



Roads & Grounds Responsibilities

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23rd of July 2026

What does Roads and Grounds Do?

Maintain 6,800 acres of land.

Broken down :

2,200 acres of AG

500 acres are developed

300 acres of water

3,800 acres of natural areas



AG Fields

Mowing
Areas



Natural
Areas

Roads & Grounds – Summary of Functions

- Mow/Trim Turf
- Mow/Trim Shoulders
- Mow-Land Management
- Turf Repairs
- Turf Care
- Tree Planting
- Tree Removal
- Brush Removal
- Tree Care
- Landscape Project
- Trash Removal
- Land Management Burn
- Exterior Bed Care
- Mulching Under Trees, Shrubs, etc
- Spill Clean Up – Emergency Response
- Ag. Contract Support
- Fence Work
- Task Manager Activities
- Firewood Split and Deliver
- Custom/Traffic Signage
- Barricade Requests
- Asphalt Repairs
- Striping
- Bumpers and Guardrails
- Surface Grading
- Shoulder Maintenance
- Pavement Sweeping
- Sidewalks/Paths Maintenance
- Pothole Patching
- Snow Removal
- Snow Fence Installation
- Prairie Seed Harvesting
- Prairie Seed Processing
- Prairie Burn Operations
- Soil Prep for Seed Enrichment
- Ecological Project Assistance
- Equipment Maintenance & Repair
- Daily Bison Herd Care
- Bison Vet-Related Activities
- Bison Public Relations – Tours/Media
- Wildlife Capture Activities
- Dead Animal Removal
- Injured Animal Response/Euthanizing
- Industrial Weed Control
- Aquatic Weed Control
- Mosquito Spraying/Water Treatments
- Plant Insects/Disease Treatments
- Noxious/Invasive Weed Control
- Culvert Installation
- Drainage System Cleaning
- Drainage System Repair
- Beaver Dam Removal/Trapping
- Flood Control



R&G responsibilities :

Snow removal:

We plow around 126 acres of lots and 64 lane miles of roads every snowstorm.

In the past 10 years we have removed around 415 inches of snow.



Mowing.... A lot of mowing. We mow around 1900 acres (~5400 cumulative acres annually). Divided into the following section:

- weekly (108)
- monthly (339)
- twice a year (51)
- once a year (772)
- every other year (633)



The bison. Yes, we take care of the bison.

We oversee and care for the herd, assist with veterinary activities and we perform the maintenance on the pasture.



Other responsibilities :

Tree Care:

Tree trimming, tree removal, tree planting and watering.



Pesticide Application:

Industrial & aquatic weed control and mosquito abatement.

Noxious/invasive weed control support.



Exterior flower bed care:

Planting, watering, weeding and mulching.



Wildlife Support:

Dead animal removal as well as nuisance animal capture activity.

Surface Drainage:

Drainage system repair and cleaning, beaver dam removal, flood control, tile repairs and maintenance associated with sub-contractor activities.



Assist in ecological restoration efforts:

We assist with seed harvesting and processing, large scale brush and tree removal projects and controlled prescribed burning.



Sign Shop:

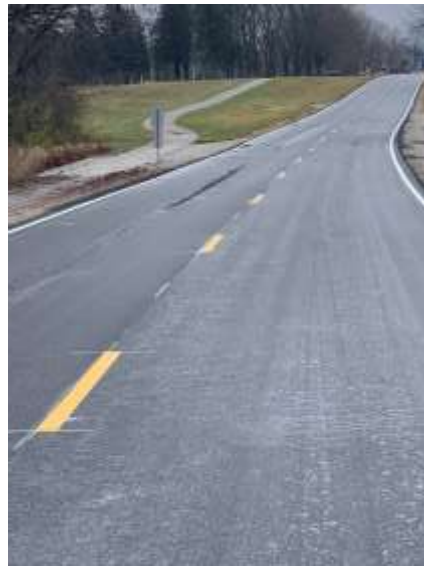
We manage all the regulatory signage on site. We assist in making and installing names on glass office doors. We also place barricades and detour signs for construction projects.

Road maintenance:

Asphalt resurfacing, striping and pothole patching. Maintain bumpers and guardrails, surface grading, shoulder maintenance and sweeping.

Rose pest control:

We manage the Rose pest control contract which treats for rodents and insects on site.



Ag Contract:

Manage and coordinate the agricultural license agreement and the on-site activities.



Special Requests:

Recreational department support and Groundbreaking support in conjunction with other Site Services employees.



Prescribed Burns

- **Why do we need them?**

- Most of our ecosystems require periodic fire to remain healthy (reduce thatch, make nutrients available, alters structure, etc.)
- Reduce intensive management by effectively controlling some weedy species (especially woody species)
- Creates clean slate to better conduct other management practices (increases efficiency)
- Often important steps in restoration process

- **Who conducts them?**

- Roads and Grounds and Ecological Land Management

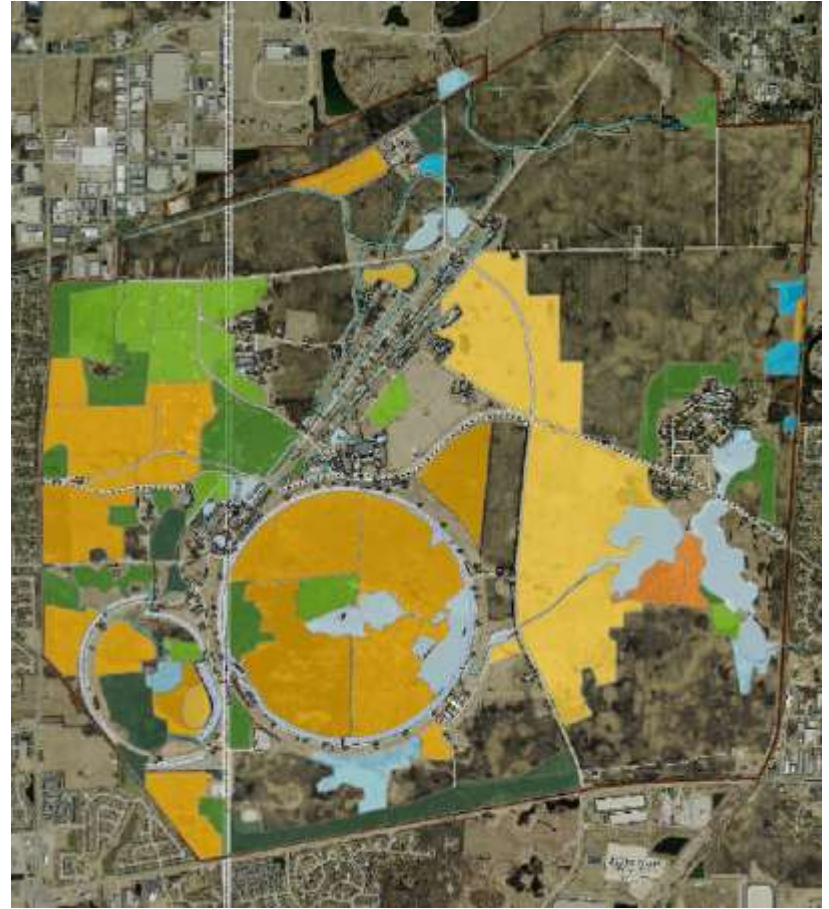
- **Qualifications**

- National Wildfire Coordinating Group S-130/190
- Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager to lead burn



Prescribed Burns

- Planning and site preparation
 - ESH and DOE obtain Illinois EPA Open Burn Permit
 - Each burn unit is reviewed to see what wind directions and conditions are allowable
 - General prescriptions and notification lists are created for each burn unit
 - Each burn unit is walked to determine location of burn breaks and new hazards
 - Mowing of burn breaks is conducted twice in fall to reduce escape potential



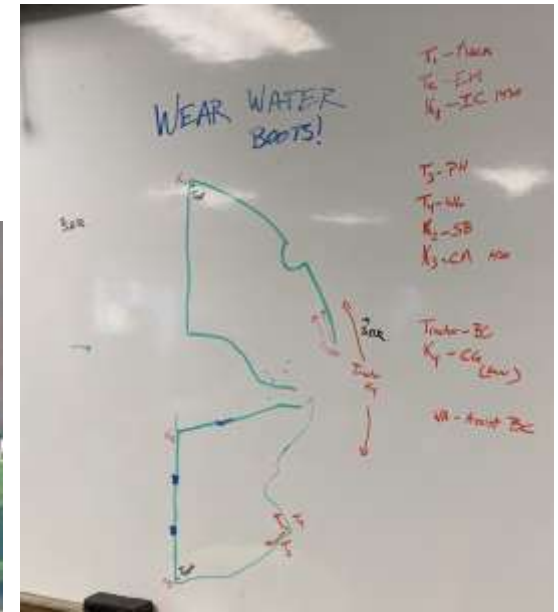
Prescribed Burns

- Planning and site preparation
 - General “Prairie Burn” listserv is maintained as general notifications for burns
 - Specific notifications are also given for areas in the vicinity of the prescribed burn
 - Plans and notifications are reviewed annually for areas requiring a prescribed burn that season
 - Updates are continually integrated into planning to reduce chances for something unexpected
 - Site knowledge and substantial burn experience are critical to predicting and accounting for potential concerns



Day of Burn

- Confirm all fire suppression equipment and torches is ready and functional.
- Burn boss and assistant burn boss check weather pattern has not changed since development of plan and walk down the specific LMU.
- Notifications are sent to senior leadership and all relevant personnel.
- The R&G crew then has a pre-burn meeting at Site 37 in which the Fire Dept. attends to go over the plan.
- The crew meets at the burn site and safely executes the prescribed burn.
- Any lessons learned are then discussed on our post burn meeting the following day.



Burn Facts and Photos

- Completed a successful burn season this year. (12 different Land Management Units totaling 450 acres)



Why do we have Bison?

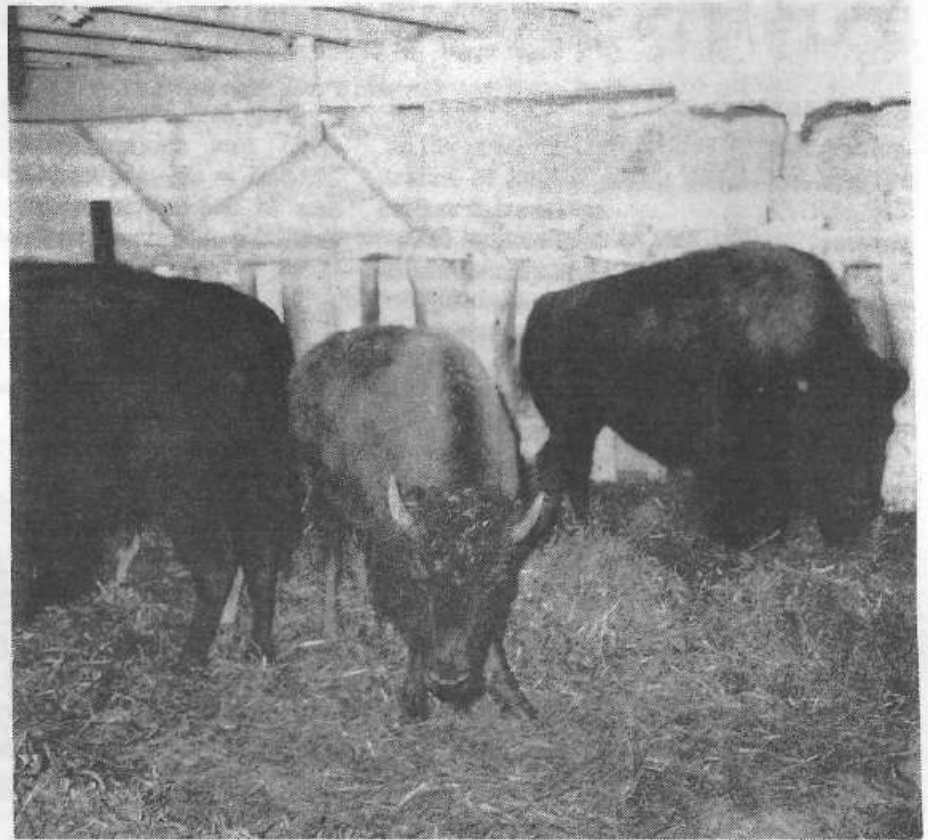
Bison were started at Fermilab by our first Director, Robert R. Wilson. He wanted to recognize the prairie heritage of the state of Illinois. He also felt it would give not only local people a chance to enjoy the bison, but he new our international visitors would appreciate this piece of Americana.

He also wanted bison here since they are the frontier of the prairie and Fermilab the frontier of particle physics.



Where did they come from?

The first bison to graze Fermilab were purchased in 1969 and came from two different sources. Our first bull “Oh Boy”, was purchased from the “Cheyenne Frontier Grounds” in Cheyenne Wyoming. At the same time, we purchased four cows from a rancher in Longmont Colorado.



New members of the “growing” NAL family are residing in the Leon Feldott farm barn on Batavia Road on the NAL site.

Our herd.

In October of 2015, our herd was tested for cattle genes, and all animals showed no evidence of those cattle genes.

Our herd is currently at 46 animals

- 2 Bulls
- 23 Cows
- 2 yearling heifers
- 1 yearling bull
- 18 calves born this year.



Where are they kept?



The herd currently resides on a 90-acre pasture that is visible to the public from Pine St., which is the main road through Fermilab.

There are 4 miles of fence and posts that must be inspected and maintained.



Roads & Grounds – Bison Care

- We oversee and care for the bison herd daily.
- Assist with subcontracted veterinary activities and perform yearly vaccinations.
- Perform maintenance on the 90-acre pasture.
 - Scheduled mowing of 73 acres.
 - Prescribed burning of 17 acres.
- Bison public relations.
 - Set up tours for media.
 - Provide talks in support of special events.



Bison Sale, Auctions.

In 1990 Fermilab held there last in person auction in which they sold 61 bison.

Every fall we hold a silent auction in which that year's off-spring are sold. This ensures that there is no interbreeding and an effort to keep bloodlines healthy.

New herd bulls are brought in every 5-7 years. In years that herd bulls are changed, the older cows are sold, and heifers are kept to lower the average age of the breeding stock.

The money from the silent auction is used to purchase hay and grain for the herd.

PUBLIC AUCTION
FERMILAB BUFFALO CORRALS
Located East of Batavia, Illinois between Illinois Route 59 and Kirk Road
Follow signs after entering Fermilab Site

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1990
Time: Starting at 10:00 A.M., CST

61 HEAD TO BE SOLD



- (1) Bull (12 years old)
- (5) Cows
- (4) Bulls (2 years old)
- (2) Heifers (2 years old)
- (14) Yearling Bulls
- (10) Yearling Heifers
- (25) Calves (Heifer and Bull)

All animals are U.S. Government property.
All stock Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Anaplasmosis tested.
All female calves Brucellosis vaccinated.
Health certificates provided.
Animals available for inspection beginning November 2
from 7:30 AM till 4:00 PM
No Dropgate or Small Horse Trailers Can Be Loaded!!!

TERMS: Cash or good check day of sale. No animals removed until settled for. Buyer must pick up buffalo the day of the sale or make arrangements with Sale Manager. Bidders must register at corral on day of sale.

For appointment or other information call (312) 846-9303

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Questions or Comments?

