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General Assembly of Iowa
Legislative Service Bureau

STUDY RECOMMENDATION

Integrated Roadside Vegetation
POLICIES FOR PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT

JANUARY 1989

CONSULTANTS

GBA
GEORGE BUTLER ASSOCIATES, INC.

IOWA
NATURAL HERITAGE
FOUNDATION



"FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW"

Integrated Roadside Vegetation

POLICIES FOR PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY REPORT

January 1989

Prepared by the Alternative Roadside Vegetation Steering Committee
Authorized by the Iowa Legislature

It stretches in all directions across Iowa for over 112,000 miles forming one of the largest public landholdings in the state--nearly 600,000 acres--equal in size to all the land owned by municipal, county, state and federal park agencies in Iowa. Every farmer is a neighbor of this property. With the exception of those arriving by plane (or boat), nearly every visitor to the state forms much of his and her first impression of Iowa by viewing these lands and the landscapes beyond. It's safe to conclude that the public roadsides adjoining the state's interstate and primary highways, county secondary and farm-to-market roads, and city streets affect every Iowan and state visitor in more ways than do any other type of public land.

The first and most important function of these roadsides is the safety of motorists. Yet, rarely do we appreciate or understand the other valuable functions roadsides provide. Drainage channels for runoff, erosion control, wildlife habitats, space for above ground and buried utilities of all kinds, and access to private property are some of the many public purposes served by roadsides.

Not all aspects of roadsides go unseen. Each year state, county, municipal and utility officials face such issues as rising maintenance costs; liability exposure from herbicide used to eradicate weeds; unwanted brush growth blocking motorist visibility and access to utilities; unauthorized burning of weeds and grasses; wildlife road-kills; and public complaints of one kind or another.

The Alternative Roadside Vegetation Steering Committee uncovered these and other issues. By Senate File 2196, the Iowa Legislature established the Committee to study and make recommendations on roadside management policies and laws. The Legislature's purpose was to preserve and enhance the biology, environment, and stability of the roadsides, the safety of motorists, and to preserve and enhance the aesthetic features of the roadsides, in a cost effective manner.

Recognizing that an in-depth study of roadway planting and maintenance practices would require a far longer time than was available, the Steering Committee instructed its consultants, George Butler Associates, Inc. P.C., and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, to concentrate their efforts on obtaining the opinions and suggestions of a

broad cross section of Iowans, through interviews, written surveys and public meetings. Policy makers, maintenance practitioners, government employees, scientific researchers, interest groups and concerned citizens--all having special and sometimes diverse interests in roadside vegetation--were consulted for advice and input.

Following early meetings with these people, the Steering Committee realized that the pioneering work initiated by several counties and in other states in replacing cool season, non-native grasses in roadside ditches with native prairie grasses had sparked widespread interest not only in alternatives to cool season grasses, but also in many other opportunities for new uses of plants in roadsides.

While seeking to identify new opportunities for improving the management of roadside vegetation, it also recognized that public agencies currently employ many successful management practices and that these should not be changed just for the sake of creating change.

Reflecting its view that Iowa's roadsides are a public asset--not a liability--the Steering Committee adopted a more comprehensive and workable definition for the entire process of managing the vegetation associated with all types of highways and roads in the state. As a basis for making specific recommendations, this definition is:

"INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- **maintains a safe travel environment;**
- **serves a variety of public purposes including erosion control, wildlife habitat, climate control, scenic qualities, weed control, utility easements, recreation uses, and sustenance of water quality;**
- **is based on a systematic assessment of conditions existing in roadsides, preservation of valuable vegetation and habitats in the area, and the adoption of a comprehensive plan and strategies for cost effective maintenance and vegetation planting;**
- **emphasizes the establishment of adaptable and long-lived vegetation, often native species, matched to the unique environment found in and adjacent to the roadside;**
- **incorporates integrated management practices for the long-term control of damaging insect populations, weeds and invader plant species; and**
- **is built on a public education program, input from adjacent landowners and public support."**

For the general public welfare, vegetation for Iowa's roadsides is preserved, planted and maintained to be safe, visually interesting, ecologically integrated and useful for many purposes.

The Steering Committee's definition is presented here for voluntary adoption and use by public agencies across the state.

The Steering Committee organized its findings into nearly 40 separate recommendations grouped into eight distinct categories. Collectively, these present a comprehensive package of actions which aid all levels of government, various private sector entities and interest groups to implement integrated roadside vegetation management programs. The eight categories of recommendations are:

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT--INTERAGENCY COORDINATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CODE AND RULE ADDITIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND UPDATES

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION NEEDS

OPPORTUNITIES AND ROLES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND LAND OWNER OPPORTUNITIES

ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

Some of the Committee's high priority recommendations are creating and funding a professional staff position of Roadside Vegetation Management (RVM) Coordinator; establishing an advisory RVM Task Force to carry on the work of this Steering Committee; and funding public education, research and demonstration programs as well as purposeful planting and reseeding projects for all types of roads.

Projected over a five-year period, funding needed for the Committee's recommendations totals \$18.7 million. At an annual average cost of \$3.7 million for these new programs designed to increase the effectiveness of managing vegetation for all types of roads, this level of funding is less than one half of one percent of annual funding for all types of road construction and maintenance in the state.

State revenue gained through the annual leasing of utility corridors along interstate highways is dedicated to the Living Roadway Trust Fund. While this offers a potential long-term source of funding to support many of these recommendations, more immediate and high priority needs for funding will have to be met with other sources of state revenue.

The Alternative Roadside Steering Committee membership included:

Steve Finegan
Black Hawk Co. Conservation Director
2410 West Lone Tree Road
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Laura Jackson
Dept. of Natural Resources
Wildlife Research Station
Ledges State Park
Boone, Iowa 50036

Jane E. Halliburton
Story County Supervisor
Story County Courthouse
Nevada, Iowa 50201

Dwaine Hockett
Highway Division (Road Design)
Iowa Dept. of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010

Jan Guthrie
870 Prospect Boulevard
Waterloo, Iowa 50701

Dennis A. Plautz, Director
Planning, Community Development &
Building Inspection Dept.
819 - 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

Study consultants:

George Butler Associates, Inc.
208 Fifth Street
P.O. Box 346
Ames, Iowa 50010
515/232-3396
David Dahlquist, Project Manager

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Insurance Exchange Bldg., Suite 1005
505 Fifth Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515/288-1846
Gerry Schnepf, Project Consultant

Additional information about the study and its recommendations may be obtained by contacting Doug Adkisson, Legislative Service Bureau, State House, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, phone: 515/281-3884; or the study consultants.

This report approved by the Alternative Roadside Vegetation Steering Committee on January 25, 1989.

January 23, 1989

DEFINITION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Viewing Iowa's roadsides as being a public asset--not a liability--the Steering Committee adopted a comprehensive and workable definition for managing the vegetation associated with all types of highways and roads in the State. As a basis for making specific recommendations, this definition is:

"INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- maintains a safe travel environment;
- serves a variety of public purposes including erosion control, wildlife habitat, climate control, scenic qualities, weed control, utility easements, recreation uses, and sustenance of water quality;
- is based on a systematic assessment of conditions existing in roadsides, preservation of valuable vegetation and habitats in the area, and the adoption of a comprehensive plan and strategies for cost effective maintenance and vegetation planting;
- emphasizes the establishment of adaptable and long-lived vegetation, often native species, matched to the unique environment found in and adjacent to the roadside;
- incorporates integrated management practices for the long-term control of damaging insect populations, weeds and invader plant species; and
- is built on a public education program, input from adjacent landowners and public support."

FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC WELFARE, VEGETATION FOR IOWA'S ROADSIDES IS PRESERVED, PLANTED AND MAINTAINED TO BE SAFE, VISUALLY INTERESTING, ECOLOGICALLY INTEGRATED AND USEFUL FOR MANY PURPOSES.

January 23, 1989

**STUDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTEGRATED
ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

The Steering Committee organized its findings into nearly 40 separate recommendations grouped into 8 distinct categories. Collectively, these present a comprehensive package of actions which aid all levels of government, various private sector entities and interest groups which seek to implement integrated roadside vegetation management programs. The 8 categories are the following and detailed descriptions of each recommendation can be found on the indicated pages.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT--INTERAGENCY COORDINATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

11 Recommendations on Pages A-3 thru A-11

CODE AND RULE ADDITIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND UPDATES

5 Recommendations on Pages A-12 thru A-15

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

8 Recommendations on Pages A-16 thru A-21

RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION NEEDS

1 Recommendation on Pages A-22 thru A-23

OPPORTUNITIES AND ROLES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

6 Recommendations on Pages A-24 thru A-27

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC

3 Recommendations on Pages A-28 thru A-30

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND LAND OWNER OPPORTUNITIES

4 Recommendations on Pages A-31 thru A-33

ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

1 Recommendation on Pages A-34 thru A-35

Pages A-36 and A-37 present recommended priorities and funding levels for all recommendations over a five-year period.

January 23, 1989

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT-INTERAGENCY COORDINATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. Establish a **Roadside Vegetation Management (RVM) Task Force** of state agency staff, local government representatives, vegetation management experts, tourism and recreation representatives, utility company staff, and others to oversee the implementation of statewide integrated roadside vegetation management programs and projects. The RVM Task Force should make annual reports to the Legislature regarding its activities and those of the Roadside Vegetation Management (RVM) Coordinator. Activities may include but are not limited to providing assistance in the following areas:
 - a. Research efforts
 - b. Demonstration projects
 - c. Education and orientation efforts for property owners, public officials and the general public
 - d. Activities of the RVM Coordinator for Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management
 - e. Review of applications for funding assistance
 - f. Securing funding for research and demonstrations
 - g. Determining needs for revising the state weed law and other applicable Code sections
 - h. Liaison with the Iowa State Association of Counties, the League of Iowa Municipalities, and other organizations
 - i. Others

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation, and/or
Department of Natural Resources, and/or
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and/or
Soil Conservation Service, and/or
University of Northern Iowa

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Transportation
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Iowa State Association of Counties
Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
League of Iowa Municipalities
University of Northern Iowa--Biology Department
Soil Conservation Service

January 23, 1989

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Included in No. 2 below

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

See No. 2 below

2. Establish a long-term professional staff position of the **RVM Coordinator for Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management**. Responsibilities of the position would include but are not limited to:
 - a. Conducting education and awareness programs
 - b. Providing technical advice to the Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources, counties, and municipalities
 - c. Conducting demonstration projects
 - d. Coordinating inventory and implementation activities
 - e. Providing assistance to local community-based groups for undertaking community entrance projects
 - f. Being a clearinghouse for information from Iowa projects as well as from other states
 - g. Periodically distributing information
 - h. General coordination of research efforts
 - i. Others

This position is recommended to be similar to the temporary Statewide Coordinator position now being administered by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board, the University of Northern Iowa, and the Soil Conservation Service. Funding for the current position, originally provided by Ground Water Protection legislation, runs out in October, 1989. Since much of the work of the RVM Coordinator would involve aspects of biology, botany, and vegetation management, it is recommended that a university or partnership of university departments be an integral part of the activities of this position.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation, or
Department of Natural Resources, or
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, or
Soil Conservation Service, or
University of Northern Iowa

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Not Applicable

January 23, 1989

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High (Action needed this legislative session to avoid a lapse in current program.)

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$85,000 annually for 5 years (1.5 FTE's plus support for basic supplies, travel and other direct expenses.) Does not include program and project costs--see other recommendations.

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

General Fund
Living Roadway Trust Fund

3. Conduct **statewide and regional conferences and seminars** about integrated roadside vegetation management, community entryways, scenic values of land adjoining roadside and other topics. Support for conferences can come from the Governor's Office, various state agencies, Board of Regents' institutions and/or private organizations such as The Ames Foundation, Inc.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Governor's Office,
Department of Transportation,
Department of Natural Resources,
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
Soil Conservation Service, and/or
Board of Regents' Institutions

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Coordinator
RVM Task Force
Iowa State Association of Counties
Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
Conservation Organizations
Local Betterment Groups
Garden Clubs and others

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to Medium

January 23, 1989

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Self-sustaining through registration fees.

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

4. Develop **integrated roadside vegetation inventories, classification systems, plans and implementation strategies for roadsides under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation.** In addition to the progress already made by the Department of Transportation, areas of increased program and project emphasis could include:
- a. Additional development and funding of state "Gateways" projects
 - b. Accelerated replacement of dead and unhealthy plants with native and hardy trees and shrubs
 - c. Special interest plantings at selected highly visible locations along primary and interstate highways
 - d. Pilot and demonstration projects
 - e. Additional snow and erosion control plantings
 - f. Welcome Center and Rest Area plantings with native and aesthetically interesting species to create "mini-arboretums" around the state
 - g. Others

Involvement of local governments and private organizations in many of these areas is needed and would help provide public support and understanding of these activities.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Coordinator
Department of Natural Resources staff
College and university faculty and students
Professional consultants

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to Medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Inventories, plans and implementation strategies--\$200,000 for each of 3 years

Projects and implementation--see other recommendations

January 23, 1989

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

General Fund
Living Roadway Trust Fund
Road Use Tax Fund

5. Conduct a reconnaissance of lands to develop an **inventory of sites having the potential of being harvested** for native grass, forb and woody plant material seed and growing stock. Highway ROW's, parks and recreation areas, converted railroad ROW's, Board of Regents' property, lands owned by counties, and other types of public property would be surveyed and documented for seed source potential. Sites volunteered by private organizations could also be included in the inventory. Inventory information would be made available to state agencies' staffs, county engineers, county conservation board directors, and others. Sources of trained staff for conducting the reconnaissance and inventory could be Department of Natural Resources Natural Area Inventory Staff, college staff and students of natural science programs, and other professionals.

Options for contracting for services with private growers and suppliers should be explored. Caution should be used in developing this recommendation so as not to create unfair competition with private sector businesses in Iowa offering for sale the species which this inventory identifies.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Natural Resources

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Transportation
College and University Staffs and students
RVM Task Force
RVM Coordinator

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium to long range

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$60,000 for each of 3 years

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

General Fund
Lottery
Living Roadway Trust Fund

January 23, 1989

6. Develop as educational tools, **public service announcements and television programs** about the importance of roadside vegetation in Iowa.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Education
Department of Cultural Affairs--IPBN
Potential corporate and/or foundation support and sponsorship

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$50,000 for the first, second and third years

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

General Fund

7. Develop a **theme and graphic logo** expressing the importance of the vegetation in Iowa's roadsides. Use these in education programs of various kinds, tourism literature, project or demonstration site identification and other communication uses. A narrative theme or graphic logo could be the product of a statewide competition. Some county conservation boards are using special signs on secondary and farm-to-market roads to inform motorists and adjoining landowners of the sites of alternative roadside vegetation plantings. To increase public awareness and education, this program should be expanded.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Cultural Affairs
RVM Task Force
Private corporations, businesses and/or foundations

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

January 23, 1989

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Private organization sponsorship of theme and graphic logo creation.
Implementation of theme and graphic logo as part of other funding packages.

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Private sector grants

8. Expand existing training sessions and educational curriculum material for county weed commissioners, government contract sprayers, maintenance staff and others to include coverage of integrated roadside management topics such as basic plant species identification, vegetation preservation, vegetation inventory techniques, vegetation management and planning procedures, planting techniques, maintenance, communication, and public relations. County and municipal engineers, public works staffs, planning and zoning representatives, parks and habitat managers and others should be encouraged to participate. Additionally, university curriculums in the areas of agronomy, botany, biology, forestry, engineering, landscape architecture, and planning should include course coverage and development of integrated roadside vegetation management topics.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Department of Transportation
Department of Natural Resources
Iowa State Association of Counties
Board of Regents' Institutions
Professional organizations

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

No increase of existing programs
New programs to be self-sustaining through registration fees

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not Applicable

January 23, 1989

9. Provide **grants and/or loans** to local governments and/or organizations which are developing **community entryway enhancement and other planting demonstration projects**. Planning, public education, installation, and initial maintenance planning and development could be eligible activities under this funding program. All projects should be required to produce a local match or contribution toward the overall project cost.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation--The RVM Task Force to review applications for funding

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Not applicable

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$1,000,000 for each of 5 years

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Living Roadway Trust Fund
Local match contributions

10. Provide **grants and/or loans** to local governments for the purchase of **specialized equipment and special staff training** for the establishment of alternative forms of roadside vegetation. (See recommendation No. 5 under OPPORTUNITIES AND ROLES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.) All projects under this recommendation should be required to produce a local match or contribution toward the overall project cost.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation--The RVM Task Force to review applications for funding

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Natural Resources

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium to long range

January 23, 1989

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$50,000 for each of 5 years

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Road Use Tax Fund
Local match contributions

11. **Incorporate** integrated roadside vegetation management **with other state agency planning and program activities** including the recreation trails program, scenic highways, open space and tourism development efforts. Agencies should annually report their progress in this area to the Legislature.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Natural Resources
Department of Transportation
Department of Economic Development
Department of Cultural Affairs
RVM Task Force

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

No additional funding needed

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

January 23, 1989

CODE AND RULE ADDITIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND UPDATES

1. Code language should be reviewed to determine areas where the powers and responsibilities of counties should be more clearly defined regarding **maintenance and management of secondary road vegetation** and repair of damage to roadside vegetation. An opinion of the Attorney General may be needed.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

County Boards of Supervisors

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Attorney General
Iowa State Association of Counties

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not Applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not Applicable

2. The RVM Task Force should **review portions of the Weed Law** relative to:
 - a. Species listed for complete eradication versus those which should be listed for control at threshold levels below which economic damage is caused
 - b. Definition of the term "weed"
 - c. Provisions relative to Department of Transportation, county, and municipal removal of weeds from roads and streets
 - d. More clearly identifying options for counties which have implemented integrated roadside vegetation management plans such as exemption from some provisions of the Weed Law.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position,
RVM Task Force

January 23, 1989

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not Applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not Applicable

3. Section 314.20 UTILITY EASEMENTS ON HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY, Iowa Code, should be amended to allow the DOT's portion of the Living Roadway Trust Fund moneys to be used also on primary highways. Current language limits use to interstate highways only.

Section 314.21 LIVING ROADWAY TRUST FUND, Iowa Code, should be amended to add the definition of "INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT" as presented and developed in this study.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Not applicable

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

The formula for allocating LIVING ROADWAY TRUST FUND revenue (State projects = 56%, County projects = 30%, City projects = 14%) should be reviewed to determine how accurately it reflects actual need and appropriateness for proportionately distributing these funds.

January 23, 1989

4. Provisions of the **Wind Erosion Control Incentive Program (WECIP)** administered by the Department of Transportation should be reviewed to identify ways of making the program more cost effective and/or more widely adopted.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation,
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
RVM Task Force

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Soil Conservation Service
Department of Natural Resources

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Maintain existing levels of funding but allocate the Department of Transportation portion of annual funding for WECIP to the WECIP efforts administered by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Maintain existing sources of funding

5. Options should be explored to give **municipalities and counties incentives** for developing and implementing integrated roadside vegetation management programs such as increased eligibility to receive Living Roadway Trust Fund monies and others.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Iowa State Association of Counties,
League of Iowa Municipalities

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Department of Transportation

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium to long range

January 23, 1989

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

January 23, 1989

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

1. Further development of the existing "Gateways" program should be undertaken to provide meaningful visual impacts with major new planting at these important entry points to the state and communities. In addition to the increased maintenance already initiated by the Department of Transportation, substantial and distinctive plantings should be designed and installed at these points. Creative and artistic design solutions should be sought for these improvements. Communication about these projects should be increased with local groups to build community involvement, support and understanding of their importance. Consideration should be given to the option that "Gateways" projects should be required to produce a local match or contribution toward the overall project cost.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Counties
Municipalities
Local community beautification groups
Tourism development groups
Chambers of commerce and others

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$750,000 for each of the next five years

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

General Fund
Living Roadway Trust Fund
Road Use Trust Fund
Local match contributions

January 23, 1989

2. To create greater visual effect, alternatives should be investigated for **concentrating plantings at strategic locations to gain a greater visual impact and appeal as well as stronger scenic value.** Equal attention should be given to providing safe and effective habitats for wildlife which can co-exist with interstates and primary highways. Landscape plantings as an art form should be explored with the Department of Cultural Affairs (Arts Council).

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Natural Resources
Department of Cultural Affairs
Professional and special interest groups and organizations

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

In addition to maintaining projected levels of funding for the Department of Transportation's planned planting projects associated with road construction, this schedule of increased funding is recommended for this effort:

\$ 250,000 for the first year
\$1,000,000 for the second year
\$1,500,000 for the third year
\$1,500,000 for the fourth year
\$1,500,000 for the fifth year

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

General Fund
Living Roadway Trust Fund
Road Use Trust Fund

3. An aggressive program should be undertaken to assess the reasons why trees, shrubs and ground covers of all kinds have died on state highway and interstate roadsides under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation and to **identify acceptable replacement plant materials and ground covers.**

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation

January 23, 1989

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Not applicable

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to Medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Maintain existing levels of funding for programs and projects which include plant and ground cover replacements as part of road reconstruction and add \$100,000 for each of five years for special plant replacement projects.

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Existing funding sources for pavement construction and rehabilitation projects.

Road Use Tax Fund

Living Roadway Trust Fund

4. Increased protection should be established for off-ROW scenic and wildlife habitat resources throughout the state through the use of easements, covenants, zoning ordinances and other provisions.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation,
Department of Natural Resources,
Counties, and
Municipalities

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and other conservation organizations

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$100,000 per year for the next five years

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POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Living Roadway Trust Fund
General Fund
Lottery
Funding to implement the State's Open Space Protection Program
Others

5. Incorporation of integrated roadside vegetation management practices with new off- and on-road right-of-way recreation trails should be undertaken to provide highly visible sites for pilot projects for integrated vegetation management.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Department of Natural Resources
County Conservation Boards
Municipalities
Conservation organizations
Beautification groups
Garden clubs and others

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

No additional funding needed (include as an eligible activity under trails funding program)

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Road Use Tax Fund--Trails Funding
Lottery

6. Options in rural and urban areas should be explored to incorporate techniques for preserving as well as developing wetland habitats and creating water storage and detention areas in road construction and rebuilding projects. Where appropriate and practical, increased use of CRP lands adjoining roadside for herbicide and sediment "filter strips" should be examined.

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AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Natural Resources

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Transportation
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Soil Conservation Service

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Include as activities eligible for optional funding under existing secondary and farm-to-market road improvement projects

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Road Use Tax Fund

7. Where appropriate space and highway geometrics exist, use of plant materials to provide **soft impact barriers and other traffic control features** should be investigated.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Not applicable

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium to long term

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

No additional funding needed--substitute appropriate use of plants in place of constructed features

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Existing state and federal funding sources

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8. Accelerated efforts should be directed toward increasing and expanding the effectiveness of plantings to reduce wind- and water-induced soil erosion and to increase deposition of snow in desired locations.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation, and
County Engineers

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Department of Natural Resources
Soil Conservation Service
County Conservation Boards

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$100,000

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Road Use Tax Fund

RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION NEEDS

1. To provide basic and technical information, various **research and feasibility studies** should be conducted. Members of university and college science departments, professional biologists and botanists, practitioners, the State Preserves Board, the State Ecologist and others have interest in these research areas, as do policy-makers with a concern for cost effectiveness and cost accountability. There is also the need to establish demonstration projects of different kinds at a variety of locations around the state. Research, field studies and feasibility analyses should be conducted in the following areas:
 - a. Cost effectiveness and/or comparison of planting, establishing and maintaining "alternative" or warm-season, native grass and forb roadside vegetation and "traditional" cool-season non-native vegetation.
 - b. Identification of the relationship that roadsides and roadside vegetation have to maintaining water quality, i.e. drainage wells, sediment and pollutant collection and filtration, and others.
 - c. Impacts of burning as an alternative vegetation management tool on all categories of roads.
 - d. Techniques for more quickly establishing erosion control and permanent vegetative cover on recently disturbed ground as well as interplanting native species in existing vegetative cover.
 - e. Effectiveness of techniques for reduced or selected use of herbicides to control weeds.
 - f. Identification of cross section and slope steepness design standards which provide for motorist safety as well as for improved establishment, maintenance, and replacement of different types of vegetation.
 - g. Identification of a uniform inventory and assessment technique which could be used by many counties in establishing integrated roadside management programs.
 - h. Equipment innovations for seeding and harvesting grasses in difficult terrain settings, roadway ditches and fore- and back-slopes.
 - i. Identifying the perceptions of motorists and landowners to various types of roadside vegetation and configuration of plantings.
 - j. Market or economic feasibility study for native seed, forb and woody plant production and propagation.

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- k. Impacts of vegetation modifications on increasing or decreasing wildlife populations in rural and urban areas.
- l. Effects of vegetation on the number and location of wildlife road-kills in rural and urban areas.
- m. Costs to the public for improper off-site resource management adjacent to roadsides.
- n. Advantages, disadvantages and techniques of establishing trails and short walkways adjacent to highways and their impacts on vegetation management.
- o. Identification of alternative techniques for snow catchment on farmland adjacent to roadsides.
- p. Others

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position and the RVM Task Force

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Coordinator
Universities and colleges
Private sector consultants

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to long term

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$150,000 for each of the next five years

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Living Roadway Trust Fund
Road Use Tax Fund
Private sector support
Corporation support

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OPPORTUNITIES AND ROLES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

1. All counties and municipalities should be encouraged to prepare and undertake the implementation of an **integrated roadside vegetation management plan** and implementation program.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

County Conservation Boards,
County Engineers,
Municipal Public Works Departments,
Municipal Planning Departments and others

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Coordinator
RVM Task Force
Department of Transportation
Department of Natural Resources

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

2. Where liability factors warrant, local governments should be encouraged to explore undertaking labor-intensive vegetation planting, establishment and management projects by using the Young Adult and Green Thumb components of the **Iowa Conservation Corps**. Greater awareness of these existing programs should be created, coupled with increased Legislative appropriation for Iowa Conservation Corps participation in roadside vegetation management projects. Examples of activities which the Young Adult and Green Thumb components could undertake include seed harvesting and processing, brush removal, education and interpretation programs, and others.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Economic Development

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PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Natural Resources
County Conservation Boards
Other local sponsors

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium to long term

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Increase existing annual funding of the Iowa Conservation Corps by \$100,000

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Existing funding--Lottery

3. Counties should be encouraged to determine the relationships between soil and sediment deposition (and the frequency of needed clean-outs) in road ditches adjoining property which have implemented **soil conservation and erosion control plans** and those which do not have such plans in place. (Soil conservation plans are due to be completed by 1990 and implemented by 1995.)

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

County Engineers

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

County Conservation Boards
Soil Conservation Service

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

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4. **Local governments should be encouraged to use zoning and site development ordinances to implement integrated vegetation management in the following areas:**
 - a. The value of preserving and protecting existing ground covers, shrubs and trees in municipal roadside areas during construction of new land developments.
 - b. Assurance that adequate and useful new plantings are provided and maintained with new developments, including along roadways, in parking areas and within yards.
 - c. Determine and initiate higher-than-normal design, planting and maintenance standards for more-often-seen scenic areas and community entrances of municipalities and counties.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Boards of Supervisors,
City Councils,
County and municipal Planning Departments and Commissions

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Developers

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium to long range

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

5. **Loaning and/or pooling of specialized equipment** on a regional basis for seeding, planting and harvesting native species should be further established between the Department of Transportation, county engineers, county conservation boards and other organizations. Likewise, trained operators for this equipment could be shared among the various jurisdictions. A state-wide inventory of available equipment should be established to aid in increasing the use of this somewhat expensive and hard-to-find machinery.

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AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

County Engineers
County Conservation Boards
RVM Coordinator

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

6. A wide variety of local and national organizations exist to assist local governments with assessing local vegetation management needs and opportunities, developing plans and strategies, and implementing and maintaining plantings. Likewise, registered landscape architects, botanists, biologists, agronomists, foresters and other specialists exist and practice in Iowa to assist counties and communities.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

RVM Coordinator

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Many private sector businesses and consultants

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High to medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

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EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC

1. In order to better inform and educate the traveling public on roadside vegetation management activities, a variety of **public relations material** should continue to be prepared, displayed and distributed. News releases, posters, brochures and temporary as well as permanent signage are some of the more effective means which the Department of Transportation, counties, and municipalities can employ to inform motorists of a variety of roadside vegetation issues including:
 - a. Benefits of various types of roadside vegetation.
 - b. Long-term results expected from planting and maintenance practices.
 - c. Purposes for short-term disturbances in the roadside landscapes.
 - d. Interesting aspects of the Iowa landscape and individual landscape regions.
 - e. Other aspects relating to wildlife, soil erosion, etc.

Welcome Centers and Interstate Rest Areas offer good opportunities for distributing this information.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation, and
the RVM Coordinator

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Economic Development
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$75,000 for each of three years

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Living Roadway Trust Fund
General Fund

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2. **Educational material** designed to inform adjoining property owners, farm operators and others of the importance of roadside vegetation and their responsibilities of proper stewardship of that vegetation resource, should be prepared for extensive distribution. Options for CRP and annual set-aside acreage should be presented.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
Soil Conservation Service

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$50,000 for each of the next three years

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

General Fund

3. **Face-to-face communication** with landowners by public staff should be encouraged and undertaken whenever possible to create widespread understanding of integrated vegetation management practices and objectives, as well as the need and value of landowner cooperation.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Department of Transportation,
Department of Natural Resources,
County Engineers, and
County Conservation Board Staffs

January 23, 1989

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND LAND OWNER OPPORTUNITIES

1. Based on the findings and projections of a marketing feasibility study for increasing the production of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs and trees, **expansion of existing businesses** as well as the **creation of new growers, processors and suppliers** may follow. As public agencies increase their demand for this type of material, Iowa-based growers should have an advantage in providing the needed supplies. Financial support may be needed to assist some of the highly specialized and/or labor intensive harvesting and processing practices for forbs and "eco-based" or local ecotype seed sources.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Department of Natural Resources

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

\$50,000 in the third year.

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Special appropriation to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (State Horticulturist)

2. Where appropriate and regulations allow, new **CRP acreage and annual set-aside acreage** can be positioned adjacent to roadsides to provide a variety of benefits including improved water quality, wildlife habitat, erosion control, pollution and sediment "filter strips", and others.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
Agricultural Stabili and Conservation Service, and
Soil Conservation Service

January 23, 1989

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

3. Programs similar to those of other states should be considered for application in Iowa wherein private sector entities, such as major corporations, are encouraged to provide financial support for increased planting and/or maintenance of designated portions of interstates' and primary highways' roadsides. Tasteful and appropriate recognition can be given to participating corporations for their support.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Transportation

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Private Corporations

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium to long range

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable--potential cost savings

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

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4. Implementation of Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management practices can provide various private businesses with new or expanded business opportunities including consulting services, contract planting and vegetation management services, sale of equipment and products, providing educational services and materials, and others.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Department of Economic Development, and
the RVM Coordinator

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Medium

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

January 23, 1989

ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

1. Many opportunities exist for **private organizations, clubs and groups** to assist in improving the quality of Iowa's roadside vegetation and making the general public aware of its importance and the threats to its well being. Some possibilities for the involvement of garden clubs, environmental groups, recreation organizations, and community betterment groups include:
 - a. Awards and recognition programs for outstanding performance by government staff and departments.
 - b. Clean-up projects where safety warrants the activity.
 - c. Planting, seed gathering and maintenance activities, as well as wildlife habitat management to supplement that provided by public maintenance crews, where safety warrants the activities.
 - d. Conducting and/or sponsoring public relations programs and workshops to aid in educating the general public about the values of roadside vegetation.
 - e. Informing organization members of the issues related to roadside vegetation.
 - f. Conducting special training programs, workshops and seminars for public agency staff and work crews.
 - g. Others.

AGENCY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACTION:

Same agency designated to provide primary support for the RVM Coordinator position

PARTICIPATING, COLLABORATING AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS:

RVM Task Force
Many private organizations

PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

High

ESTIMATED LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED:

Not applicable

January 23, 1989

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:
Not applicable

January 23, 1989

ALTERNATIVE ROADSIDE VEGETATION STUDY
RECOMMENDATION TOPICS & FUNDING

RECOMMENDATION	PAGE NOS.	PRIORITY	FUNDING:					TOTALS
			YR. 1	YR. 2	YR. 3	YR. 4	YR. 5	
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT - INTERAGENCY COORDINATION NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES								
1. RVM Task Force	A3-4	High	(Included in No. 2 below -- with RVM Coordinator)					\$0
2. RVM Coordinator	A4-5	High	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$425,000
3. Conferences & Seminars	A5-6	High-Med.	(Self sustaining through registration fees)					\$0
4. Roadside Veg. Inventories, Plans	A6-7	High-Med.	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000			\$600,000
5. Inventory of Grass, etc. Harvest Sites	A7	Med.-Lg.Rng.			\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$180,000
6. Public Service Announcements	A8	High-Med.	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000			\$150,000
7. Theme & Graphic Logo	A8-9	High	(Private organization sponsorship; part of other funding packages)					\$0
8. Training Sessions & Educ. Material	A9	High	(No increase of existing programs, new programs self-sustaining)					\$0
9. Community Entry Grants	A10	High	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000
10. Special Equipment & Training Grants	A10-11	Med.-Lg.Rng.	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$250,000
11. Incorp. w/ Other State Agency Activity	A11	Med.	(No additional funding needed)					\$0
CODE AND RULE ADDITIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND UPDATES								
1. Maint. & Mgt. of Secondary Roadsd. Veg.	A12	High-Med.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
2. Review Portions of Weed Law	A12-13	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
3. Living Roadway Trust Fund	A13	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
4. Wind Erosion Control Program (WECIP)	A13-14	Med.	(Allocate I.D.O.T. WECIP \$ to D.A.L.S. WECIP program)					\$0
5. Municipalities & Counties Incentives	A14-15	Med.-Lg.Rng.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION OPPORTUNITIES								
1. 'Gateways' program	A16	Med.	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$3,750,000
2. Plantings at Strategic Locations	A17	High-Med.	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$5,750,000
3. Replanting Dead Plant Materials	A17-18	Med.	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$500,000
4. Off-ROW Scenic & Wildlife Hab. Resources	A18-19	High-Med.	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$500,000
5. Recreation Trails	A19	High-Med.	(No add'l. funds needed--incl. as eligible activ. under trail fund. prog.)					\$0
6. Preserve & Develop Wetland Habitats	A19-20	High	(Include as activities eligible for opt. funding under existing projs.)					\$0
7. Soft Impact Barriers, Traffic Control	A20	Med.-Lg.Rng.	(No additional funding needed--substitute plants for const. features)					\$0
8. Snow, Wind, Water Erosion Reduction	A21	Med.			\$100,000			\$100,000

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ALTERNATIVE ROADSIDE VEGETATION STUDY

RECOMMENDATION TOPICS & FUNDING (continued)

RECOMMENDATION	PAGE NOS.	PRIORITY	FUNDING:					TOTALS
			YR. 1	YR. 2	YR. 3	YR. 4	YR. 5	
RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION NEEDS								
1. Research & Feasibility Studies	A22-23	Hi.-Lg.Rng.	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$750,000
OPPORTUNITIES AND ROLES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS								
1. Co. & Mun. Integ. Roadsd. Veg. Mgt. Plan	A24	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
2. Iowa Conservation Corps	A24-25	Med.-Lg.Rng.		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
3. Soil Conserv. & Erosion Control Plans	A25	High-Med.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
4. Zoning & Site Development Ordinances	A26	Med.-Lg.Rng.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
5. Loaning/Pooling of Special Equipment	A26-27	High-Med.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
6. Assistance from Organizations & Professionals	A27	High-Med.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC								
1. Public Relations Material	A28	High	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000			\$225,000
2. Educational Material	A29	High	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000			\$150,000
3. Face-to-face Communication	A29-30	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND LAND OWNER OPPORTUNITIES								
1. Expand Existing Businesses & Create New	A31	Med.			\$50,000			\$50,000
2. CRP Acreage & Annual Set-aside Acreage	A31-32	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
3. Financial Support from Corporations, etc.	A32	Med.-Lg.Rng.	(Not applicable -- Potential cost savings)					\$0
4. New/Expanded Business Opport. for Priv. Bus.	A33	Med.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT								
1. Private Organizations, Clubs, Groups	A34-35	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
TOTALS			<u>\$2,860,000</u>	<u>\$3,710,000</u>	<u>\$4,420,000</u>	<u>\$3,895,000</u>	<u>\$3,895,000</u>	<u>\$18,780,000</u>

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