

## Benefits of Roadside Plantings

### Transportation Enhancements Go Beyond Just “Beautification”

Transportation enhancement plantings along our state and federal highways and our county roads are **critical elements of a complete road system**. Well-designed and properly installed native plantings:

- Slow, absorb, and clean water that runs off the highway, resulting in reduced soil erosion, flood control and cleaner water supplies.
- Serve as living snow fences, catching snow rather than letting it drift across travel lanes.
- Provide important pollinator habitat adjacent to farm fields, orchards and vineyards.

Native plants are **used in roadsides for functional reasons**, not aesthetic, because they are:

- Durable, long lived perennials
- Best adapted to Iowa’s climate and growing conditions
- Able to survive the stresses of road right-of-ways

Transportation enhancements help **build our state and local economies** by:

- Minimizing necessary roadside maintenance.
- Supporting trail construction and tourism.
- Helping small Iowa communities attract visitors off major highways by making their community more attractive.
- Employing landscaping professionals and County Roadside Managers.
- Supporting farmers who cultivate and sell Iowa native plant seeds, wildflowers, grasses and other plant material.

Transportation enhancements also **enrich our communities** and celebrate our history by providing much needed funds for:

- Trail construction
- Restoration and operation of historical transportation buildings, structures and facilities
- Scenic and historic byways



Less than  
**1%**  
of funding spent on our  
highways, roads and  
bridges is designated for  
Transportation  
Enhancement activities.