

City Of Royal
Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan
for Cities Under 10,000 Population
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

IOWA CODE

Section 314.21 1. c. of the Iowa Code states: *"a city or county shall not be eligible to receive moneys from the living roadway trust fund unless the city or county has an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management plan in place consistent with the objectives in section 314.22."*

Section 314.22 of the Iowa Code, Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management states:
"It is declared to be in the general public welfare of Iowa and a highway purpose for the vegetation of Iowa's roadsides to be preserved, planted, and maintained to be safe, visually interesting, ecologically integrated, and useful for many purposes."

DEFINITION

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) a long-term approach to vegetation management that:

1. Systematically evaluates each area to be managed.
2. Determines which plant communities best fit the area.
3. Develops procedures that will encourage, enhance or re-establish native plant communities.
4. Provides self-sustaining, diversified, visually interesting vegetation.
5. Establishes safety and an improved environment as priorities.
6. Utilizes the most beneficial methods to prevent or correct undesirable situations caused by disturbance or less than optimum vegetative ground cover.
7. Enforces Chapter 317, Code of Iowa Noxious Weed Law.

INTRODUCTION

Transportation corridors move people and goods safely and efficiently from one location to another in vehicles, on bicycles and walking. The purposes of roadside vegetation are to hold soil in place without creating hazards, improve scenic beauty for users, and provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

The city's vegetation management goals must meet certain safety and functional requirements before aesthetic, recreational, or economic considerations can be addressed. These are to maintain a clear zone recovery area, meet minimal sight distance requirements, and provide for erosion control. Also required by Iowa law is the control of noxious weeds.

The goals of this Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program are to:

1. Preserve and provide safe, functional, and environmentally improved corridors of travel throughout the city.
2. Promote desirable, self-sustaining plant communities in roadsides, drainage areas, and other public lands in the city over the long term.
3. Utilize those plant communities that are native to Iowa through preservation and re-establishment whenever practical.
4. Implement a brush control program within the roadside rights-of-way.
5. Make more efficient and effective use of pesticides as a control method of undesirable species.
6. Enhance the scenic qualities of the roadsides and entranceways and their value as roadside habitat.

PROCEDURES FOR INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. Inventory sites to be managed, listing areas of desirable vegetation and those needing improvement.
2. Determine the appropriate management methods needed.
3. Determine the best time to implement management procedures and see that they are accomplished at that time. Temporary procedures may be needed to preserve an area before permanent methods can be utilized.

INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT METHODS

Integrated vegetation management includes the use of cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical practices. Each location must be evaluated to determine the best method to be used. One or more of the following will be used:

1. Cultural Methods

Cultural controls can be achieved through the introduction and management of desirable plants to control noxious weeds and other undesirable plants. The city will use diverse native grass and forb seed mixes or plant plugs as well as trees in their plantings. These diverse native plantings will be maintained and protected.

Prescribed fire is recognized as a valuable tool in brush and invasive plant control and can be used to enhance and maintain native plant communities. The city recognizes the potential hazards relating to prescribed fire. Therefore, roadsides will be burned only under the safest atmospheric conditions by burn crew personnel trained and certified in the use of prescribed fire.

2. Mechanical Methods.

This involves anything from tractor mowers for managing shoulders, weed control and planting maintenance to pruning shears, chainsaws, and boom mowers for controlling brush and maintaining guardrails and the clear zone.

3. Biological Methods

This involves the use of animals, insects, bacteria or viruses to control plant growth. Natural enemies of noxious weeds could be used in the ROW if necessary. Further research will be needed on other possible biological controls before the city will recommend them.

4. Pesticide Methods

Selection of pesticides to be used shall be based on their label constraints and residual effects on the environment. They will be monitored to document their effectiveness and impacts upon target and non-target species.

Pesticides can be valuable tools for controlling undesirable vegetation. Applicators will be certified by the State of Iowa as public applicators in the appropriate categories.

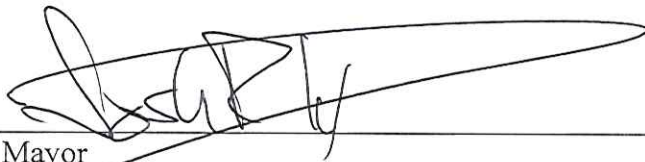
EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

In accordance with this IRVM plan, the city will:

1. Develop a public awareness campaign to gain support for integrated roadside management through media, established organizations, seminars and brochures.
2. Obtain educational and informational material on IRVM to be presented in seminars and distributed to adjacent landowners, the public, consultants, and contractors.
3. Provide guidelines and directives for staff, contractors and others who seed, plant and maintain roadsides.
4. Encourage the use of seed, plants and trees native to Iowa.

This is a flexible plan that requires common sense interpretations with changes made as necessary to fit the ever-changing complex circumstances realized in integrated roadside vegetation management. This plan will require an update within five years of certification.

City Certification:



Mayor

[Click here to enter a date.](#)
Date



City Administrator *Clerk*

[Click here to enter a date.](#)
Date

City of Royal IRVM Plan – City of Royal Public Works information

Sherman Nielsen – City of Royal Public Works
712-260-7515

In the City of Royal, the roadsides are primarily the right of way (ROW) encompassing the space between the road and the sidewalk (where sidewalks are present). Generally speaking, homeowners mow and maintain the ROW except for tree maintenance. Specific to tree maintenance, the city has access to a bucket truck and city staff will prune and trim trees in the ROW as necessary.

Specific areas of Royal that the city is responsible for:

- Ditch along Triangle Park
- 1st Ave - West side of the road from Long St. all the way north to the hwy B40
- Park St. - All the way from 1st Ave to B40
- Market St. - All the way from 1st Ave (or close) to B40
- 4th Ave - From main to Market on both sides of the road.

General maintenance that happens in the areas the city is responsible for include:

- Mowing and weed trimming
- Pruning of dead and damaged limbs, some tree removal if necessary
- Spot spraying to manage annual and perennial weeds

The City of Royal has a council person that is responsible for Parks and Recreation; but day to day operations are handled by Sherman Nielsen. Parks & rec does have an annual budget.

The city recognizes the challenge EAB presents and his being proactive in removing damaged, diseased, and targeted ash trees. This typically happens in the winter months.

ORDINANCE NO. 112

CHAPTER 4. TREES

ARTICLE 9 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

9.01 REMOVAL OF TREES. The City shall have removed, on the order of the Council, any existing tree on the streets of the City which interferes with the making of improvements or with travel thereon and additionally shall remove any existing trees on the street, which constitute a danger to the public or which may otherwise be declared a nuisance. All trees on private property, including those in the parking, are the responsibility of the property owner.

9.02 DUTY TO TRIM TREES. The owner or agent of the abutting property shall keep the existing trees on, or overhanging the street, trimmed so that all branches will be at least fifteen (15) feet above the surface of the street and eight (8) feet above the sidewalks. If the abutting property owner fails to trim the existing trees, the City may serve notice on the abutting property owner requiring that such action be taken within fifteen (15) days. If such action is not taken within that time, the City may perform the required action and assess the costs against the abutting property for collection in the same manner as property tax.

9.03 INSPECTION AND REMOVAL. The Council shall inspect or cause to be inspected any trees or shrubs in the City reported or suspected to be dead or damaged, and such trees and shrubs shall be subject to the following: If it is determined with reasonable certainty that any such condition exists on private property and that danger to other trees or to adjoining property or passing motorists or pedestrians imminent, the Council shall notify by certified mail the owner, occupant or person in charge of such property to correct such condition by treatment or removal within thirty (30) days of said notification. If such owner, occupant, or person in charge of said property fails to comply within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice, the Council may cause the condition to be corrected and the cost assessed against the property.

Passed by the council this 9th day of August, 2017, and approved this 9th day of August, 2017.

Florence Shry Mayor

Attest:

Barbara Fisher

Clerk