Finding sustainable pathways to make public ROW more pollinator friendly

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Restore or enhance millions of acres of land for pollinators.
National acreage stats at a glance

Transmission lines: 9 million [1]

Pipelines: 12 million [1]

Highway verges: 10 million [2]

National parks: 84 million [3]

Data sources in notes section
Supportive findings . . .

The contribution of roadside grassland restorations to native bee conservation

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Conservation Value of Roadside Prairie Restoration to Butterfly Communities

LESLIE RIES,* DIANE M. DEBINSKI, AND MICHELLE L. WIELAND

On the verge? Preferential use of road-facing hedgerow margins by bumblebees in agro-ecosystems

Mick E. Hanley · Joshua P. Wilkins
Opportunities in public rights-of-way

- Nesting sites
- Quality forage
- Corridors
Conventional management of public ROW

Frequent mowing

Broadcast herbicide spraying
Electric Power Rights of Way: A New Frontier for Conservation

Often mowed and doused with herbicides, power transmission lines have long been a bane for environmentalists. But that’s changing, as some utilities are starting to manage these areas as potentially valuable corridors for threatened wildlife.

BY RICHARD CONNIFF
Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)

Hack and squirt

Selective backpack sprayers
IVM approach to managing ROW

Balances multiple goals:

• Public safety
• Reliable service
• Environmental quality
• Regulatory compliance

Provides many benefits:

• Reduce vegetation mgmt. costs
• Decrease erosion and flooding
• Improve operator safety
• Control invasive species
• Restore wildlife habitat

http://www3.epa.gov/pestwise/htmlpublications/ivm_fact_sheet.html

Photo credit: Bruce Woods

http://www.rowstewardship.org
Creating corridors of pollinator habitat

“What we lack is old field and native prairie habitat, such as that found in this transmission ROW, which is perhaps the best pollinator habitat in the Mid-Atlantic States.” – Sam Droege, USGS

Photo credits: IVMPartners.org
Utility ROW pilot study

![Patuxent Shrub IVM chart](Chart Area)

- **Shrubs**
- **Grass/Forbs**
- **Debris/Bare Soil**
- **Target Trees**
Quantify effects of IVM meadow mgmt. on pollinator and plant communities along highway ROW
Recommendations for state MP3s

• Form partnerships
• Eco-regional approach
• Periodically evaluate meadow mgmt. strategies
• Adjust plans as needed
• Consider a tiered meadow mgmt. program
Where flowers bloom so does hope. ~Lady Bird Johnson

Acts of Beauty