



Carnegie-Stout Public Library  
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## **Green Site and Building Exterior Management**

The urban site of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library presents unique benefits and challenges. There is very little open space, so little landscape maintenance is required, but there is a lot of sidewalk to maintain, especially in the winter. Regardless, the Library is committed to a plan that reduces impacts on the site and environment.

### *Maintenance Equipment*

Only four pieces of powered maintenance equipment are used on the exterior of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library: a snow blower, a hedge trimmer, a weed blower, and a weed eater. The hedge trimmer (Black & Decker HT2000) and weed eater (Black & Decker NST2018) are Energy Star rated. The snow blower (John Deere Frontier ST1332) and weed blower (Feather Lite FL1500) have vibration- and noise-reducing features. Very little landscape waste is produced, so the weed blower is rarely used, and the snow blower is only used for heavier snowfalls (see below).

When any equipment needs to be replaced, the library will buy energy-efficient models.

### *Plantings*

The exterior landscaping uses a “xeriscape” design in which little supplemental water is required for the plants. We used plants that have deep roots, which make them well-suited to dry summers, as rain levels can be extremely variable in this area. The following eight plants were used for the landscaping:

- *Viburnum opulus 'Nanum'*, dwarf cranberry bush
- *Picea abies 'Nidiformis'*, bird's nest spruce
- *Taxus cuspidata' Monloo'*, emerald spreader yew
- *Cotoneaster apiculatus*, cranberry cotoneaster
- *Physocarpus opulifolius*, center glow ninebark
- *Liriope muscari 'Variegata'*, variegated lilyturf
- *Vinca minor 'Atropurpurea'*, wine common periwinkle
- *Ajuga reptans 'Bronze Beauty'*, Bronze Beauty carpet bugle

All plantings are surrounded by a natural mulch cover, which reduces erosion and prevents some weed growth.

### *Landscape Waste*

Our chosen plantings produce very little waste; the main contributor is a few deciduous trees on the property. Waste is collected and transported to the City of Dubuque brush site or set out for curbside yard waste collection.

### *Fertilizer Use*

Due to the plants we chose and the lack of grass on the property, no fertilizer is used, and there should be no need for fertilizer required in the foreseeable future.

### *Snow Removal*

Iowa's temperate climate makes snow a constant presence as early as October and as late as April. If a snowfall is less than three inches, maintenance staff shovels the snow. A gas-powered snow blower is only used for larger snowfalls.

No salt is used on stairways leading to entrances. The stairway to the main entrance has an embedded snow-melting system using a recycled hot water system from the boiler. This system could not be installed on the steps to the historic building since the original limestone steps are still in place. If ice cannot be cleared from the entrance to the historic building, the entrance is closed. Some salt is used on the sidewalks, but installation of the snow-melting system has cut salt use by over 50%.

### *Cleaning of Building Exterior*

The building exterior is cleaned using a low-pressure water system (400 psi or less) to protect the Indiana limestone. No acid is used. Water goes to the sewer and contains no contaminants.

### *Paints and Sealants Used on Building Exterior*

The exterior of both parts of the Library is made of limestone and has never required paint. When it is necessary for the building to have tuckpointing done, the mortar used is natural – a mixture of Portland lime and sand. Rarely is caulking used but can be seen around stair rails. The caulking used in this area is Sonneborn NP-1 which is LEED compliant.

### *Irrigation Management*

Due to the landscape design mentioned above, the Carnegie-Stout Public Library does not irrigate its plantings. This is true even in times of drought, when it is City policy not to irrigate plantings or lawns in order to conserve water.



Paula Connors, President – Library Board of Trustees

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