



ROADSIDE VEGETATION

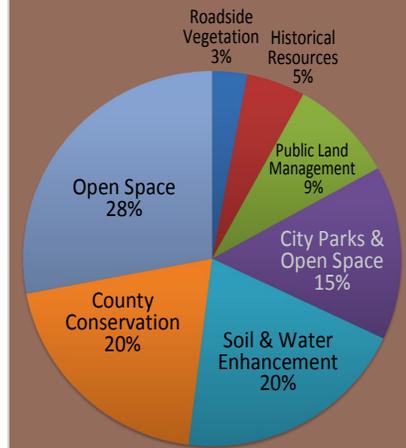
Recognizing the value of native plants in our roadsides, the Legislature established the Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF) in 1988. This annual, grant program provides funding for Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) activities, including the preservation, establishment, and maintenance of native vegetation along Iowa's roadsides.

Appropriations for the LRTF are allocated from the road use tax fund, the 3 % of the REAP allocation , and other sources.

Since 1990, more than \$12 million has been awarded to over 1100 projects for research and demonstration projects; education and training programs; gateway landscaping; and roadside enhancement, maintenance, and inventories.

REAP Fund Distribution

1st \$350,000 for Conservation Education
1% for DNR Administration



Projects include:

- **Roadside inventories:** Training sessions, roadsides inventory teams, database software and data input to help counties identify and record data about roadside prairie remnants and prairie plantings.
- **Gateway and Roadside planting:** Gateway landscaping and roadside enhancement projects are some the LRTF's most visible projects. These projects are along state, county and

city roadways and at the entrance to many Iowa communities. Native grasses and wildflowers are the primary component of these plantings; the LRTF funds the purchase of native seed and plants.

- **Research, demonstration and education:** Professionals and amateurs benefit from the research and demonstration projects and educational programs funded by the LRTF. Research projects study IRVM issues while demonstration plantings show

aspects of IRVM. Seminars, conferences and classroom instruction are some of the programs designed to educate the public about Iowa's native plants and their use on roadways.

- **Equipment:** Counties with designated roadside managers are eligible for funding to purchase special equipment needed to establish, manage or harvest native roadsides and native roadside plantings.



Gateway landscaping, City of Hudson



"Stewards" education program, Trees Forever



I-35 prairie reconstruction research, Dr. Tom Rosburg, Drake University