

The Project GREEN Annual Parkways Maintenance Program includes the maintenance of several of Iowa City's most prominent entries into the community. Landscaping of the parkways by Project GREEN began in 1968, and maintenance of the parkways began in 2006. Both initiatives continue to be an important focus of this vital community organization.

Parkways maintained include: Iowa Avenue; Melrose and West Melrose; North Dubuque Street (Meadow Lane to I-80); Foster Road/N. Dubuque Street Intersection; Park Road Bridge/ N. Dubuque Street Intersection, Highway 6 from Keokuk Street to Fair Meadows Boulevard (Juniper beds only), and the northeast quadrant of the intersection of HWY. 6 and Gilbert Street. The last two areas were added in 2013.

Maintenance work at each of these parkways is performed by contractors awarded the work through a competitive bid process that occurs in February or March of each year. Landscape maintenance work includes: Spring Clean-up; Monthly Maintenance (7 site visits); Fall Clean-up and tree protection. At times, as the growing season progresses, "Added Work" such as watering, tree and shrub removal, and pruning and mulching is required. During alternating years, mulch is typically replenished throughout existing beds in the parkways in order to maintain a 3 inch depth. In recent years, mulching has become increasingly important in protecting soil moisture levels through droughty periods. Mowing of the turf areas and removal of large trees is completed by the City of Iowa City.

2013 started-out with drought conditions through the winter months and then thank fully, we experienced a wet spring, which removed us from drought conditions until August 1. An "extreme drought" was declared for many Iowa counties including Johnson on August 1st. by Tom Vilsack. This drought was officially removed on October 3rd.

The following are brief 2013 reports for each of the parkways that Project GREEN maintained:

Iowa Avenue

Added Work - Replacement Plantings:

Some of the replacement yew plantings from 2012, Emerald Spreader Japanese Yews – *Taxus cuspidate* 'Monloo', and 'Taunton' Yews – *Taxus media* 'Tauntonii', declined due to lack of moisture. These will be replaced during the spring of 2014. All of the other replacement plantings are doing well. These included: Eastern Redbuds -*Cercis Canadensis*, and Amur Maples –*Acer ginnala*. Supplemental watering was specified for the replacement yews from August 1st through October, and ended when we received normal rain and moisture conditions.



Spring Cleanup:

Spring clean-up for Iowa Avenue during 2013 included: fertilizer application, pre-emergent weed control, debris removal, and crabapple tree sucker removal, and pruning of Spirea, Amur Maples and yews. Spring Cleanup was completed by April 1st.

Raking and Topdressing of Mulch Areas:

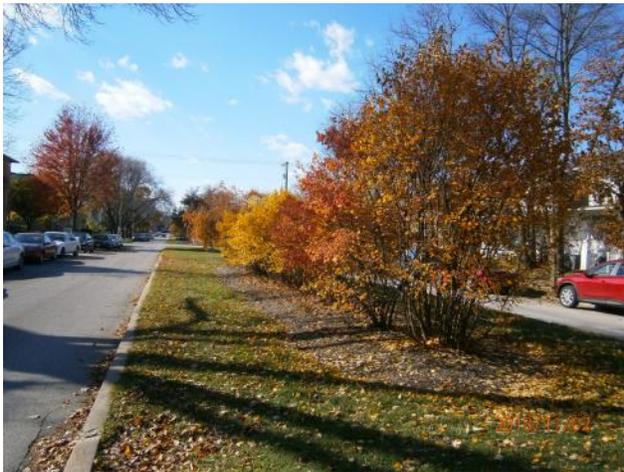
Top-dressing, or replenishing of mulch in beds, during 2013, was not required because this work had been completed in 2012, and mulch depths were at 3". Raking of mulched areas was coordinated with Spring Cleanup work so as not to disturb pre-emergence weed control herbicide.

Mid-summer Weed Application:

Ninety days after the spring pre-emergent weed control is applied, a second application of pre-emergent weed control is applied at half the normal rate.

Monthly Maintenance Operations:

Rindy Inc. performed seven monthly maintenance operations at not less than 25 day or more than 35 day intervals between April 1 and November 30. Monthly Maintenance included: cleaning-up and hauling away of any litter debris or plant waste from Iowa Avenue boulevard; weed control; plant material inspection and pesticide application to prevent pests and diseases; fall leaf clean-up (during October and November); block five maintenance where plant material was replaced due to the tornado of 2006; control of red spider mite on junipers was not necessary in 2013. Cleaning-up of debris along Iowa Avenue seems to be one of the crew's biggest tasks.

**Watering:**

Quality care watered newly planted ornamental trees, evergreens and shrubs impacted by the heat and drought from August through October. Quality Care provided 15 to 20 gallons of water per ornamental tree and 5-10 gallons of water per shrub during each site visit. The heat and drought situation was monitored throughout the summer by Hawks Design and Rindy, Inc. and Project GREEN was notified when it was necessary to provide even more water to keep plants alive.

Notes for 2014:

- *Watch rainfall amounts for 2014, If we experience drought conditions plan to water newly planted material (within the past 7 years), especially the yews planted in 2012.*
- *Notify Home Owner at 943 Iowa Avenue to not dump leaves onto median.*
- *Top-dress mulch beds to attain a 3" depth.*

Melrose & West Melrose Avenue

Spring Cleanup:

Spring clean-up for Melrose and West Melrose during 2013 included: fertilizer application, pre-emergent weed control, debris removal, and repair of ruts caused during the winter months. This work was completed by April 1.

Raking and Top-dressing of Mulch:

Mulching was not necessary during 2013 as this had been completed in 2012, and mulch beds were still at a depth of 3". Mulched areas were raked. Raking of mulch was coordinated so as not to disturb the pre-emergent weed application.

Mid-summer Weed Application:

Ninety days after the spring pre-emergent weed control is applied, a second application of pre-emergent weed control is applied at half the normal rate.



Monthly Maintenance Operations:

Rindy Inc. performed seven monthly maintenance operations at not less than 25 day or more than 35 day intervals between April 1 and November 30. Monthly Maintenance included: cleaning-up and hauling away of any litter debris or plant waste; weed control; plant material inspection to prevent pests and diseases; and fall leaf clean-up (during October and November).

Watering:

Quality Care watered the Red Maples on West Melrose once every ten days from August 1st thru October due to "extreme" drought conditions. They typically provided 15 to 20 gallons of water per tree during each site visit.

Added Work:

Rindy, Inc. removed and/or pruned back to the crown of declining and dead spirea shrubs.

Notes for 2014:

- Watch rainfall amounts for 2014. If we experience drought conditions, plan to water Red Maple trees; or plan to replace them with a more drought tolerant species in the future.
- Plant new 'Kallay Junipers in medians beds that receive full sun and where all spirea plantings have been removed.
- A Linden Tree located in the median under overhead wires was topped by Mid American Energy. It will need to be removed by the City, as the tree is susceptible to deterioration. This tree is located east of the east entry to West High School.
- Inspect severely pruned-back spirea. Verify that these shrubs come back with a flourish during spring of 2014. If not, remove them and replace with another drought and pest resistant shrub.
- Top-dress mulch beds to attain a 3" depth.
- In areas where all spirea have been removed, new evergreen plantings (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Kallay's Compact') will be installed in 2014. This is according to the plan created in 2013.

North Dubuque Street

Spring Clean-up:

Spring clean-up for North Dubuque Street included: fertilizer application, pre-emergent weed control, and debris removal. This work was completed by April 1.

Mid-summer Weed Application:

Ninety days after the spring pre-emergent weed control is applied, a second application of pre-emergent weed control is applied at half the normal rate.



Monthly Maintenance Operations:

Rindy Inc. performed monthly maintenance operations at not less than 25 day or more than 35 day intervals between April 1 and November 30. Monthly Maintenance included: cleaning-up and hauling away of any litter debris or plant waste; weed control; plant material inspection to prevent pests and diseases; and fall leaf clean-up and installation of tree guards for protection from deer (during October and November). This work also included fertilizing beds and supplementing fertilizer for some of the Black Tupelos which were showing signs of Iron Chlorosis.



Extra Work:

Requested City to mow east ditch line. This work was finally completed by the City.

Notes for 2014:

- Let City know ahead of time that east ditch line will need mowing. Otherwise, the cattails and other noxious weeds will take over landscaping in this area.
- Request City to remove dead Aspen trees.



Foster Road & N. Dubuque Street Intersection

Spring Clean-up:

Spring clean-up for Foster Road included: fertilizer application, pre-emergent weed control, and debris removal. This work was completed by April 1.

Mid-summer Weed Prevention:

Ninety days after the spring pre-emergent weed control is applied, a second application of pre-emergent weed control is applied at half the normal rate.

Monthly Maintenance Operations:

Rindy Inc. performed monthly maintenance operations at not less than 25 day or more than 35 day intervals between April 1 and November 30. Monthly Maintenance included: cleaning-up and hauling away of any litter debris or plant waste; weed control; plant material inspection to prevent pests and diseases; and fall leaf clean-up and installation of tree guards for protection from deer (during October and November). This work also included fertilizing beds and supplementing fertilizer for some of the Black Tupelos which were showing signs of iron chlorosis.



Notes for 2014:

- *Let City know ahead of time that the Black Locust grove along the SW hillside will need to be included on their schedule for removal on a yearly basis. Otherwise the grove will take over the whole hillside.*
- *Determine how the proposed North Dubuque Street improvements will impact this intersection, and plan to have plant material desired to be preserved by Project GREEN moved to City nursery or to other parkways as appropriate. Coordinate with Terry Robinson.*
- *Prune/thin-out top branches from Kallay Junipers to allow light to limbs below according to Ed Rinderspacher's technique.*

Park Road & N. Dubuque Street Intersection

Spring Clean-up:

Spring clean-up for Park Rd. Bridge intersection included: fertilizer application, pre-emergent weed control, and debris removal. This work was completed by April 1.

Mid-summer Weed Application:

Ninety days after the spring pre-emergent weed control is applied, a second application of pre-emergent weed control is applied at half the normal rate.

Monthly Maintenance Operations:

Due to future work along N. Dubuque Street, maintenance was focused primarily on areas north of Foster Road with the balance of areas south of Foster Road requiring only once a month visits after Spring Clean-up, to remove trash and weeds.

Notes for 2014:

- *Determine how the proposed North Dubuque Street improvements will impact this intersection, and plan to have plant material desired to be preserved by Project GREEN moved to City nursery or to other parkways as appropriate. Coordinate with Terry Robinson.*

Highway 6 Juniper Bed Maintenance**Spring Clean-up:**

Spring clean-up for the Juniper Beds began in March and was completed by April 1st. This work included removing all debris from the beds, as well as removing volunteer Mulberry Trees and weeds.

Mulching:

Mulching of the juniper beds included removal of all turf and weeds 18" from the tips of juniper branches. Removal of 3" of soil and installation of 3" of shredded hardwood bark mulch and application of fertilizer and pre-emergent weed control.

**Mid-summer Weed Prevention:**

Re-application of granular pre-emergence herbicide to all mulched shrub ninety days after the spring pre-emergent weed control is applied, a second application of pre-emergent weed control is applied at half the normal rate.

Added Work:

Quality Care notified Project GREEN of the need to provide two additional juniper bed weed control visits in order to keep the beds appearance up to standards.

Quality Care was hired to remove dead burning bush shrubs and a tree near the Hy-Vee Parking lot.

Notes for 2014:

- *Due to added work required during 2013 to keep juniper beds weed-free and looking-good, add monthly visits to the scope of maintenance work for HWY 6 juniper bed maintenance.*
- *Top-dress mulch beds.*

Highway 6 and Gilbert Street:

Spring Clean-up:

Spring clean-up at Gilbert and HWY 6 included removal of all debris, and volunteer trees and weeds.

Topdressing& Raking

Mulched Beds:

Topdressing mulched beds was not required in 2013 because this work was completed in 2012. Raking of mulched areas was coordinated with application of pre-emergent weed control and fertilizer.



Mid-summer Weed Prevention:

Re-application of granular pre-emergence herbicide to all mulched shrub ninety days after the spring pre-emergent weed control is applied, a second application of pre-emergent weed control is applied at half the normal rate.

Monthly Maintenance:

Quality Care Inc. performed monthly maintenance operations at not less than 25 day or more than 35 day intervals between April 1 and November 30. Monthly Maintenance included: cleaning-up and hauling away of any litter debris or plant waste; weed control; plant material inspection to prevent pests and diseases; and fall leaf clean-up.

Over-seeding:

Over-seeding of a bare area (south of the planting bed) was completed.

Added Work:

Removal of a dead Flowering Crabapple

Notes for 2014:

- Prune/thin top limbs of junipers in order to allow light to lower branches and to lengthen junipers lifespan. Follow Ed Rinderspacher's juniper-pruning technique.
- Top-dress mulch beds.



Miyabe Maple Grove along Highway 6 (Acer miyabei)



2013
 PARKWAY MAINTENANCE COSTS - Project GREEN
 12-10-13

DATE	INVOICE	CONTRACT	DESCRIPTION	IOWA AVE	N. DBQ ST	PARK RD BRIDGE	FOSTER RD/DBQ ST	MELROSE	W. MELROSE	SUBTOTAL	G.TOTAL
4/15/2013	15440-15446	RINDY	SPRING CLEANUP	\$1,481.95	\$1,225.15	\$1,021.85	\$1,118.15	\$1,802.95	\$946.95	\$7,597.00	
4/15/2013	15,444	RINDY	MULCH				3745.00			\$3,745.00	
5/31/2013	15506-15510	RINDY	MAINTENANCE	\$258.94	\$230.05		\$179.76	224.70	\$201.16	\$1,094.61	
7/22/2013	15629-15633	RINDY	MAINTENANCE	\$258.94	\$230.05		\$179.76	\$224.70	\$201.16	\$1,094.61	
7/22/2013	LC13238	RINDY	MULCH		\$2,341.16					\$2,341.16	
9/17/2013	15674-15676,15682	RINDY	MAINTENANCE	\$516.22			\$356.16	\$486.54	\$398.56	\$1,757.48	
9/23/2013	LC13354,LC13356-LC13359	RINDY	MAINTENANCE	\$256.52	\$227.90		\$178.08	\$222.60	\$199.28	\$1,084.38	
12/9/2013	1,585,815,859	RINDY	MAINTENANCE	\$258.94				\$224.70		\$483.64	
10/28/2013	15796	RINDY	EXTRA WORK - PRUNING & SPIREA REMOVAL					832.10		\$832.10	
RINDY INC. ACTUAL SUBTOTAL FOR EACH PARKWAY				\$3,031.51	\$4,254.31	\$1,021.85	\$5,756.91	\$4,018.29	\$1,947.11		
GRAND TOTAL											\$20,029.98
BID AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM RINDY - 2/13				\$3,324.00	\$5,678.00	\$1,100.00	\$5,989.00	\$3,404.00	\$2,389.00		\$21,884.00
July-October		QUALITY CARE	WATERING	\$678.40					\$331.78		
WATERING GRAND TOTAL											\$1,010.18
WATERING + G TOTAL											\$21,040.16

2013
 PARKWAY MAINTENANCE COSTS - Project GREEN
 12-10-13

DATE	INVOICE	CONTRACT	DESCRIPTION	HWY 6 & GIL	HWY 6_KEO-FM	SUBTOTAL	G.TOTAL
4/17/2013	337,514,337,512	QC	SPRING CLEANUP	\$307.20	\$256.00	\$563.20	
5/13/2013	342,307,349,327,342,000	QC	MAINTENANCE	\$230.80	212.77	\$443.57	
5/13/2013	337511	QC	OVER-SEEDING	\$310.73		\$310.73	
5/13/2013	337513	QC	MULCH		\$1,108.00	\$1,108.00	
9/17/2013	354,441,357,716,363,000	QC	MAINTENANCE	\$305.28		\$305.28	
11/14/2013	368,227,374,024	QC	MAINTENANCE	\$202.88		\$202.88	
9/17/2013	356571	QC	EXTRA WORK TREE/SHRUB REMOVAL		\$229.76	\$229.76	
9/17/2013	357717	QC	MAINTENANCE		\$318.00	\$318.00	
11/14/2013	374025	QC	MAINTENANCE		154.23	\$154.23	
QC ACTUAL SUBTOTAL FOR EACH PARKWAY				\$1,356.89	\$2,278.76		
GRAND TOTAL							\$3,635.65
BID AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM QC - 2/13				\$1,367.40	\$1,473.70		\$2,841.10
August-October		QUALITY CARE	WATERING	\$106.00			
WATERING GRAND TOTAL							
WATERING + G TOTAL							\$3,741.65