

Bremer County

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management

Plan

April, 2015



IRVVM
Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management

Iowa's Roadside Resource

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

Bremer County, Iowa

Preface

A. Version 1, April 2015

B. Plan Contributors

David Lehman - Bremer County Roadside Manager

Todd Fonkert - Bremer County Engineer

Frank Frederick - Bremer County Conservation Director

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I. Executive Program Elements

A. Goals

The first goal of the Bremer County IRVM Department is to create a management tool to address items in Iowa Code Section 314.22-Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management and Iowa Code Section 317-Iowa Weed Law. Roadway corridors' prime purpose is to transport people and goods safely and efficiently. The purpose of roadside vegetation is to hold soil in place by reducing erosion. This vegetation must be managed in a way that allows for a safe recovery area for vehicles that leave the roadway, meet minimum sight requirements for vehicles, manage stormwater runoff, and control Iowa's noxious weeds. A second goal is to identify the needed equipment for the IRVM department and acquire said equipment. A third goal is to implement the Roadside Management plan and to make changes as necessary that best address the needs of Bremer County. A long-term goal is to reduce roadside maintenance by the establishment of a strong plant community using Iowa's native vegetation.

B. Program History

The history of roadside management in Bremer County has a checkered past. In the fall of 1989 a roadside inventory was conducted. The information collected was mapped out on Township maps and then stored in a box. A blanket spraying program was conducted to manage weeds. As time went on, this program was discontinued. In more recent years, the Secondary Road Department has continued to cut brush as time and weather allows. Also some brush spraying occurs using a tank in a truck and a person spraying brush with a wand. Vegetation along guardrails is sprayed to control plant growth. Roadside mowing occurs two times per year on hard-surface roads with two six foot swaths being mowed. On gravel roads, one six foot swath is mowed up to two times per year.

In the fall of 2013, discussion began to address Roadside Vegetation Management. After much information was gathered, the decision was made to create an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) department. A Roadside Vegetation Manager Job Description (Appendix A) was created and the job was posted in November 2014. The Roadside Manager began employment in February 2015.

A cooperative agreement with the county board of supervisors, county engineer, county conservation department, and the county IRVM department was approved in April, 2015 (Appendix B).

C. Executive Summary

The main goal this year is to develop and begin implementing a plan that addresses the many facets of a comprehensive roadside vegetation management plan. The IRVM Technical Manual

will be referenced and used to steer the work and how the work is done. Along with studying roadside management plans from other counties, it will be necessary to identify the desired vegetation that Bremer County has as well as identify the noxious weeds and brush that are growing in the roadsides. Conducting a roadside inventory will greatly aid the path that is taken to create an IRVM plan for Bremer County.

D. Bremer County Map (Appendix C)

E. Program Type

The Bremer County IRVM Department is an independent department under supervision of the Board of Supervisors. The Roadside Manager will work in cooperation with the County Engineer and County Conservation Director to manage and promote native vegetation on public lands.

II. Jurisdictional Recognition

A. Management

The full-time Roadside Manager decides the department's day-to-day operations, sets priorities, carries out the business management duties, and performs the needed work. The Roadside Manager is also responsible for managing and maintaining the IRVM budget. The Roadside Manager also serves as the County Weed Commissioner. The Roadside Manager's duties are outlined further in the Bremer County Employee Job Description (Appendix A).

B. Board of Supervisors

In cooperation with the County Engineer, County Conservation Director, and the Roadside Manager, the Board of Supervisors oversees the planning and implementation of the County Roadside Plan. This includes the roadside budget, equipment updates, or plan changes. The Roadside Manager gives the Board of Supervisors an annual report detailing herbicide use, equipment evaluations, future personnel changes, and other pertinent facts.

C. Iowa Code and Administrative Rules-State Laws and Regulations

As stated earlier, Bremer County's IRVM plan will be directed by laws and regulations cited in the Code of Iowa. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. 314.17 Mowing law-no mowing before July 15 of ROW
2. 314.19 Reseeding Open Ditches
3. 314.21 Living Roadway Trust Fund
4. 314.22 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management
5. 317 Iowa Weed Law
6. 318.3 Obstructions in Highway Rights-Of-Way

D. Permits

Permits are obtained at the County Engineer's Office. Individuals describe what work is being performed or the issue of concern and the appropriate permit is retrieved. After the permit is filled out with the necessary information, the permit is issued to the individual and a copy is filed with the county. The following permits pertain to areas in the right-of-way that may involve the need to seed after ROW work is completed.

1. Field Entrance And Driveway Permit (Appendix D)
2. Permit For Excavation Within The Right-Of-Way (Appendix E)

III. Program Organizational Structure and Staffing Needs

The Roadside Manager is currently the sole employee in the IRVM Department. This individual will need to stay current with the latest developments in roadside management practices. To help achieve this need, the roadside manager will need to consult with roadside managers in other counties, attend roadside and prairie conferences, and visit with the staff at the Tallgrass Prairie Center at the University of Northern Iowa. One particular area that will need to be addressed is erosion and sediment control.

This individual will need to have continuing instruction courses to fulfill the responsibilities as the county's Weed Commissioner and to maintain the pesticide applicator's license.

As the program develops, additional staff will be needed. This will allow for more work to be done in a timely manner and will also be important for safety reasons.

IV. Public Involvement

A. Education

As Bremer County begins developing and implementing an IRVM plan, education will also be a critical component. The opportunity to involve the public will be critical to moving the plan forward as well as to the future success of the plan. The vast majority of Bremer County is farmed. Utilizing the roadsides for drainage and controlling weeds are a concern to farmers. Landowners and the general public will need to be educated about the benefits of IRVM. Knowing that this program will provide long-term benefits to the public should help sell the new program and lead to the overall success of the program. Different ways to help educate the public will be: participation in the county-wide field day for fifth graders, public presentations, brochures, local media, and the addition of the IRVM department to the county's webpage.

B. Steering Committee

Developing a steering committee during the first year will be a valuable asset for providing direction for the IRVM program. The committee members will need to have an interest in conservation and/or understanding of IRVM. This committee will help drive the priorities of the IRVM Department. This committee will also be useful in educating the public about the benefits of IRVM. Members on the committee could include: county supervisor, county conservation board director/member, county engineer, county roadside manager, county extension, and landowner/farmer.

V. Inventory

A. Natural Resource Inventory

The last roadside survey completed in Bremer County was in fall 1989. This inventory was a windshield survey. Items included on the paper inventory were: locations of brush, thistle, and the presence of prairie plants. These notes were transferred to Township maps. The notes for all but two of the townships were then stored in a box. At this time, a new inventory should be undertaken to help identify the current state of Bremer County roadsides. Items to be included in the inventory are: vegetative cover, native vegetation stands, weed concerns, brush, encroachment, bare areas and areas of erosion. These inventory items will aid in implementing an IRVM plan. The inventory will also help identify native plant communities that would benefit most from prescribed burns.

B. Equipment

Currently there is no equipment specifically designated to the IRVM program. Equipment will be obtained as budget resources allow. The need for certain equipment will continue to be prioritized and purchased as funds are available. An important funding source will be applying for and obtaining grant money through such sources as the Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF).

VI. Program Operations

A. Initial Work Schedule

3 month Objectives

- Pesticide Applicator License
- IRVM interim plan
- LRTF grant application
- Identify and prioritize equipment needed for 1st year and purchase
- Review 1989 Roadside inventory
- Air-brake endorsement for CDL
- Chainsaw safety training
- Order/obtain seed for ditch cleanouts

3 Month – 1 Year Objectives

- Identify most heavily infested areas of noxious weeds to mow or spray
- Identify noxious weeds to spray
- Identify prairie remnants along hard-surface county roads
- Begin inventory process
- Seed ROW ditch cleanouts
- Wildland Fire Training Certification
- Identify individuals to be on Bremer County IRVM Committee
- IRVM Committee in place and first meeting

1 Year Objectives

- Detailed month-by-month work schedule
- Write more detailed IRVM plan
- Identify and prioritize needed equipment through LRTF grants
- Write and secure funding for 2016 LRTF Grants
- Identify prairie remnants that would benefit from prescribed burns
- Seed ROW ditch cleanouts

1 – 3 Year Objectives

- Write and secure funding for LRTF Grants
- Obtain equipment with LRTF grants
- Equipment storage building including seed storage room and herbicide storage
- Continue ROW inventory
- Identify and begin systematic spray program of brush and noxious weeds
- Evaluate IRVM Plan and make changes as necessary
- Set short and long range goals

B. Work Area Types

Bremer County IRVM works primarily in rural areas. The most appropriate vegetation will be chosen for given areas. In rural ROW cleanouts, native grass and wildflower seed will be used to establish vegetation. Areas adjacent to rural residences will be seeded with cool-season grasses unless other arrangements are made.

VII. Methods

The IRVM Technical Manual will be utilized to a great extent aiding in the development of the management plan as well as the processes involved in the plan. Items include: equipment, obtaining funding for equipment, day-to-day operations, how to seed different areas of the roadsides, what seed to use, erosion control measures, maintenance of new native seedings, weed control, and using fire as a management tool. These are some of the topics that will need to be addressed to develop and implement the IRVM plan.

Meeting and developing contacts with roadside managers in other counties is also important. These roadside managers have experience that can be used to help outline what items to address in the plan and how to go about implementing the plan. The best learning tool will be experience: doing the work using the manual and advice obtained from other roadside managers.

A. Site Preparation

Appropriate site preparation as the terrain allows will increase the success of the planting. Site preparation may include some or all of the following methods: mowing, spraying, disking, and cultipacking.

B. Seed Mixes and Rates

Native seed will need to be acquired, to be used as a means to control long-term erosion of ROW clean-outs. Obtaining TAP seed through the IRVM Program at UNI will be a primary source for native seed. In addition to the native seed, cover crops will be planted to help hold the soil in place until the native plants are established. In the spring and summer, oats and annual rye will be used. In the fall, winter wheat will be used. These cover crops are considered to be nurse or companion crops. The seeding mixes and seeding rates in the IRVM Technical Manual will be used as guidelines. Any seeding rates included with the TAP seed will also be followed.

C. Seeding Techniques

The seeding method will be dictated by site conditions and slope. The site to be seeded will be inspected prior to any preparation or seeding work. This inspection will help determine what seeding method to use; if gullies, culverts and other obstacles are present; how large the area is; and how much seed is needed.

On smaller areas with steep grades, hydroseeding will be used to apply seed, mulch and water in one pass. On larger areas with steep to nominal grades, a two-pass approach with a hydroseeder may be used. The first pass will be the seed, minimal mulch, and sufficient water to cover the area to be seeded. The second pass will be a higher rate of mulch, tackifier, and water. This two-pass approach will allow greater seed-to-soil contact, which should help improve seed germination rates.

On large areas with more level slopes, a drill may be used for the first pass. Drills do a better job of ensuring seed-to-soil contact than hydroseeding. To aid in germination and to help prevent erosion, a second pass will occur using the hydroseeder to apply mulch, tackifier, and water.

D. Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion control measures in addition to hydromulch may be needed as evaluated on a site-by-site basis. These could include: rolled erosion control blankets, sediment logs, and filter socks.

E. Vegetation Establishment Maintenance

To help reduce competition from weeds, the newly planted areas will be mowed to a height of 6 inches before weeds get too tall. This may need to be done one or two times during the first season, and possibly at a higher height in the second season. Native plants need at least two years before they can begin competing with weeds. When enough fuel is present, prescribed burns may be used to aid the establishment of the native vegetation.

F. Noxious Weed and Brush Control

Weed control along roadsides will require a multi-pronged approach. The establishment of native vegetation on bare soil will help minimize weeds taking over the disturbed soil. The controlled use of mowing will help prevent weeds from seeding. Using herbicides to carefully spot-treat weeds will be needed to control certain weeds, like Canada thistle. Fire may also be used as a management tool to suppress weeds and lead to a healthier stand of native vegetation. Fire discourages the growth of invasive and woody plants. Fire invigorates the growth of native plants since nutrients are recycled.

Brush control along roadsides will also require a multi-pronged approach similar to weed control. A systematic approach will be needed to control brush. Brush needs to be controlled where visibility is reduced at any intersection. Also the control of brush from the fore slope to ditch bottom should be managed countywide. As time and resources allow, additional areas of the ROW can be controlled for brush.

Brush cutting will be done by the secondary road crews as time and conditions allow. Hand and mechanical cutting will occur. Stumps will be treated with herbicides to help prevent regrowth. Foliar applications of herbicides to brush will occur along with the control of noxious weeds. A spray unit will be needed to apply herbicides selectively to control noxious weeds and brush.

VIII. Material Procurement

Material will be competitively obtained from local sources if possible. The cost of goods will be compared to help maximize the department's budget. LRTF funding and other grant sources will be used to help grow the department's equipment inventory.

**IX. INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

The Bremer County Board of Supervisors, Bremer County Engineer, Bremer County Conservation Department, and the Bremer County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Department come together in cooperation, common goals and shared ideas to manage roadsides in Bremer County by and through integrated roadside principals.

We realize that IRVM 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 Bremer County.

We hereby agree to manage Bremer County roadsides according to the provisions described within this management plan.

Bremer County Board of Supervisors

By: Dewey L. Hildebrandt
Chairperson, Dewey Hildebrandt
Date: May 18, 2015

Bremer County Engineer

Todd Fonkert
Todd Fonkert, P.E.-Engineer
Date: May 18, 2015

Bremer County Conservation

Frank Frederick
Frank Frederick, Director
Date: May 19, 2015

Bremer County Roadside Manager

David Lehman
David Lehman, Roadside Manager
Date: May 18, 2015

BREMER COUNTY
EMPLOYEE JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Roadside Vegetation Manager

Reports to: Board of Supervisors

Department: Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM)

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

Supervises: Full-time & seasonal staff

(Status will change to Exempt when directing work of 2 full time employees or equivalent is achieved)

Date Adopted: November 17, 2014

Date Updated:

SUMMARY: The Roadside Vegetation Manager shall administer, develop, plan, and conduct a program of vegetative habitat management that seeks to control unwanted vegetation and promote desirable vegetation on Bremer County right-of-way and public drainage ditches and perform related duties as assigned by the Board of Supervisors in consultation and cooperation with the County Engineer and County Conservation Director. The Roadside Vegetation Manager shall serve as Bremer County Weed Commissioner and will address the provisions of Section 314 of the Code of Iowa, the IRVM Manual and Section 317, the Noxious Weed Law.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Planting and maintenance of native and introduced grass/forb communities in newly graded, cleaned out, or otherwise disturbed sites on county rights-of-way.
2. 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.
3. Inventorying and documenting plant communities and trends along county rights-of-way.
4. Managing those areas of native vegetation identified by the inventory process to improve their diversity and promote their continued health.
5. Coordinates and administers the removal of trees and brush causing safety concerns along county roadways.
6. All Weed Commissioner duties and responsibilities and performs other duties as assigned.
7. Control of noxious weeds in rights-of-way and public drainage ditches.
8. Serves as the trainer/inspector/manager for staff dealing with seeders, tractors, mowers, sprayers and other roadside management equipment.
9. Performs administrative duties such as roadside plan updates, successful grant writing, and writing of reports for monthly and annual updates as requested.
10. Prepares and monitors the department's annual budget and at a minimum provides monthly reports to the Board of Supervisors on department activities and provides a copy of the monthly reports to the County Engineer and the County Conservation Director.
11. Serves as the (IRVM) Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management coordinator for Bremer County and attends, organizes meetings and assists with the direction of the group's vision. Attends state and regional conferences relating to the field as directed.
12. Assist to the best of your ability the enforcement of all Local, State, and Federal laws pertaining to the operation of roadside vegetation management within Bremer County and serves as a liaison for these law enforcement agencies.
13. Supervises and directs staff including, but not limited to assigning, checking & planning the work schedules of full- time, seasonal, and volunteers.
14. Financial: Establishes a long term plan for roadside development that meets the goals and objectives of the Secondary Roads, & Bremer County Conservation Departments, including long-term budgeting for capital expenditures.
15. Assists the County Conservation Department and County Secondary Roads Department in the management and monitoring of public lands where applicable to promote native vegetation in the state of Iowa.

QUALIFICATIONS: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

Required:

1. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a minimum A.A./A.A.S., prefer B.A./B.S. in Biology, Botany, or a related natural science degree or an equivalent combination of education and work related experience.
2. Maintain a valid, Class B, Commercial driver's license with air brake endorsement. Ability to maintain drug free environment and pass periodic random drug screening.

Recommended upon hire, but must be within 6 months or within reasonable date only with prior approval from Board of Supervisors:

3. Maintain a valid pesticide applicator's license in category 6 (Right-of-way) and category 1A (Agriculture).
4. Must possess Wild land Fire Training Certification– S130, S190, S290
5. Other certifications as required.

LANGUAGE SKILLS: Ability to read, analyze, and interpret general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures or governmental regulations. Ability to successfully write reports for business correspondence and procedure manuals.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Ability to utilize Microsoft Windows / Office, for word processing and data management.
- GIS & GPS equipment expertise as required for monitoring.
- Demonstration of strong organization skills.
- Demonstration of good oral and written communication skills.
- Knowledge of principles of land use and the environmental, social, and economic problems that affect it.
- Ability to plan work, think conceptually, analyze data, observe and evaluate, and make sound decisions and recommendations.
- Ability to work well with the public and private sectors on diverse roadside projects.
- Ability to identify native and introduced plant species, including invasive or non-desirable.
- Knowledge of the principles of wildlife management/protection and conservation practices relating to roadsides.
- Ability to supervise and direct support staff engaged to carry out program.
- Ability to operate and maintain power equipment.
- Ability to multi-task and prioritize job activities to achieve maximum overall results.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job the employee is regularly required to talk or hear. The employee is frequently required to stand; walk; use hands to finger, grasp, handle or feel; climb, balance, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl, push or pull and reach with hands and arms. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 50 pounds.

The visual requirements for this position are similar to those classified as machine operations. This is a minimum standard for use with those whose work deals with machines such as lathes, drill presses, power saws and mills where the seeing job is at or within arm's reach. Also, mechanics and skilled tradespeople and those who do work of a nonrepetitive nature such as carpenters, technicians, service people, plumbers, painters, mechanics, etc.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. This worker is subject to outside environmental conditions year around. This worker is subject to extreme cold and extreme heat. The worker is subject to noise and hazards including moving mechanical parts, electrical current, working on scaffolding and high places, exposure to high heat or exposure to chemicals; conditions that may include fumes, odors, dusts, mists, gasses or poor ventilation; oils.

1. Marginal functions of the position that are incidental to the performance of essential job duties have been excluded from this job description.
2. All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities. Prospective employee and incumbents are encouraged to discuss possible accommodations with Bremer County
3. Job descriptions in no way state or imply that the description includes every duty to be performed by the employee in the position. Employees will be required to follow any job-related instructions and to perform any job-related duties requested by the Board of Supervisors.
4. Bremer County reserves the right to change or reassign job duties or combine positions at any time
5. **This document does not create an employment contract, implied or otherwise, other than "at-will" employment relationship.**

Employee:

I have read the job description and fully understand the requirements set forth therein. I hereby accept the position and agree to abide by the requirements set forth and will perform all duties and responsibilities to the best of my ability. I further understand that my employment is at-will and thereby understand that my employment can be terminated at will by Bremer County without notice or by myself with at least 2 weeks' notice.

Date

Employee Signature

Date

Board Chair Signature

APPENDIX B BREMER COUNTY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Department was developed to better serve the public using IRVM techniques for vegetation management and maintenance in Bremer County. The roadside manager position was created to manage the IRVM Department and to assume duties of the weed commissioner.

Roadsides primary function is to handle surface water from the road surface and adjacent land. Because of steep sloping land and poor soil conditions in many roadsides, weed invasion and soil erosion are constant problems in Iowa. Roadside managers have learned to avoid planting species favored in the past (Eurasian grasses and legumes) and tend toward species native to Iowa that are better suited to our soils and climate. IRVM techniques can produce a roadside that is resistant to weed invasion and soil erosion, yet requires less maintenance. The Bremer County IRVM program will address weed control, brush control, encroachment, mowing, roadside beautification and public relations in a comprehensive plan.

IRVM is a decision making and vegetation management process for maintaining roadside vegetation that integrates the following:

- Needs of county citizens and roadway users
- Knowledge of plant ecology and natural processes
- Design, construction, and maintenance considerations
- Monitoring and evaluation procedures
- Government statutes and regulations
- Mechanical and chemical technology

...to manage roadsides economically for safety, and enhance environmental quality and scenic beauty.

The following paragraphs summarize mutual agreements, understandings, and other covenants among and between the **Bremer County Board of Supervisors, Bremer County Engineer, Bremer County Conservation Department, and Bremer County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Department.**

II. THE PLAN

A comprehensive IRVM plan will be created by the roadside manager, county engineer, and conservation director to guide the Bremer County IRVM program and policies as allowed in Chapter 314.22 (IRVM), plus policies concerning Chapter 317 (Weeds) of the Code of Iowa. The development of this plan will involve public input and participation. The plan will be reviewed by the Bremer County Board of Supervisors and implemented following their approval. The roadside manager will actively pursue achieving the plan according to priority goals, objectives,

and policies identified in the plan. The roadside manager, chairperson of the board of supervisors, the county engineer, and county conservation director will review the plan's progress quarterly (March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1). The plan shall be updated and reviewed annually (January), and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

III. THE IRVM ROADSIDE MANAGER

The County Board of Supervisors with the County Engineer and County Conservation Director will evaluate and interview candidates. The IRVM Roadside Manager's job description will be utilized in selecting candidates. The IRVM Department shall be administered as an independent department. The roadside manager shall be directly accountable to the board of supervisors on a regular basis; and be responsible for implementing the Bremer County IRVM Plan established by the roadside manager in consultation with the board of supervisors, county engineer, and conservation board director. With the established IRVM plan, the roadside manager shall be empowered to assume his/her duties without trivial interference from any parties of this agreement. This does not abrogate the authority of the board of supervisors to oversee the safe, efficient, and effective performance of duties by the roadside manager; nor does it remove authority or responsibilities for the management of right-of-way by the county engineer as defined in the Code of Iowa.

IV. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The following statements define IRVM program covenants as agreed by the parties to this agreement.

A. Roadside Seeding

The roadside manager shall be responsible for seeding disturbed roadsides, clean-outs, re-graded rights of way, new construction, and other locations. The engineer shall notify the roadside manager of probable timetable. The roadside manager shall be responsible for selecting and obtaining seed according to the provisions of the IRVM plan.

B. Spraying

The roadside manager will be responsible for spraying noxious weeds and/or brush as described in the IRVM plan. The roadside manager will be responsible for researching and selecting the best equipment available within budget limitations. The purchase of spray equipment shall be upon the approval of the board of supervisors.

C. Roadside Mowing

Roadside mowing shall be accomplished by the secondary road department crews according to the IRVM plan and overseen by the county engineer and roadside manager.

D. Brush Control and Removal

Brush control and removal shall be coordinated and administered by the roadside manager. Secondary road department crews will assist the roadside manager seasonally when available as determined by the engineer in locations identified by

the roadside manager and engineer. Control of brush shall be by mechanical means, chemical, or both.

E. Chemical Usage

The roadside manager shall select and spray chemicals to control vegetation according to IRVM principles and the IRVM plan.

F. Prescribed Fires

The roadside manager shall be responsible for conducting safe roadside burns according to the IRVM plan. The engineer and conservation director may allow staff to assist in this capacity. The roadside manager may assist the conservation department with prescribed fires on Bremer County conservation areas. The conservation department and IRVM department may share firefighting and control equipment.

G. Vehicles

The board of supervisors shall provide the roadside manager a safe and efficient vehicle capable of handling staff and equipment necessary to carry out the provisions of the IRVM plan. The secondary road department shall maintain same with the expense for maintenance and repairs paid by the IRVM Department.

H. Office Space

The secondary road department and county engineer shall provide office space at the county highway department building. The roadside manager shall have use of necessary office equipment and telephone. The IRVM Department shall be responsible for providing office supplies.

I. Insurance

The IRVM Department shall be responsible for paying for insurance costs for IRVM department vehicles.

J. Education/Training

The roadside manager shall be permitted to attend conferences and continuing education that promotes professionalism and competency.

K. Other Equipment

Equipment not described in this agreement shall be arranged separately by verbal or written terms in order to accomplish terms of this agreement.

Resolution #15-32

Witnesseth:

WHEREAS, the Bremer County Board of Supervisors, Bremer County Engineer, Bremer County Conservation Department, and Bremer County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Department, in a spirit of cooperation, common goals, and shared vision to manage roadside vegetation within Bremer County by and through an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) program; and

WHEREAS, the parties of this agreement recognize the benefits of an IRVM program, including the economically and environmentally sustainable objectives; county beautification and safety; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this program is pivotal to the joint creation, monitoring and updating of an IRVM plan, that incorporates public participation, input, education; and

WHEREAS, the board, departments, and administrators to this agreement shall strive to achieve the goals and objectives of the IRVM program; and

WHEREAS, the signors of this agreement will meet quarterly to review the plan, update the plan, and work toward joint approval annually according to the timetable described herein.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bremer County Board of Supervisors shall establish an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Department and plan according to the provisions described herein.

BREMER COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By Dewey L. Hildebrandt
Chairperson, Dewey Hildebrandt
Date: 4/27/2015

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, these signors agree to the terms of this agreement:

BREMER COUNTY
ENGINEER



Todd Fonkert
Date: 4/27/2015

BREMER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DIRECTOR



Frank Frederick
Date: 4/27/15

BREMER COUNTY
ROADSIDE MANAGER



David Lehman
Date: 4/27/2015

Attest: 
Shelley Wolf
Bremer County Auditor

BREMER COUNTY IOWA

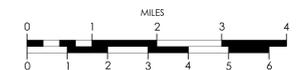


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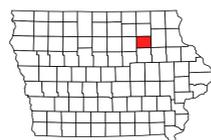
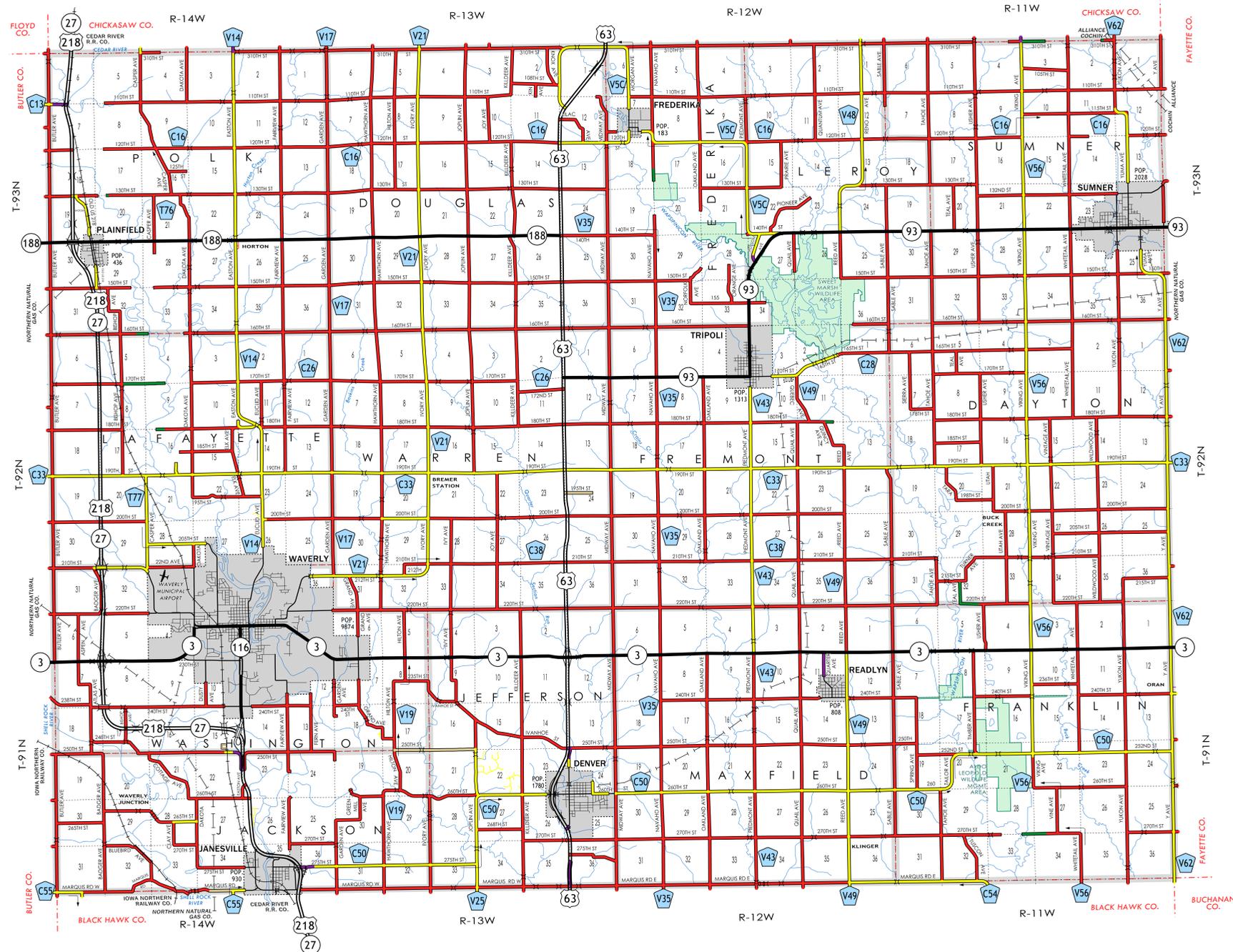
In Cooperation With
**United States
Department of Transportation**

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



SECTION ONE - APPLICATION

Any property owner desiring a field entrance or driveway access to any county road, or move and reconstruct any existing access, shall make written application on the prescribed form available at the office of the county engineer. This permit shall expire one year after date of approval by Bremer County if proposed driveway or entrance construction is not completed within that time.

SECTION TWO - LOCATION AND REVIEW

All field entrances and driveway applications shall be reviewed by the county engineer or his representative for location, safety, and drainage.

Each access shall be located to ensure a minimum sight distance of 350 feet on nonpaved roads and 550 feet on paved roads and those proposed for pavement.

One access will be allowed for each parcel of 40 acres or less bordering any roadway. An additional access will be allowed if the parcel is divided by a non crossable waterway. An additional access will be allowed to serve a residential dwelling within a parcel of more than 5 acres.

No horse shoe drives will be permitted.

SECTION THREE - CONSTRUCTION

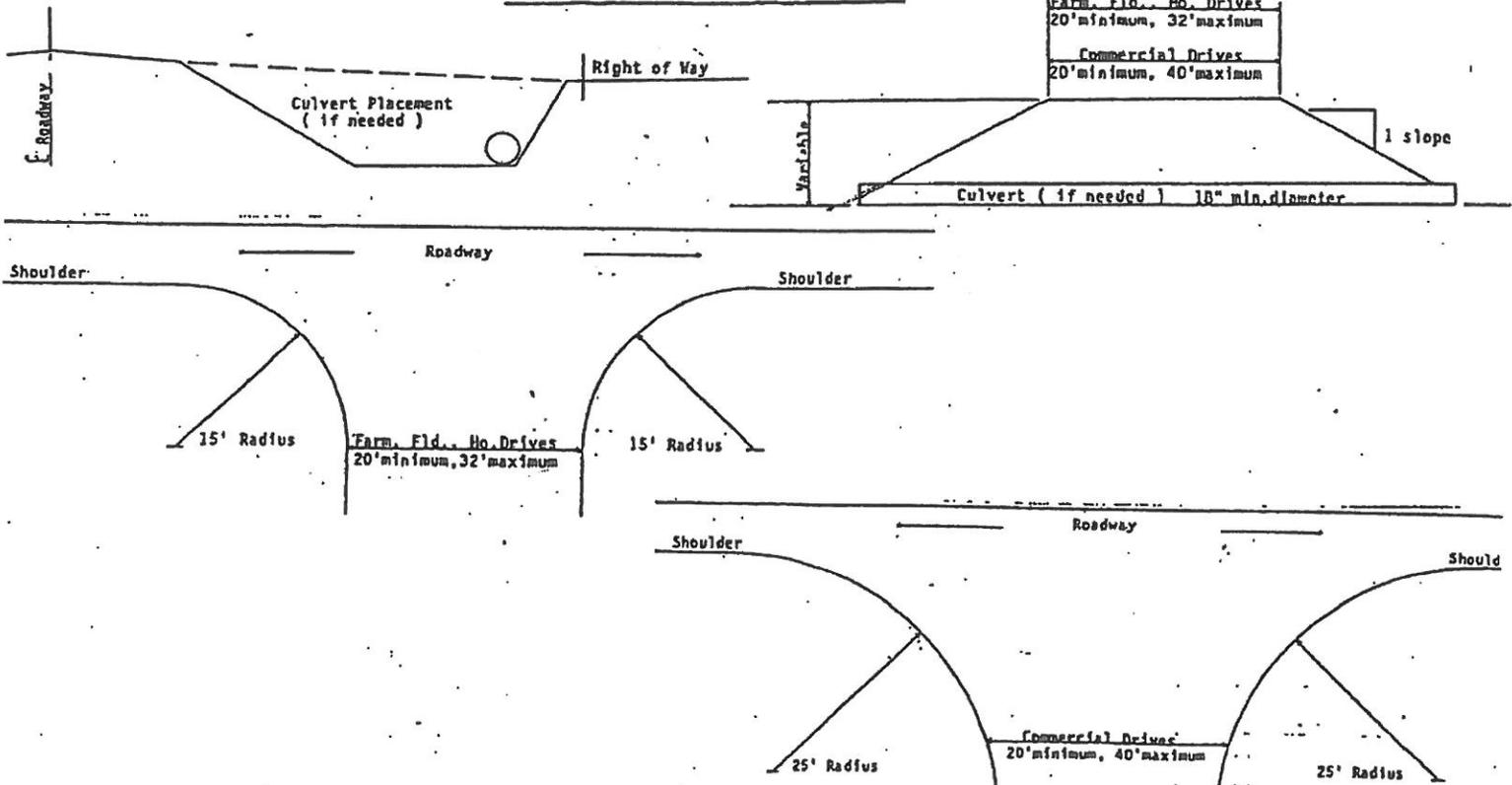
All field entrances and driveways shall be constructed in a workmanlike manner to acceptable standards with privately owned equipment.

Field entrances and driveways shall be constructed with a minimum top of 20 feet and a maximum of 32 feet. Commercial drives shall be constructed with a minimum top of 20 feet and a maximum top of 40 feet. Two party drives shall have a maximum top of 40 feet.

Side slopes for field entrances or driveways shall be 3 to 1 on nonpaved roads and in rural subdivisions, 10 to 1 for fill drives, and 8 to 1 for drives with culverts within the clear zone on paved roads.

Field entrances and driveways, if possible, should approach the roadway on an up hill grade.

Construction Standards



Field entrances and driveways approaching the roadway on a downhill grade shall be shaped to drain surface water before reaching the shoulder line of the roadway. Maximum grade for a field entrance or driveway shall be 10%.

Fill for accesses shall be dirt only. No broken concrete, stones, bricks, tile, wood, or other rubble will be allowed.

Driveways to be used as home drives shall be surfaced with 2" of class A crushed rock.

Drives to be paved with portland or asphaltic concrete shall be inspected by the county engineer or his representative to insure proper drainage prior to placement of pavement material. Finished driveway profile shall match design cross slope of roadway shoulder. County will not be responsible for damage to paved drive surface due to road maintenance activities within road right of way.

SECTION FOUR - PIPE

The county engineer will determine size and length of pipe required at the time of application review. Acceptable pipe materials, are corrugated metal pipe and reinforced concrete pipe which meet the standard specifications of the Iowa Department of Transportation. Placement of pipe to be at the toe of back slope. Minimum pipe diameter is 18".

SECTION FIVE - COST

Applicant assumes all cost associated with the installation and modifications to all field entrances and driveways. County will not participate in installation or cost unless county initiates replacement, removal, or modification.

SECTION SIX - MAINTENANCE

Bremer County will only assume maintenance of the drainage structure, upon inspection and acceptance as dated on the permit. Applicant assumes maintenance of the surface. County will return surface of entrance or drive to original condition in the event of pipe maintenance. County will not rock or maintain field entrances or driveways beyond roadway shoulder line.

County may remove any entrance not built to these specifications.

APPENDIX E

PERMIT FOR EXCAVATION WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

THE BREMER COUNTY ENGINEER hereby grants permission to:

Owner/Applicant's Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contractor _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

LOCATION of WORK _____

SKETCH of WORK TO BE DONE:

The proposed work is located in Sec _____, Twp _____ N, Range _____ W
Located _____ feet _____ of the _____ corner of said Section.

This permit granted for the removal or the disturbance of soil from the County Right-of Way is governed by the following:

1. Applicant MUST contact Iowa One Call for utility locations within the excavation area. The Iowa One Call telephone number is 800-292-8989 and requires at least 48 hour notice. NO EXCAVATION MAY BEGIN UNTIL LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN MARKED.
2. Applicant is responsible for all necessary permitting from DNR, Corp of Engineers or for storm water discharge.
3. Applicant shall take all reasonable precaution during the construction and operation of the facility to protect and safeguard the lives and property of the traveling public and adjacent property owners and shall save Bremer County harmless of any damage. This provision is intended to include any damage to fences, watersheds, tiling and drainage construction owned by either Bremer County or adjoining property owners.
4. Operations and the construction and maintenance of said facilities shall be carried on in such a manner as not to interfere with or interrupt traffic on said county roads.
5. When performing work within the right-of-way, the owner or their contractor, agree that for all work done in the county road right-of-way, easement or other county property, that they shall be solely responsible for work zone safety and shall hold the county harmless and agree to indemnify the county from all claims that arise from their work in the right-of-way, and further, they agree that they will adhere to the manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) during the project. The owner or their contractor is responsible for providing, installing maintaining, and cleaning warning signs and protective devices; removing warning signs and protective devices when the work is complete; and providing flaggers for the protection of the traveling public and workers on the site.
6. Applicant shall hold Bremer County harmless from any damage that may result to said roadway because of the construction, operation or maintenance of said facility and/or connecting facilities and shall reimburse Bremer County for any expenditures it may have to make on said highway on account of said construction, operation or maintenance by the applicant, and shall replace and restore any roadway, including surface and subsurface materials.

7. Applicant shall hold Bremer County, Iowa, harmless from any damages that said County would otherwise be responsible for, that flow directly or in-directly from said project, because of construction, operation, or maintenance of said facility.
8. It is further understood and agreed that Bremer County, Iowa, shall not be liable, in any manner whatsoever, for any damages which might be caused by the actions of the County, its employees or agents, whether acting or assisting the applicant herein, acting in their own behalf, or for damages not related to work on the project caused incidentally by the negligence of the County. This is intended to be a complete indemnity agreement to the County for any claim or claims by the applicant company or to others against the County for damage to the applicant company's facilities.
9. Applicant shall hold Bremer County harmless and indemnify said county from any claim whatsoever by any and all person or persons, whether individually, jointly, or collectively, growing out of the installation, construction, maintenance, or repair of the facility. In the event claim is made (whether by suit or otherwise) applicant shall assume full responsibility for defending said claim, shall bear all expenses associated with said defense, and shall in every respect protect the county there from. Applicant shall further provide to the public of said applicant's insurance coverage for any claim or claims whatsoever the construction, maintenance, operation or repair of said facility. Said certificate shall be in a minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 and applicant shall provide the County Engineer with proof of said insurance when requested, but, in any event, no later than annually so long as this agreement exists. Failure of the applicant to maintain insurance shall not relieve said applicant of the indemnification duties hereunder, but may be ground for termination of this agreement.
10. **Minimum ditch depth is two feet and maximum depth is three and one-half feet.** Unless otherwise approved in advance. The right-of-way width requirement shall be agreed upon prior to approval of excavation or reconstruction permit.
11. Applicant will notify the County Engineer when work is to begin and when the work is completed.
12. Applicant agrees to make any corrections to the work upon the County's inspection.

Owner's Signature _____ Date _____

Approved By _____ Date _____

Inspected By _____ Date _____