



2018 Annual Report  
25 Years of Transforming Lives Through  
Conservation



The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust

*preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations*



Nebraska Environmental Trust Board Members

From left to right: Sherry Vinton - Whitman; Robert Krohn - Omaha; Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha; Ryan McIntosh - Syracuse; Jim Hellbusch - Columbus; Rod Christen - Steinauer; Paul Dunn - Omaha.

Not pictured: Quentin Bowen -Humboldt; Jim Macy - NE Department of Environmental Quality; Jeff Fassett - NE Department of Natural Resources; Steve Wellman - NE Department of Agriculture; Jim Douglas - Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; John W. Orr - Blair

**Mission Statement:**

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is established to conserve, enhance and restore the natural environments of Nebraska. A prosperous future requires a sound natural environment. We must act dynamically, progressively and systematically to ensure bountiful and thriving natural resources.

The Trust is to complement existing activities, stimulate private investment and emphasize long term gain. The Trust is to lead in the development of a vision of Nebraska's future environment. The Trust is to collaborate with public and private efforts to achieve that vision.

## Trust Funding Categories

- Habitat
- Surface and Groundwater
- Waste Management & Recycling
- Air Quality
- Soil Management

## Chairman's Message



When I first became a Board member of the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 2009, I had no idea of the wealth of knowledge I would gain from this experience. It has been intriguing to see how organizations and communities in our great State develop ideas into grant applications covering a variety of projects involving recycling, invasive species control, tree planting, wildlife habitat.

My lifelong passion is that of production agriculture (cow/calf, corn and soybeans), and conservation is at the top of the list concerning the acres I own and manage. One of the most amazing things as a producer is seeing the firsthand interaction between people, livestock, wildlife and the land. It takes air, water, sunlight and soil to produce forages to be consumed by livestock to produce a high-quality protein source for the people. In that natural interaction, soil health is improved, carbon is stored, soil organic matter is built, water infiltration is improved, soil erosion is reduced, and wildlife habitat is maintained and often improved.

“Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching-even when doing the wrong thing is legal.” Aldo Leopold

As a Board member, I feel it is important to look at projects from all sides, utilize public money wisely, and to provide seed money for sustainable endeavors to benefit all Nebraskans, and likewise enhance our beautiful Nebraska landscape.

I very much appreciate being able to be a part of this journey of learning with my fellow Board members, as well as the Trust staff, and thank them all for their continued assistance. Personally, though, the most valuable aspect is the ability to expose and share this experience with my family - hopefully some next generation leaders in conservation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney Christen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rodney Christen

The Historic Ferguson House  
Office of the Nebraska  
Environmental Trust



The Nebraska Environmental  
Trust is funded by:

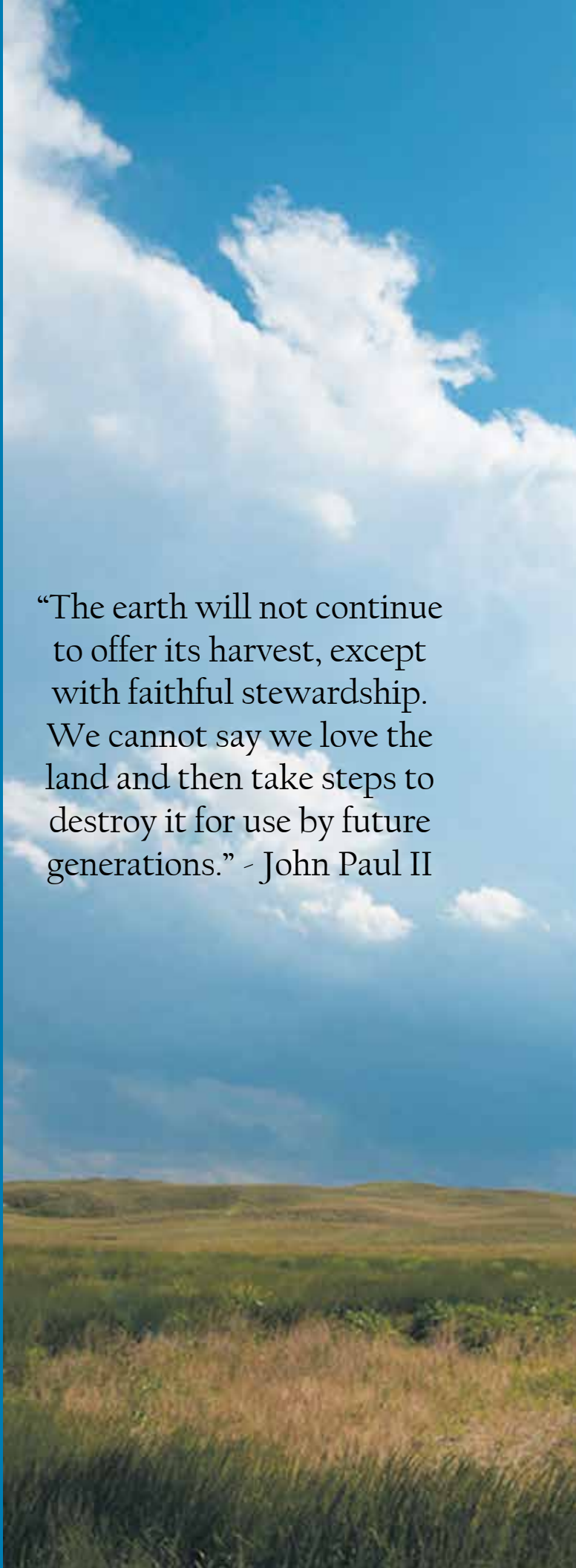


Staff of the Nebraska  
Environmental Trust



From left to right:  
Allison La Duke - Grants Assistant, Sheila Johnson  
- Public Information Officer, Pamela Deines -  
Administrative Secretary, Mark Brohman - Executive  
Director, Marilyn Tabor - Grants Administrator

“The earth will not continue  
to offer its harvest, except  
with faithful stewardship.  
We cannot say we love the  
land and then take steps to  
destroy it for use by future  
generations.” - John Paul II



“The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share.” - Lady Bird Johnson

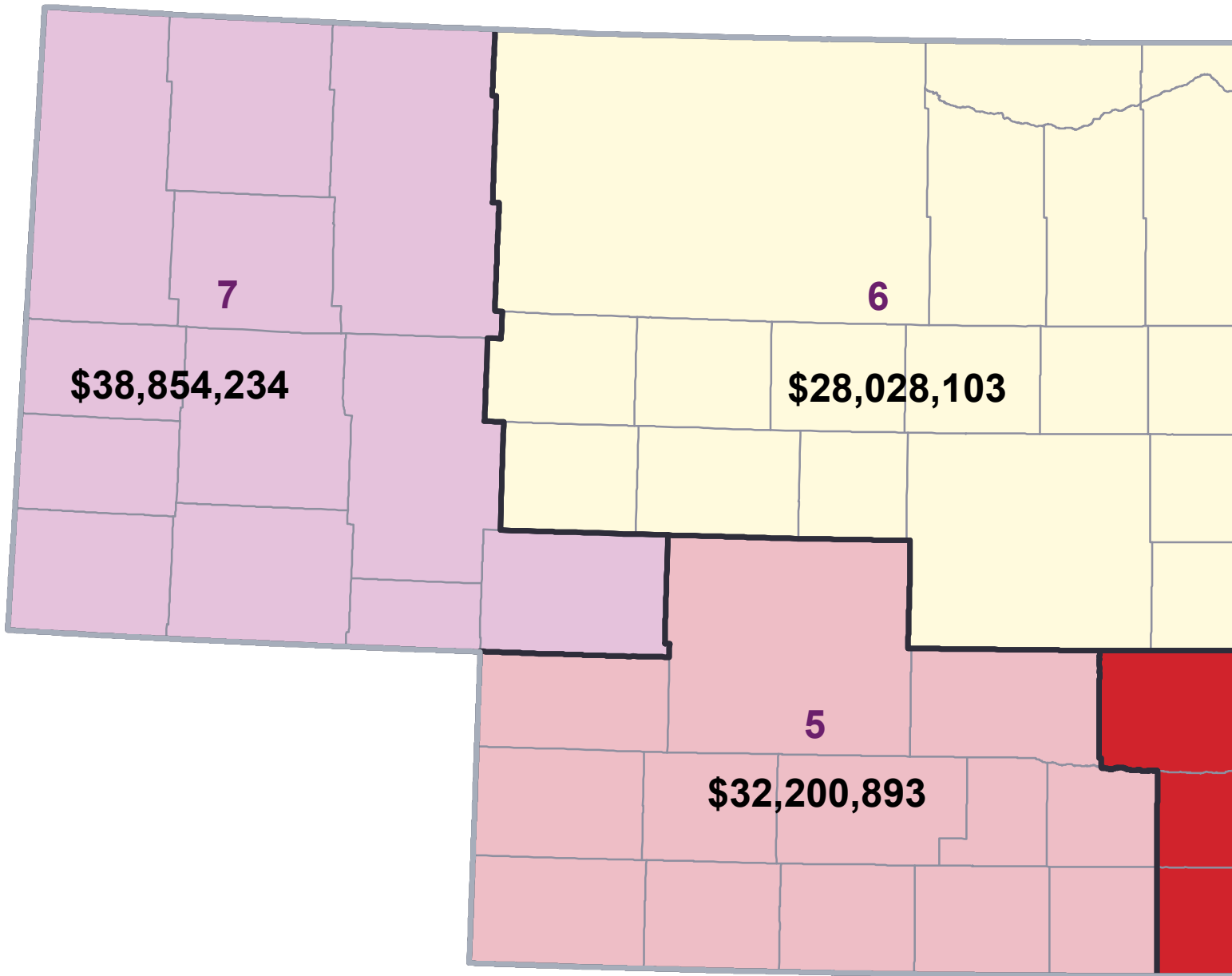
## 25 Years of Transforming Lives Through Conservation

This year marks the 25th year the Nebraska Environmental Trust has awarded grants to the seven Districts in the State of Nebraska. The success of the Lottery Program through the Department of Revenue has made these grants available for the many benefits of Nebraska communities. These grant dollars are derived from the proceeds of the Nebraska Lottery and the Trust has been a beneficiary of the Lottery ever since it was established in 1992. 44.5 percent of the Lottery proceeds are given to the Trust, which in turn is used as seed money to support environmental initiatives throughout the State. These grant dollars not only give Nebraska an economic and social boost but they also attract matching funds to the State.

The theme for the Annual Report this year is “25 Years of Transforming Lives Through Conservation.” The Nebraska Lottery is not the only entity that has contributed to the success of the Trust’s grant program over the last 25 years. The subsequent pages will showcase the many partnerships the Trust has formed in ensuring our future generations are able to enjoy Nebraska’s natural resources as much as we do today.

Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our grantees that followed through with the projects. They are the backbone of why this program has thrived and continued its mission in this great state.

# Geographic Distribution of Nebraska Environment



1994-2017 Awards

2018 Awards

	\$48,438,586	\$3,062,025
	\$38,444,461	\$1,754,838
	\$29,656,397	\$1,073,645
	\$31,443,664	\$1,572,638
	\$30,924,201	\$1,276,693
	\$26,229,743	\$1,798,361
	\$37,740,939	\$1,113,295

Statewide \$68,038,022

\$6,650,324

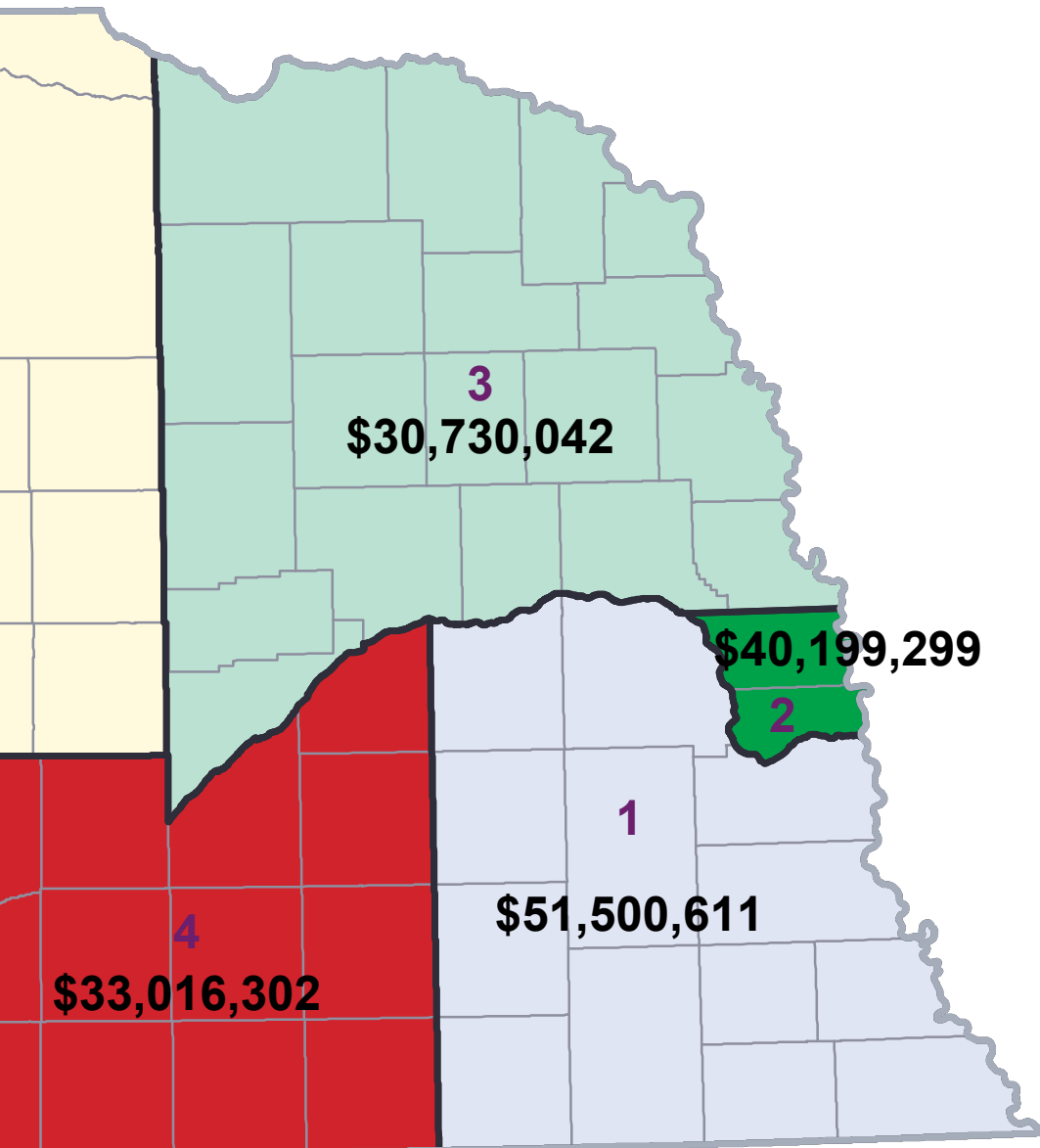
Figures on the map represent area award totals for 1994 -

Awards with Statewide Benefit (not included in map figures)

Total Amount Awarded  
1994 - 2018: \$329,217,832

# Awards (1994-2018)

## Environmental Trust



ent geographic  
2018: \$254,529,486

efits for 1994-2018  
) : \$74,688,346



Revised 5/29/18

The Geographic Distribution map shows how grant funds have been distributed throughout the entire state of Nebraska the last 25 years.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust uses these seven districts to evaluate grant proposals to determine geographic bonus points for each district.

Every year the Trust Board evaluates the grant dollars given to these districts and awards bonus points to the district or districts that have the least grant funding to ensure funds are distributed in an even and equitable manner over a period of time. This approach has allowed for a fair and just distribution of funds for people all over the 93 counties of the state of Nebraska.

## The WILD Nebraska Program and NET - Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) has offered private landowners and conservation partners incentives to create or enhance wildlife habitat through the WILD Nebraska Program since 2000. The Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) has been providing funding towards WILD since 2004. Before WILD, programs offered by NGPC and other organizations/agencies focused on certain habitats or management practices, and there were a lot of habitat types and practices that didn't "fit in" to those programs. NGPC Staff noted a need for a more flexible program that could be the "catch all" for those and developed WILD.

Obviously WILD has been important across the state for creating and enhancing wildlife habitats, but the program has done so much more than that. The flexibility of WILD extended beyond habitat types and practices, it also led to more flexibility in partnerships. In Nebraska, with rare exception today, if there is habitat work being done, there are partnership efforts involved. WILD paved the way for these partnerships, initially between NGPC and one or more of our 23 Natural Resources Districts (NRDs), but over time, nearly every conservation organization in the state has been involved with one to many WILD projects.

Biologists and administrators working within conservation entities noted the flexibility, and the successes of WILD, and the program over time has even had impacts upon other state, federal and private conservation programs. WILD was truly one of the driving forces in creating the conservation model we are using in Nebraska today – the partnership model – which many other states are envious of. And it was foundational to the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project, which has become a huge success in Nebraska, among other programs and projects as well. Over the years, as resource needs/concerns were identified, solutions have frequently been found through adjustments to WILD and the partnerships that utilized it.

WILD has been a very important program for habitat work, wildlife conservation, public access opportunities and more. It has always stressed the need to work in our grassland, wetland and woodland habitats, and the work completed has impacted wildlife, communities, water and air quality and probably most important of all, the way that conservation gets done on the landscape. The involvement of NET and its partners over the years have been critical to the success of this program.



Oak Woodland Improvement that included cedar removal



## Ducks Unlimited and Wetland Restorations

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) has received 39 grants and nearly \$5 million from the Nebraska Environmental Trust since its inception. Nebraska Environmental Trust's (NET) partnership with DU has allowed the completion of 328 projects with more than 128,000 acres protected, restored, or enhanced in Nebraska when you factor in the additional \$28 million in federal and partner funding NET's matching funds allowed DU to secure. Over 20 North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants have been funded for Nebraska habitat conservation projects through NET that otherwise would have been sent to other states, which would not have benefited the environment and economy of Nebraska.

Wetlands have declined throughout the U.S., including Nebraska, with some wetland complexes sustaining over 90% loss. Overall, the wetlands on all DU projects, once restored or enhanced, improve water quality via filtration, increase aquifer recharge, aid in flood prevention, lessen the impacts of climate change by sequestering carbon, and provide crucial wildlife habitat, especially for millions of migrating waterfowl and other water birds during their fall and spring migrations.

Numerous notable projects have been completed in every corner of the state by DU with the help of NET, including projects on the Central Platte River, Loup Rivers, Sandhills, Rainwater Basin, Missouri River, and other wetland complexes. NET was pivotal in the initiation of DU's Revolving Habitat Program in Nebraska. The program is one of DU's largest in the nation and has now permanently protected over 10,000 acres in Nebraska with NET's initial investment. NET funds have also been a key funding component for land acquisitions that eventually became state-owned Wildlife Management Areas and federally-owned Waterfowl Production Areas opening these areas up to public use in perpetuity for Nebraskans and others to recreate and enjoy.

DU's Nebraska program is one of its largest outside of the Prairie Pothole Region. With the help of NET, DU plans to continue their environmentally beneficial efforts via wetland conservation throughout Nebraska while providing crucial habitat for wildlife. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants that NET partners with DU to secure, have bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress and look to be on firm footing for the foreseeable future. Additionally, DU's partnerships within Nebraska to conserve lands have never been stronger.



### Nebraska's Eastern Saline Wetlands - City of Lincoln

Higher is the Riviere Large (Platte) called by the French and the Indians Nibraskier (Nebraska) which runs to the north and northwest. At ten leagues are the Maguantantala (Otoe), an Indian nation allied with and friendly to the French. They are on the banks of a little river the water is salt (Saline) and from which they make salt..... (Etienne Veniard Du Bourghmond, Diary, 1714)

The Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) has awarded the City of Lincoln several eastern saline wetland grants in the past 15 years on behalf of the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership. This Partnership is represented by the City of Lincoln, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Support from NET has been instrumental in implementing conservation efforts for these wetland areas located primarily in Lancaster County. Projects include wetland and associated upland conservation improvements, acquisition of property, educational opportunities, and research of natural resources.

Once extending over an area estimated to be in excess of 20,000 acres, less than 4,000 acres remain and many of these are highly degraded. Nebraska's Eastern Saline Wetlands provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species, and are particularly important as habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl during migration. The exposed saline mudflats provide an abundance of invertebrates as a food source. During the last century, more than 250 species of birds have been reported at the salt basins of Lancaster County (Jorgensen, 2017).

Wetlands protect stream quality by filtering and collecting sediment from runoff water, and aid flood control by storing water after rain events and reducing peak flows. This is a particularly important role given their proximity to Lincoln. Eastern Saline Wetlands are ideally located to provide recreational opportunities. Bird watching, nature study, hiking, and waterfowl and pheasant hunting are common outdoor recreation activities pursued in these wetlands. Few wetland areas in Nebraska provide the educational opportunities afforded by the close proximity of these unique wetlands to so many students.

The Nebraska's Eastern Saline Wetlands Conservation Plan 2018 update will continue to address the preservation and restoration of Nebraska's eastern saline wetlands. The Plan Goal, Comprehensive strategies, and Landscape objectives are established for future conservation of the wetlands. This updated Plan identifies the importance of existing programs and new strategies to address saline wetland conservation.

## A long standing Partnership with the Trust - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

The Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) has been instrumental in TNC's work since its inception 25 years ago.

The mission of TNC is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Their vision is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.

The Platte River is healthier because of the NET. For example, The Platte River Habitat Partnership (initiated in 2001 by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and TNC) significantly improved habitat for a host of wetland and grassland species, including the federally listed whooping crane, sandhill cranes, migrating waterfowl, and grassland bird species such as bobolink, dickcissel, grasshopper sparrow, and Henslow's sparrow. The Partnership developed customized private lands incentive programs to protect, restore, and enhance native grasslands and wet meadows along the Platte River on thousands of acres. The NET has also funded acquisition of key parcels of land and restoration work on crucial wildlife habitat.

The Missouri River is healthier, too. In 2004, Nebraska was the first state to gain approval for a Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program. TNC - with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and others - received matching funding from the NET. From the grant commitment of the Trust, conservation partners worked with landowners and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, establishing a corridor of protected sites along the Missouri River. The restoration of floodplain wetlands and off-channel chutes improved habitat for threatened and endangered species, including terns and plovers and river otters.

Once the smoke cleared from the 2012 wildfire at the Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve, their science team wanted to examine its effects on the landscape in hopes they could share lessons learned with others. The NET again helped to fund research on erosion, water quality, grazing, and invasive species - lessons that have been shared all over the state. Fire Training Exchanges funded by the Trust have helped to build our state's capacity to do prescribed burns that limit future catastrophic fires and control cedars.

Conservation results come from partnership approaches, relationships of trust with private landowners, the best available science, and a deep and abiding love of Nebraska's iconic, special places. This partnership has had a profound and positive impact on not only Nebraska's prairies and water, but also on her people.



Photo courtesy of Chris Helzer



## Wachiska Audubon Society, one of earliest grantees of the Trust

Wachiska Audubon Society – In 1982, not long after the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Environmental Protection Agency act, John Madson’s book, *Where the Sky Began*, was published. In many ways this book focused public attention for the first time on what had been happening to the tallgrass prairie during the 120 years since settlement of the grasslands began. It explained the tragedy of the almost total elimination of what was once North America’s largest ecosystem. It made clear perhaps an even greater tragedy, that Americans in the future might never know what the tallgrass prairie was like. They may never even ask about it and may never know it was gone.

But, the book was also a call to action. Midwesterners became aware that, even though only about 2% of the original prairie was left, there were still some small remnant prairies that land owners had been protecting. They had been protecting these species rich patches of grassland because they promised their parents and grandparents they would do it, and also because they knew they had something valuable. They were protecting the diversity of life itself. But, these landowners needed help. Many were getting older and had no way to guarantee that the next generation would be able to protect what they had been given. Non-profit conservation organizations were not set up to do the job, and they had no money. Then in 1993 the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) was created, and by some miracle they had funds available for protection of Nebraska’s native habitat. Since that time a small number of conservation organizations, most of them larger than Wachiska Audubon, have made use of these funds to protect some of the best remaining examples of tallgrass prairie in eastern and central Nebraska.

Since the very beginning, Wachiska was able to make use of some of these funds to protect native prairies using conservation easements, but mainly they used the NET matching funds for purchasing three exceptional prairies, Dieken Prairie near Unadilla in 1995, Wildcat Creek Prairie near Virginia in 1998 and a high quality bottomland prairie near Yutan in 2001. As a result, since 2005 they have been able to make these grasslands and others available to many hundreds of fourth grade students to learn what Nebraska’s tallgrass prairies are all about. These prairies have been open to adults for hiking, bird watching and enjoyment since that time, and open to students and professors for research projects of all kinds. And, they are open to professional groups such as the NRDs and USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service for on the job training. Most importantly some of the many plants, insects and other creatures that depend on native prairies for their survival, have been given a reprieve.

In 2017 Wachiska Audubon received a primary grant from the NET, along with other grants, that made it possible to purchase the species rich 45 acre Fertig Prairie near the Platte River in Colfax County. Now Fertig Prairie also will be available for students and adults from the Schuyler and Columbus area to see for themselves the kind of grassland that once covered the Platte River bottoms. Their long term goal is to make these kinds of grasslands available in every county in southeastern Nebraska. Much more needs to be done. Hopefully NET will be able continue this work for the next twenty five years.

## Dull Knife Story- The Nebraska Land Trust

It was a fine June morning for the Nebraska Land Trust's (NLT) Board of Directors and representatives from Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC) to be gathered together on a hilltop, with a panoramic view of Nebraska's Pine Ridge. The group had come to celebrate permanent conservation of 1,121 acres owned by the College because of its significance to the Northern Cheyenne people. The College, located in Lama Deer, Montana, wanted to make sure that their hallowed ground is never harmed. Funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) enabled the college and NLT to protect the land forever, with a conservation easement in March of 2012.

Conservation of the land is important because of its proximity to Fort Robinson State Park and the Petersen Wildlife Management Area, which wrap around the College land on three sides. Thousands of people view this land every year from the park, Highway 20 and the Fort Robinson Jeep Tours that take visitors to the top of buttes with breathtaking views of the property. The towering Cheyenne Buttes on the land provide critical lambing habitat for bighorn sheep and there is a closed-basin wetland, which is rare in this semi-arid region.

As important as these features are for conservation, none exceed the land's significance to the Northern Cheyenne people. To them, it is hallowed ground where ancestors died so they could live in Montana today.

The seeds of the Cheyenne Breakout were sown in 1877, when the Northern Cheyenne were removed from their traditional high plains homeland and sent to Oklahoma, which became a land of death and disease for their people. After repeated government denials of requests to return home (which had been promised as an option), more than 350 men, women, and children escaped from "Indian Territory" in 1878 and headed north under the leadership of Chiefs Dull Knife and Little Wolf. Chief Dull Knife's band was eventually captured and imprisoned at Fort Robinson.

On January 9, 1879, 149 Cheyenne escaped from their confinement into a bitterly cold and snowy night. Sixty-four men, women, and children were killed by pursuing soldiers over the next few days, including some who died on the College land. A red pipestone monument to their brave ancestors sits on a hill overlooking the site.

"The Northern Cheyenne people and all people will be able to appreciate the grandeur of the land and will also know about the determination of the Northern Cheyenne to live in their beloved north country," Dr. Richard Littlebear, President of the College explained. "This conservation easement is an advantageous agreement between the Northern Cheyenne people and the Nebraska Land Trust because of its perpetual nature," made possible by a grant from the NET.



Photo courtesy of Michael Forsberg



### **Platte River Basin Environments (PRBE) and Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Celebrate a 25-Year Partnership**

Platte River Basin Environments, Inc., is a volunteer-based conservation organization headquartered in Scottsbluff. The genesis of their group goes back to 1989, when they began working on wetland projects with the Nebraska Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Nebraska Game and Parks, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. When the NET Fund was approved, they knew that it could be a powerful resource. No one, however, imagined what a tremendous catalyst for exceptional Nebraska-based projects the NET would become.

When the NET began its grant process, PRBE was successful in getting funding for numerous land acquisitions along the North Platte River and in the biologically unique Wildcat Hills. In 2009, they opened 13,000 acres, free access, to the public. The Omaha World Herald touted that it was the “single-largest opening of wildlands to free public access by a private organization in Nebraska history.” They’ve added thousands of acres since then. It could not have happened without the NET and their numerous participating partners. It is important to note that all of their lands have remained working landscapes with farm and ranch families receiving benefit from the use of those resources. They pay the same taxes as their neighbors, and they partner with their neighbors to control invasives and keep fences and water intact. All of their lands were offered to them by very willing sellers who wanted their pristine landscapes preserved—a legacy to the future generations of this region.

The motto of Platte River Basin Environments, Inc., is “What we do is forever, and forever is a very long time” TM. Their twenty-five-year partnership with the NET has allowed and encouraged them to dream bigger, to push themselves and their wonderful partners to achieve greater goals. Because of the “Trust”, they have had a positive impact on significantly larger landscapes. Their lands are open to recreational, scientific, and educational activities. They are able to provide habitats and open landscapes for songbirds, shore birds, game birds, waterfowl, Big Horn sheep, elk, deer, moose (yes, moose), mountain lions, wild turkey, river otters, numerous fish species, raptors, and grasses and wildflowers. And, the list goes on.

## 2018 Public Information and Education MiniGrant

2018 marks the ninth full year that the Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS) has administered the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Public Information and Education mini-grant program. The first grants that the Academy reviewed were submitted in the fourth quarter of 2009 and were awarded in 2010. Since then NAS has reviewed and awarded over \$400,000 to numerous recipients all across the state.



In calendar year 2018 NAS received a total of 33 grant applications and a total request of \$87,285. Over \$39,695 has been awarded to date and the fourth quarter award is yet to be determined. Grant applications for the first quarter of 2019 will be accepted until January 7th, 2019.

This past year NAS received applications for numerous types of projects; recycling guides, water quality and water ways exhibits, public events and education projects, as well as habitat and environmental education and improvement projects. Grants were awarded to a few public events and quite a number of grants were given to entities for conference or meeting support in order to bring in special speakers, publish educational materials, or provide activities to help attendees understand environmental concepts. Awards were granted to school groups, private foundations, individuals, and government entities such as NRDs, and city and county governments.

These projects all promise to improve our environment, increase education in environmental areas, and touch many of our Nebraska citizens in meaningful ways. Here are just a few examples of grants submitted in 2018.

- 17-12-1P Keep Omaha Beautiful; Omaha Spring Cleanup: Promoting Proper Disposal & Recycling of Bulky Waste
- 17-01-2P Nebraska Recycling Council; Annual Awards Luncheon and Workshops: Collaboration is Key
- 17-07-2P The Groundwater Foundation; Groundwater Education and Technology
- 17-06-3P Prescribed Burn Task Force; Nebraska Prescribed Burn Education and Outreach

One of the guidelines NAS reviewers use in evaluating grant applications is how many people are reached with the limited funds available and how easy it would be for other groups to use the same materials or process to reach an even wider audience. The groups mentioned above do an excellent job of making the best use of grant funds in reaching the widest audience.

The Nebraska Environmental Public Information and Education Mini-Grant Program awards mini-grants of up to \$3,000 each, to support the presentation and dissemination of information and perspectives that will stimulate enhanced environmental stewardship in any category eligible for Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) funding. These categories are habitat, surface and ground water, waste management, air quality, and soil management. The grant expands dialogue on important current conservation topics and provides information on emerging or highly useful conservation methods. All Nebraska individuals, private organizations, and public entities are eligible to apply for these funds.

Executive Secretary  
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# Facts and Financials

The Nebraska Environmental Trust...

... is funded by the Nebraska Lottery. The Lottery has transferred more than \$299 million to the Trust in the last 25 years.

... covers the cost of operations through interest earnings. The Trust has operated with overhead expenditures equaling less than 2.5 % of income since it was created.

... has completed 25 grant cycles and will announce the results of the 26th round of award recommendations in January 2019.

FY 17-18

Income

Interest income	\$ 752,881.88
Lottery proceeds	\$ 19,913,801.00

Expenses

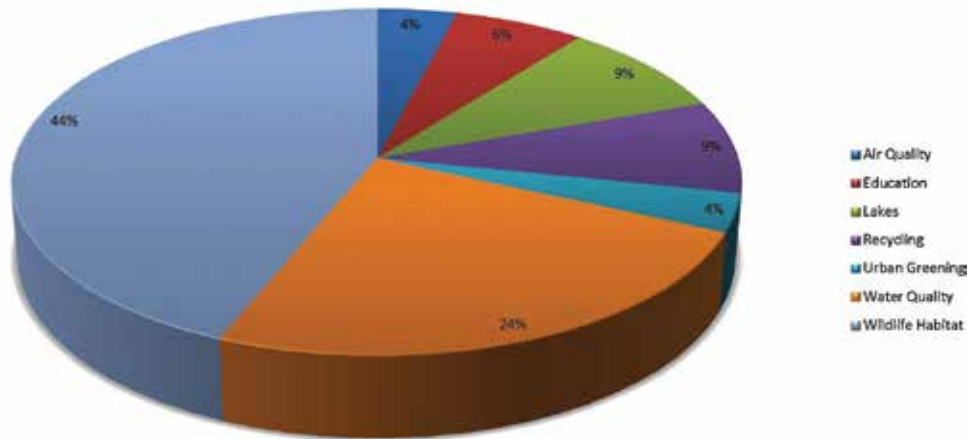
Operations	\$ 539,629.86
Grant Awards	\$ 18,301,819.00

Average Operation expenses to income percentage  
from 1994-2018 = 2.20%

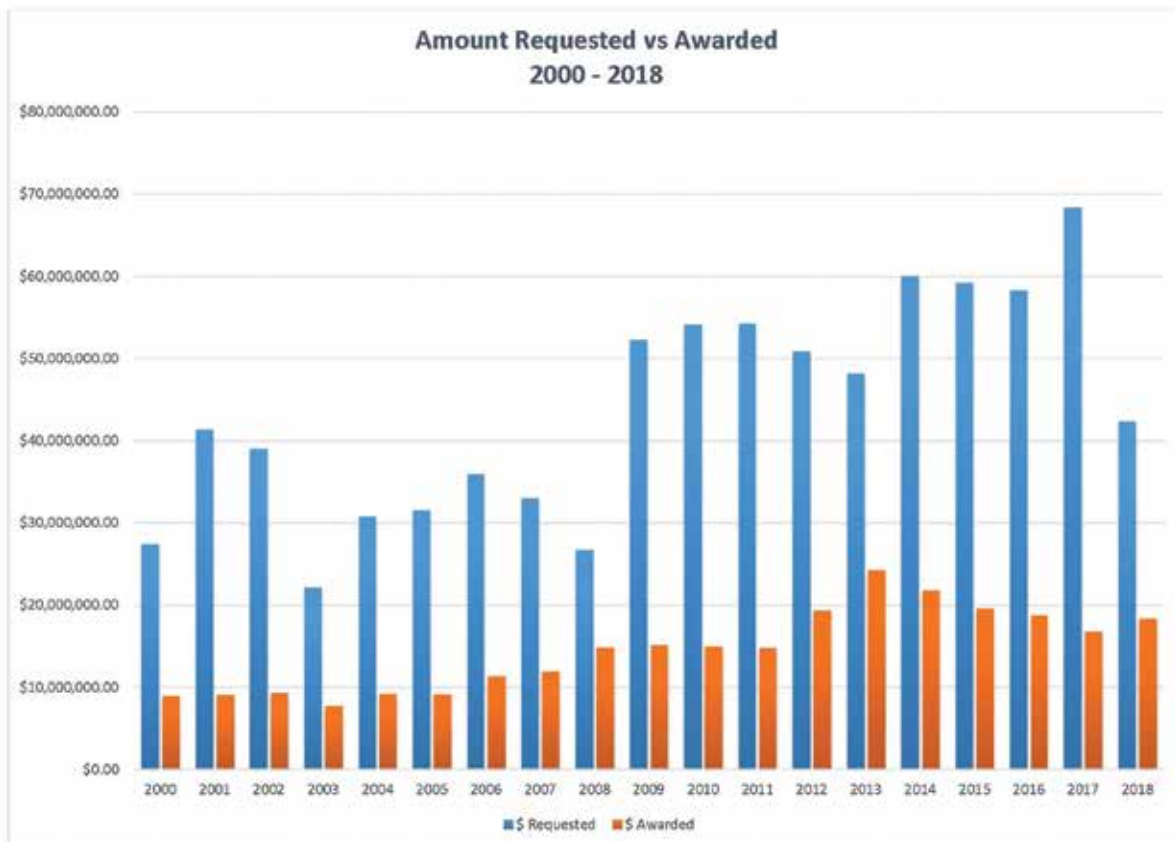
# Distribution of Grants Through The Years

## Grant Awards by Category 1994-2018

Grant Awards by Category 1994 - 2018



## Amount Requested vs Awarded



# 2018 Grant Listing

The following is a listing of the 2018 grants awarded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Trust can provide grants up to a three year period and the funding is noted accordingly. Due to space limitations, only the project sponsor and a brief description of the project have been outlined; to find additional project information, contact the Trust office at 402-471-5409 or visit our website at: [www.environmentaltrust.org](http://www.environmentaltrust.org)

## Angels on Wheels

Managing 33 electronic collection events and processing some of the items collected. \$99,234 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Promoting environmental literacy and good land stewardship in the Nebraska Panhandle. \$26,903 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Boy Scouts of America, Longs Peak Council

Replanting trees at Chadron State Park. \$15,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

## Conservation Blueprint LLC.

Creation and distribution of video habitat tips through out the state. \$7,400 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Cook Grow Sew, LLC.

Funding to increase composting capacity and diversion rates of organic materials from landfills. \$199,715 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Countryside Community Church

Sustainable landscape plan that include water conservation, storm water management, native plants, improved habitat and soil health. \$125,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Ducks Unlimited

To restore and enhance roosting and foraging habitat along the backwaters of the Loup River. \$110,456 (yr. 1 of 1)

Restoring historic wetlands via excavation of remnant channels. \$39,678 (yr. 1 of 1)

Restoring wetland habitat on two Rainwater Basins. \$68,242 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Five Rivers RC & D

Funding in controlling invasive weed species. \$56,580 (yr. 1 of 1)

Collection of household hazardous waste material. \$54,446 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Fontenelle Forest

Restoration of Fontenelle Forest's degraded oak savannas and woodlands. \$427,900 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Grand Island Area Clean Community

Funding to support an electronic recycling day from several counties. \$11,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Continued operation of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility for the proper disposal of household hazardous waste and recyclable products. \$163,900 (yr. 3 of 3)

## Green Recycling Enterprises

Providing recycling containers at public events. \$148,500 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Habitat for Humanity of Omaha - ReStore

Funding of the deconstruction program of blighted homes to help divert materials from the

landfills. \$180,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## Habitat for Humanity- Lincoln ReStore

Purchasing a new donation truck for its pick-up program. \$45,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## High Plains WMA

Funding to restore waterways of the North Platte and South Platte Rivers and its tributaries. \$311,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Ian Nicolson Audubon - Rowe

Help protect and restore the Platte River Ecosystem and the birds and wildlife that depend on it. \$300,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Keep Alliance Beautiful

Recycling and education program at Box Butte County. \$79,814 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Keep Omaha Beautiful

Tree planting program to counteract the negative impact of the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB). \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Lied Lodge and Conference Center

Funding for an interactive pollination and migration program at Arbor Day Farm. \$60,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Lincoln Children's Zoo

Expansion planned for Lincoln Children's Zoo. \$235,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## Lincoln Parks and Recreation

Funding for ash tree replacement project. \$100,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Manage and enhance tallgrass prairie, riparian habitat and wetland areas. \$150,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

## Lincoln, City of

To install a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus fueling station. \$825,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Conserving the saline wetlands ecosystem located primarily in the Salt Creek watershed in northern Lancaster County. \$265,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Little Blue Natural Resources District

Funds to support wetland restoration and monitoring aspects of three oxbow reconstructions. \$95,865 (yr. 1 of 1)

Funding for wetland restoration, pivot modification and establishment of grazing infrastructure. \$208,870 (yr. 3 of 3)

## Loess Canyon Rangeland Alliance

Restoring ecological resiliency and rangeland productivity in the Loess Canyons. \$160,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## Loup Basin RCD

Project to evaluate the effectiveness of 32 stabilized streambanks installed in 2002-2005 on Cedar River. \$45,987 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Lower Elkhorn NRD

Real-time access to groundwater level data by any individual with internet access. \$65,720 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Metropolitan Area Planning Agency

Ozone Awareness ad education campaign that help improve air quality. \$55,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Middle Niobrara NRD

Purchase of a no-till drill. \$32,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Multi-phased watershed restoration initiative. \$282,780 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Middle Republican NRD

To design and construct a network of dedicated wells for groundwater quality and quantity monitoring. \$64,426 (yr. 2 of 2)

## Mid-NE Disposal

To continue recycling waste materials during a time when markets for recyclable materials are limited and prices are low. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## National Wild Turkey Federation

Continued forest restoration in the Pine Ridge area. \$66,801 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Nebraska Academy of Sciences

Administering the Public Information and Education Mini Grant program to support the presentation and dissemination of information. \$57,600 (yr. 2 of 2)

## Nebraska Cattlemen

Capturing landowners' lives that are committed to the enhancement of land, water and wildlife to share their story. \$10,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Improve wildlife habitat on private and public lands by installing fencing and watering facilities to allow prescribed grazing management. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## NE Community Energy Alliance

Cost share to defray the expense of three utility-scale solar installations. \$579,970 (yr. 1 of 2)

Cost share to lease purchase electric vehicles and ChargePoint charging stations for NCEA grant partners. \$566,514 (yr. 1 of 1)

## NE Community Foundation

Loup River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange to assist compensating landowners to rest their grass prior to prescribed fire. \$178,500 (yr. 1 of 2)

Grant to fill at least 21 abandoned irrigation reuse pits in the watersheds of public and private wetlands enrolled in conservation programs. \$105,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Funding to restore 300 acres of wetlands and associated upland. \$158,550 (yr. 1 of 2)

## NE Department of Natural Resources

Water Resources Cash Fund pursuant to legislative mandate of LB229, 2011. \$3,300,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Steps to protect the future of the Niobrara river. \$500,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Eastern Nebraska Oak Woodland restoration. \$182,500 (yr. 1 of 2)

Wetland Management at the Rainwater Basin to maximize wildlife habitat. \$75,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

On-going conservation actions throughout the state by improving over 100,000 acres of habitat. \$260,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Provide the needed resources to a variety of wildlife species with special attention directed toward pollinators and the Monarch butterfly. \$50,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

An environmental education program that provides students the opportunity to learn about aquatic resources. \$34,940 (yr. 2 of 3)

Implementing WILD Nebraska program on private lands to encourage conservation and wildlife habitat on private lands. \$100,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Interactive Exploration Center at Schramm State Recreation Area. \$300,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition  
Grazing cover crops on highly erosive crop acres. \$99,066 (yr. 3 of 3)

Nebraska Recycling Council  
Renewal of the Recycling Equipment Grant Program. \$286,967 (yr. 1 of 2)

Nebraska State Irrigation Association  
Chance to learn about Nebraska's surface and groundwater through the Water Leaders Academy. \$81,340 (yr. 1 of 2)

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum  
Project aimed at reversing the decline of Nebraska's community forests by promoting and investing in intensive tree planting. \$336,591 (yr. 1 of 2)

To continue the highly successful Greener Nebraska Towns Initiative. \$498,971 (yr. 1 of 1)

NE Trout Unlimited  
Funding assistance to rehabilitate 0.75 miles of the lower reach of Dry Spotted Tail Creek. \$200,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

NE Water Balance Alliance  
To generate sustainable and measurable improvement to Nebraska's water resources. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

NE Weed Management Coalition  
Control of invasive species to preserve and enhance Nebraska's biodiversity. \$42,500 (yr. 2 of 2)

Nemaha NRD  
Support for the Nemaha Basin Critical Aquifer Assessment Project. \$169,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

North Platte NRD  
Construction of a geothermal greenhouse. \$31,883 (yr. 1 of 1)

A telemetry project that would expand the Data Access and Monitoring Partnership (DAMP) as a water management and data gathering tool. \$126,277 (yr. 1 of 1)

Northeast Nebraska RCD  
To seek effective control measures, increase awareness of biological diversity and implement strategies addressing specific issues in biologically unique landscapes (BUL). \$49,280 (yr. 1 of 2)

Northern Prairies Land Trust  
Enhancing grassland primarily through implementation of invasive tree clearing, prescribed fire, planned grazing and reseeding prairie. \$191,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

NuStyle Development  
Landing Redevelopment Project to convert Creighton University to a mixed use facility. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Omaha Children's Museum  
Funding for the Forever Forest Exhibition Tour in Summer 2018. \$67,302 (yr. 1 of 1)

Omaha, City of  
Project to address air quality by expanding bike parking and fix-it stations. \$36,583 (yr. 3 of 3)

Pheasants Forever - Dodge County  
Purchase of no-till drill for Dodge County. \$30,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Pheasants Forever, Inc.  
Partnership between Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game and Parks called "Habitat Share". \$137,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

Establish permanent wildlife habitat through the Corners for Wildlife program. \$292,500 (yr. 1 of 2)

Grassland Improvement Program that has changed the culture of prescribed burning on private lands in the regions it has been offered. \$150,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Platte Basin Environments, Inc.  
Habitat restoration on private lands along the North Platte River. \$120,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Quail Forever  
Support for prescribed burning on private lands. \$96,600 (yr. 1 of 1)

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture  
Win-win opportunities that integrate Rainwater Basin Wetlands into farm operations and maximize habitat on publicly owned wetlands. \$300,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Sandhills Task Force  
Assisting private landowners apply conservation practices on their land. \$125,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Save Our Monarchs Foundation  
Appropriate vegetation management techniques to create viable pollinator habitat in Nebraska. \$9,535 (yr. 2 of 2)

Southwest WMA  
Continuing to restore riparian corridor for increased biologic diversity. \$215,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

The Groundwater Foundation  
Funding for the Recharging Groundwater Education Program. \$89,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

The Nature Conservancy  
Project to help reduce the risk of catastrophic loss of life and property and large economic losses. \$100,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Grant to install solar panels as a key part of a suite of environmentally sensitive, energy-saving techniques. \$131,250 (yr. 1 of 1)

Grant to improve habitat conditions on TNC land to improve pollinator and wildlife conditions. \$42,843 (yr. 3 of 3)

Support for prescribed fire training exchanges in the Niobrara Valley Preserve (NVP). \$42,770 (yr. 3 of 3)

Tri-Basin NRD  
Improve groundwater quality and quantity monitoring and to promote coordinated groundwater management between NRDs.

\$73,848 (yr. 1 of 2)

Twin Valley WMA  
Efforts to eradicate invasive species to improve habitat along the Republican River and Little Blue Rivers. \$143,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Upper Loup NRD  
An educational facility that will provide a comfortable, safe and well-equipped location to get trained and educated. \$68,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

University of Nebraska, Board of Regents  
Improving air quality through the use of safer brake cleaners. \$15,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Management of manure and eastern red cedar from "waste" to "worth". \$132,673 (yr. 1 of 2)

Reducing nitrate-N leaching beneath fertilized cropland and protecting groundwater. \$85,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Identify biological factors that influence water quality including microbial populations. \$191,304 (yr. 1 of 2)

Developing high quality protein fibers from waste garments and poultry feathers for industrial application via an eco-friendly approach. \$105,943 (yr. 1 of 2)

Impact of cover crops and grazing on soil health and system economics. \$74,381 (yr. 1 of 2)

Development of a process that will dramatically reduce energy, maintenance and monitoring of newly constructed water purification facilities. \$80,882 (yr. 1 of 1)

Implementing alternative crops such as winter canola and field peas can intensify and diversify dryland and irrigated cropping systems. \$11,327 (yr. 1 of 1)

Accurate and rapid prediction of Municipal Solid Waste Settlement and Landfill Gas Emission to effectively manage a landfill. \$233,974 (yr. 1 of 1)

An integrated and online program using GIS mapping and database of quality assessed data from past and ongoing studies of Nebraska's vadose zone. \$107,414 (yr. 3 of 3)

"Know Your Well" is a program designed for assessing the quality of drinking water derived from rural domestic wells. \$134,118 (yr. 3 of 3)

Enhancing soil systems with cover crops. \$84,825 (yr. 3 of 3)

Tool to enable farmers to quantify and visualize the sustainability of their fields. \$15,585 (yr. 3 of 3)

To complete "Cherish Nebraska" project to redevelop the fourth floor of the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM)'s historic Morill Hall. \$175,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Increase the number of certified Master Naturalist by 90 over the next year to support the Master Naturalist Community. \$68,073 (yr. 3 of 3)



**The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust**

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

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Credits: Cover photo (prairie) and photo on page 4 & 5 (windmill) courtesy of NEBRASKALand Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. We would also like to thank all our grantees and all parties who have contributed in one way or another towards the production of the Annual Report.

Photo courtesy of Bruce Wendorff



The Nebraska Environmental  
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