

Iowa Field Office Technical Guide - Section II - Special Environmental Concerns

15. Scenic Beauty

Authority: [General Manual 190, Part 410, Subpart B \(410.24\)](#)

Contributions to scenic beauty are a normal product of NRCS work. Strip-cropping, field borders, field windbreaks, and ponds are examples. Emphasis is given to those soil and water conservation measures that contribute to a productive and efficient agriculture, increase the attractiveness of rural America, and are in line with goals and objectives of conservation districts. This is best accomplished by considering the landscape visual resource when providing planning assistance to individual landowners, groups, units of government, and watershed and resource conservation development project sponsors. NRCS responsibilities in recreation also offer opportunities to develop the scenic beauty of the rural landscape.

NRCS will provide technical assistance through conservation districts to landowners, operators, communities, and state and local governments in developing programs relating to scenic beauty.

Iowa NRCS will:

- (i) Provide technical assistance with full consideration of alternative management and development systems that preserve scenic beauty or improve the landscape.
- (ii) Emphasize the application of conservation practices having scenic beauty or landscape resource values, particularly in waste management systems, field borders, field windbreaks, wildlife and wetland habitat management, access roads, critical area treatment; design and management of ponds, stream margins, odd areas, and farmsteads; siting or positioning of structures and buildings to be in harmony with the landscape while reducing the potential for erosion; using native and other adaptable plants for conservation which enhance scenic beauty and create variety while linking beauty with utility.
- (iii) Promote personal pride in landowners in the installation, maintenance, and appearance of conservation practices and their properties.
- (iv) Select suitable areas for waste products and use of screens to hide "eyesore" areas.
- (v) Encourage conservation districts to include practices which promote scenic beauty in their annual and long-range programs.