

# Scott County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM)



## Roadside Natives Self-Guided Tour

Prime viewing times are June -  
September



### Why Plant Natives?

Native plants are durable, long-lived perennials well-adapted to Iowa's climate and growing season. A diverse native planting adapts to a wide range of soil and moisture conditions.

Root systems penetrate 6-8 feet or deeper, so prairie plants survive drought and high salt concentrations. Dense, above-ground foliage along with deep roots provide superior erosion control and reduce stormwater runoff. Roots and decaying foliage add organic matter to the soil, making it spongier and more absorbent.

Native roadside plantings provide important habitat for agriculture crop pollinators. They also provide valuable food and cover for songbirds, game birds and small mammals.

Native plants add color and natural beauty to the right-of-way. These tallgrass prairie roadside plantings restore a piece of Iowa's natural heritage.



*We're controlling erosion. We're making  
habitat for birds. We're making the  
world a better place.  
- Brian Burkholder -*

### What is IRVM?

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) combines a variety of right-of-way management techniques with sound ecological principles to create safe, ecologically diverse, and aesthetically pleasing roadsides. Implementing IRVM can improve water quality, reduce runoff, provide pollinator habitat, preserve and restore native landscapes, and reduce mowing and herbicide use. Scott County implements IRVM during planned secondary road projects and through the Adopt-a-Prairie program.

### What is Adopt-a-Prairie?

This program restores and reconstructs native vegetation in county right-of-ways, producing a cost-effective solution to roadside weed and erosion control. Landowners can ask the county to remove what's currently growing in their ditches along secondary roads and reseed with natives. The benefits to landowners can include reduced mowing, improved water drainage, increased pollinator habitat and, of course, a beautiful view. If your property borders a county road, you can learn more at:

<https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/roads/irvm/adopt-prairie-program>

Or, contact the Scott County Roadside Vegetation Specialist:

**Brian Burkholder**

Scott County Secondary Roads Department

(563) 326-8640

[Brian.Burkholder@scottcountyiowa.gov](mailto:Brian.Burkholder@scottcountyiowa.gov)



1. **Roadside North of New Liberty**

SW Corner of 10th Avenue & 308th Street  
New Liberty, Iowa (Year 25+)



2. **Wapsi River Environmental**

**Education Center**

31555 52nd Ave.  
Dixon, Iowa (Year 5)

3. **Al & Mary**

28011 102nd Avenue  
Donahue, Iowa (Year 2)

4. **West Lake Park Gate 3**

14910 110th Avenue  
Davenport, Iowa (Year 3)

5. **Mike & Jane**

17180 305th Street  
Long Grove, Iowa (Year 4)

6. **Tom & Jackie**

22850 Utica Ridge Road  
Davenport, Iowa (Year 4)

