically sound roadside management plan based on desirable plant species management; carries out chemical and other recognized control of weeds, brush and unwanted vegetation pursuant to Iowa Weed Law (Chapter 317 of Iowa Code).

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**The following duties are normal for this position. These are not to be construed as exclusive or all inclusive. Other duties may be required and assigned.**

Controls brush and other vegetation that is likely to cause road maintenance and/or public safety problems.

Carries out chemical and hand control of weeds, brush and vegetation in specific problem areas; locates and destroys noxious weeds in rural roadside areas.

Develops, promotes and implements a sound roadside management plan for Audubon County; conducts training sessions for landowner's to encourage proper species management.

Provides media with periodic information on the management of roadsides to gain community support and enlist voluntary cooperation from private individuals and groups.

Prepares construction and renovation sites for planting of desirable species; operates truck mounted hydro-sprayer to cover median strips, hillsides and right of way with appropriate of grass seed, cover, fertilizer and mulch.

Coordinates and updates roadside inventory; supervises necessary part-time staff in conducting roadside inventory and management.

Performs preventative maintenance on equipment operated including mowers, tractors, chippers etc.

During emergencies or other designated periods, performs any maintenance, equipment operation or related tasks as assigned.

Serves on Safety Committee on rotating basis.

### MINIMUM TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Certified as a pesticide/herbicide applicator by the Dept. of Land Stewardship in Iowa. Prior practical experience or job related education involving a comprehensive knowledge of plants, plant physiology with emphasis on native grasses and flowers. Practical "Hands on" experience operating roadside management equipment including mowers, seeders, chainsaws, chemical applicators and related equipment. Possession of a valid CDL with appropriate Hazmat and related endorsements determined to be necessary by Iowa Department of Transportation.

**MINIMUM PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ABILITIES REQUIRED TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

**Physical Requirements**

Requires the capacity to use correctly a variety of tools, equipment associated with roadside management functions including operation of seed drills, chippers, sprayers, chainsaws, rakes, shovels, brooms, etc. Standing, walking and related physical activity utilizing use of fingers, hands, arms, legs and body torso are job requisites. Requires exceptional field and depth perception, clarity of vision 20 ft. or more, motor coordination, manual dexterity, color discrimination and related aptitudes. Capacity to push/pull, lift/carry chemicals and other objects weighing up to 50 lbs and over 50 lbs with help on an occasional basis.

**Cognitive Demands**

The ability to develop and implement policy; make decisions and evaluate success or failure of management techniques; respond to routine correspondence effectively; recognize, identify and develop management strategies for specific plant communities. Skills in the operation of computers and related software to complete and update information base, knowledge of ecological principles, knowledge of commonly used farm and roadside management chemicals and their effects and general knowledge of engineering and planning processes.

**Language Ability & Interpersonal Communication**

The individual requires the ability to: meet people effectively and communicate with people of various educational and social backgrounds; influence behavior of others through communication skills; supervise support staff and to provide adequate training for such support staff and effectively deal with controversy.

**Environmental Adaptability**

Occupational hazards are those associated with the operation of mechanical machinery, exposure to toxic agents and chemicals in the elimination of noxious weeds, brush and other undesirable species.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Audubon County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the County will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages prospective employees and incumbents to discuss potential accommodations with the employer.

### AUDUBON COUNTY ENTRANCE APPLICATION

Request Date \_\_\_\_\_ Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Location: Section \_\_\_\_\_ Put an "X" on the map at the  
Township \_\_\_\_\_ right to indicate where the  
entrance will be located:

NW	NE
SW	SE

911 Address \_\_\_\_\_

A permit is hereby requested to construct (widen) an entrance \_\_\_\_\_ feet in width, including, if necessary, a drainage structure.

To be installed by:  Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contractor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Location of desired entrance marked \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

**FOR THE APPLICANT:**

I agree with the provisions of this entrance application and agree to pay any costs billed me by the County.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

**ENTRANCE INFO**

\_\_\_\_ Dry Fill \_\_\_\_ Pipe Required \_\_\_\_ Diameter \_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_ No. Bands

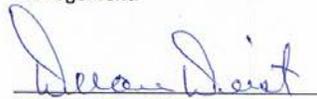
Initially inspected by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ ft. \_\_\_\_ dia. pipe; \_\_\_\_ qty. \_\_\_\_ dia. band \_\_\_\_ picked up \_\_\_\_ delivered

Notified motor grader operator about entrance: \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a flexible plan that will require changes necessary to fit the constantly changing circumstances associated with roadside vegetation management.

  
County Supervisor Chairperson

Date 3-3-15

  
County Engineer

Date 3-3-15

  
Roadside Manager

Date 3-3-15

# AUDUBON COUNTY IOWA



Prepared By  
OFFICE OF SYSTEMS PLANNING  
Phone: (515) 239-1289  
WWW.IOWADOT.GOV/MAPS



In Cooperation With  
United States  
Department of Transportation

JANUARY 1, 2014



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### 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

