



The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

# 2020 Annual Report

*Investing In Partnerships*

Habitat  
Surface & Groundwater  
Waste Management/ Recycling  
Soil Management  
Air Quality



**Photo Credit: Holly Adams**

## Chairman's Message



“Investing in Partnerships” seems a timely theme for 2020. In a year marked with unique challenges we’ve all had to rely on each other in ways we may not have foreseen. Yet in the midst of the unknown our duties to God, family, neighbor and work have continued and we as a people persevere. The Nebraska Environmental Trust has not been exempt from the challenges of 2020, but through the hard work and charity of many we continued to serve our Mission and the people of Nebraska. I would like to thank the diverse and dynamic groups helping the Trust advance and improve.

### Our Partners – The Staff

Mark, Pam, Sheila and Holly found a new normal for work and utilized technology and rotating schedules to prepare grant reviews and continue funding projects. They managed staff transition with grace and poise and served grantees with the customer service the public deserves. Thank you for investing yourselves.

### Our Partners – The Grantees

To our grantees, thank you for your charity and understanding throughout the year. Your creativity and ingenuity allowed many projects to continue with most experiencing only minimal delays. Thank you for investing your endeavors.

### Our Partners – The Volunteers

Thank you to the technical reviewers who over the years have selflessly given much of their time, wisdom and expertise to the grant process. Thank you for investing your time. To our Ferguson House volunteers, your time is much appreciated.

### Our Partners – The Citizens

To those who participated in our grant process either through submitting a proposal or commenting, an engaged and interested public is important and your input is valued, I thank you. A special thank you as well to the landowners of Nebraska who are daily stewards of our natural resources and who have a vested interest in conserving and managing the land for generations to come. Thank you for investing your passion.

### Our Partners – The Board

I would like to finally extend my personal appreciation to my colleagues on the Trust Board. In my short time I have learned much from you all and recognized diverse opinions, but have appreciated and admired the respect shown to one another and genuine willingness to listen. Many of you are volunteers, giving freely of your time to serve the people of Nebraska. Thank you for your wisdom, perspective and desire to constructively challenge the Nebraska Environmental Trust to better serve our state. Thank you for investing yourselves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Kanger', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Kanger

# Nebraska Environmental Trust Board

## 1st District



Jeff Kanger



Jim Hellbusch



John Orr

## Agency Directors



Jim Macy, NE Dept. of Environment & Energy

## 2nd District



Paul Dunn



Mark Quandahl



Felix Davidson



Steve Wellman, NE Dept. of Agriculture

## 3rd District



Rod Christen



Sherry Vinton



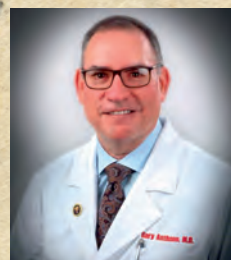
Quentin Bowen



Jim Douglas, NE Game & Parks Comm.



Tom Riley, P.E. NE Dept. of Natural Resources

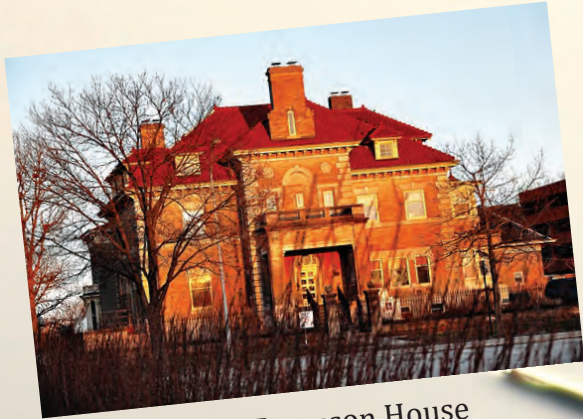


Dr. Gary Anthone, NE Department of Health & Human Services

## 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.



The Historic Ferguson House  
Office of the Nebraska  
Environmental Trust



Staff of the Nebraska Environmental Trust



From left to right:  
Front Row: Mark Brohman (Executive Director),  
Holly Adams (Grant Administrator)  
Back Row: Sheila Johnon (Public Information  
Officer),  
Pamela Deines (Administrative Secretary)

## Investing In Partnerships

This year marks the 27th year of the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant program. More than \$328 million has been disbursed through out the State of Nebraska in all 93 counties for the benefit 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 Trust distributes these funds to the seven Districts and ensures a geographic mix of projects over time. The Trust board also allocates geographic points every year to ensure deficient areas have a greater incentive to increase applications from such areas.

The theme for our Annual Report this year is “Investing In Partnerships”. Despite having a challenging year, grants have been awarded and distribution of funds is in process. We have had to work in a pandemic environment to get things done and it has been a matter of adaptation to this new normal to get things going. Many of our events were conducted virtually through zoom meetings and both grantees and members of the public were participants.

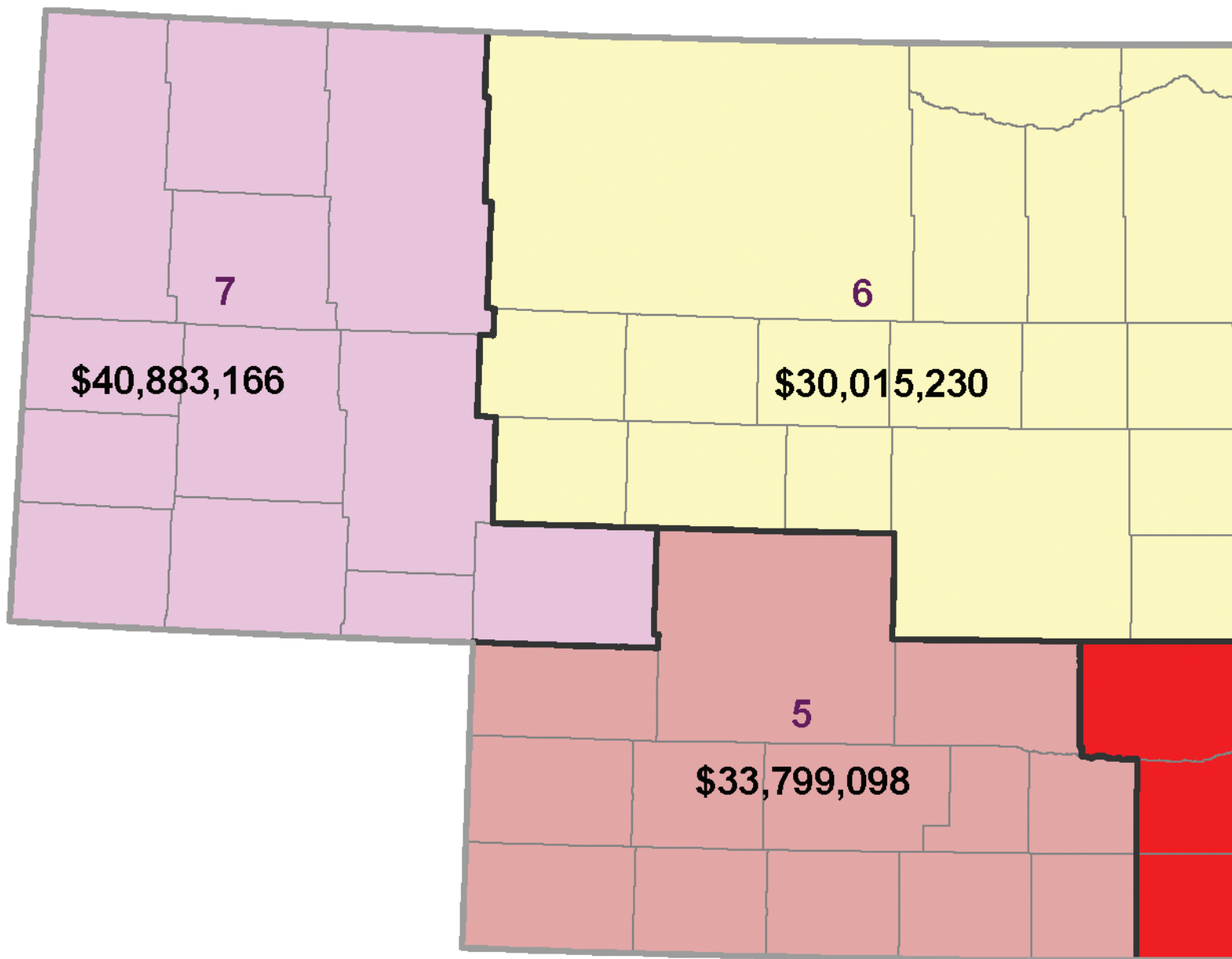
Finally, our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to our many partners, grantees and supporters that have advocated for the Trust and its mission. We hope to continue to serve Nebraska where we are needed to make environmental improvements that will benefit our natural resources in the long run.

“The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved.” -  
Richard Rogers

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is funded by:



# Geographic Distribution of Awards Nebraska Environment



1994-2019 Awards    2020 Awards

|             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Grey        | \$49,503,792 | \$3,321,431  |
| Green       | \$39,620,790 | \$ 867,610   |
| Light Green | \$31,388,530 | \$1,049,295  |
| Red         | \$32,215,435 | \$ 1,011,367 |
| Light Red   | \$32,819,358 | \$ 979,741   |
| Yellow      | \$28,543,890 | \$1,471,339  |
| Purple      | \$39,604,020 | \$1,279,146  |

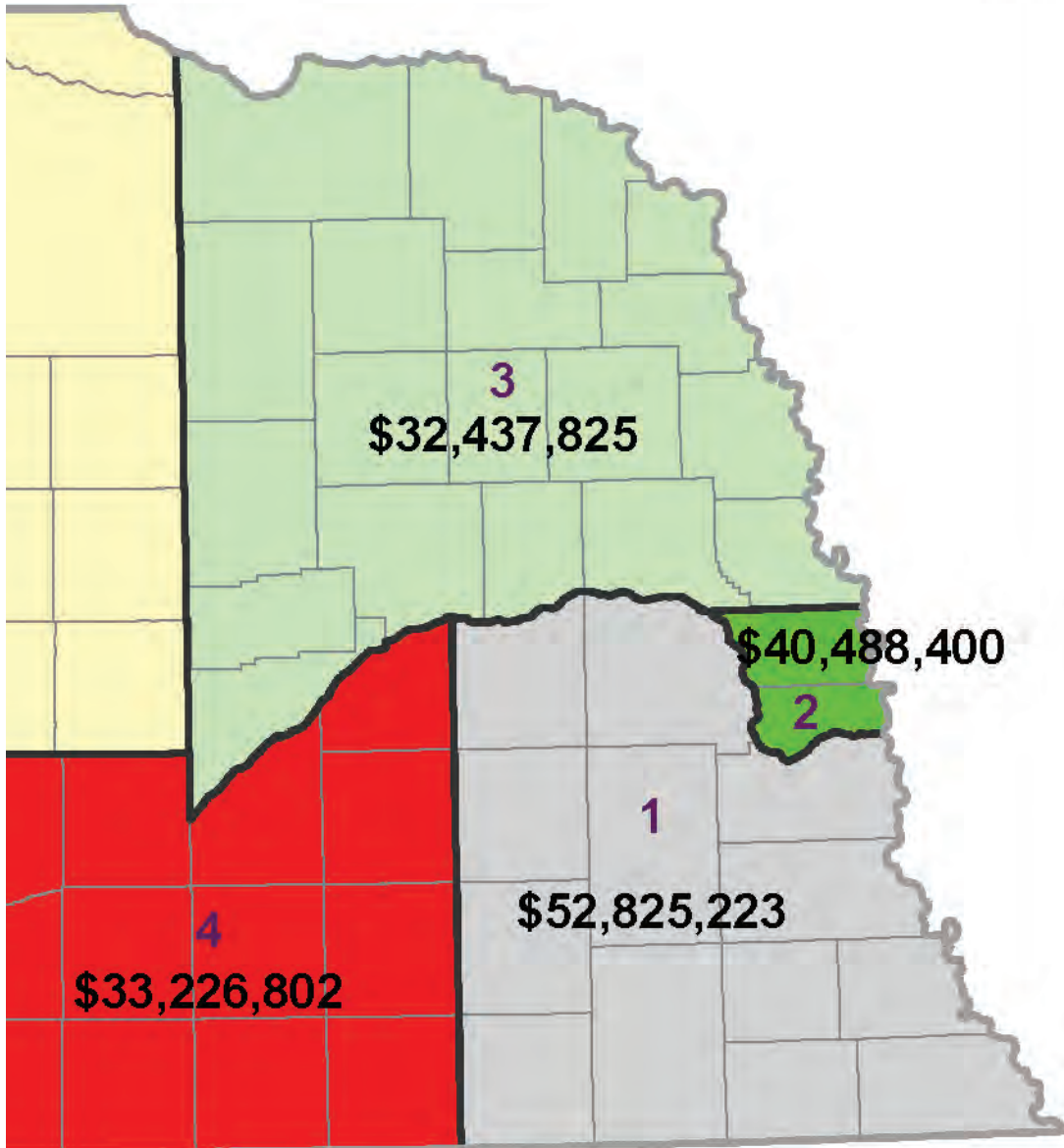
Statewide    \$76,396,642    \$10,020,072

Figures on the map represent area award totals for 1994 - 2020

Awards with Statewide Benefit (not included in map figures):

Total Amount Awarded  
1994 - 2020: \$350,092,457

# ards (1994 - 2020) ital Trust



ent geographic  
- 2020: \$263,675,743

enefits for 1994-2020  
s): \$86,416,714



6/11/20

The Geographic Distribution map shows how grant funds have been distributed through out the entire State of Nebraska the last 27 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.

# Corners For Wildlife



Since 1995, Corners For Wildlife has enrolled over 2,000 corners in 69 counties, resulting in over 14,000 acres and 723,000 shrubs planted. The Corners for Wildlife program is a partnership between the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET), Pheasants Forever, Natural Resource Districts (NRDs), Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC), and private landowners across the state and has been a very popular program for 25 years. The program is offered in all counties with significant partner support to design, establish, and administer the high-quality wildlife and pollinator habitat projects on center pivot corners.

Corners For Wildlife is a great example of partners coming together to work with private landowners to enroll in this voluntary program. Private landowners receive an annual payment of \$100 per acre along with cost-assistance to convert dryland pivot corners to a wildlife and pollinator friendly seedmix. Converting these farmed pivot corners to a grass, wildflower, and shrub cover not only provides habitat, but also provides soil health, water quality, and air quality benefits with the reduction of farming practices. Technical and financial assistance, administration, and promotion from all partners make projects successful.

Projects are required to be managed for 5 years and an estimated 70% remain in grass cover following contract expiration. Many times, these corners are eligible to enroll in a long-term economic program through the federal Farm Bill.

NET funds are utilized to help with the annual landowner forgone income payments while Pheasants Forever, NGPC, NRD and landowner funds are used for project establishment and materials. Corners For Wildlife creates productive habitat benefiting species of all varieties including pheasants, quail, deer, turkeys, prairie grouse, grassland songbirds, small mammals, and more. The 2020 program period is still open for enrollment with 88 new projects enrolled resulting in 1,400 acres.

The grant award from the NET and the financial and technical support from additional partners make this program possible. Private landowners from across the State continue to enroll in this voluntary, economic option for environmental benefit. The program also benefits rural economies by providing jobs for local contractors, providing public access to hunters in some cases, and providing wildlife opportunities for eco-tourism development.

# Long Pine Creek Watershed Restoration



Through Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) funding, the Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District (MNNRD), along with a willing landowner in the Long Pine Creek Watershed (LPCW) and JEO Consulting Group, successfully implemented the SD14 Rehabilitation Project located on Sand Draw Creek, Brown County, NE. The SD14 Rehabilitation Project is a two-tiered engineered rock riffle structure system consisting of two rock riprap structures and bank stabilization. This project addressed channel head cutting, runoff issues, excess sediment and erosion, channelizing, downcutting, and loss of aquatic habitat.

JEO Consulting Group completed the overall project planning, preliminary and final design, and approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) through USACE's 404-permit. Buer Bulldozing Inc. Valentine, NE, began construction on March 11th, 2020. Buer Bulldozing Inc. experienced some weather-related setbacks off and on, but were able to finish the project by the beginning of May 2020. MNNRD staff, MNNRD Board of Director's, Landowner, Buer Bulldozing

Inc., and JEO Consulting Group held a final walk through on May 7th, 2020. After rock clean up, equipment removal, seeding, and woody biomass utilization were addressed, the project was officially completed by June 15th, 2020. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the MNNRD held a public project viewing on August 6th, 2020, where several landowners came and looked at the SD14 Rehabilitation Project. The MNNRD staff re-seeded native grass with a no-till drill and broadcasting/raking as well as cutting, hauling, chipping, and spreading wood chips along the banks, on top of the banks, and trail roads utilizing a manure spreader.

NET funds were used to hire a consulting firm, contractor, and provided the opportunity to do a large-scale project that is so vital to the LPCW, especially Sand Draw Creek. This project will help address major resource concerns on Sand Draw Creek that are causing issues throughout the entire LPCW. Along with NET funds, the MNNRD, through our Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), obtained funds through Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) 319 Water Quality Grant, which were used during the planning phase. LPCW Restoration project has become a large-scale partnership with Brown County Commissioners, Ainsworth Irrigation District, NGPC, STF, USFWS, NRCS, and most importantly the local landowners.

The MNNRD has created a great working relationship with NET and its partners over the years and is glad to have had the opportunity to work on this successful project.

# Cover Crop Utilization and Nutrient Management



The Lower Loup Natural Resources District (LLNRD) utilized financial assistance from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to cost-share cover crops in the Water Quality Management - Area 28 west of Columbus, Nebraska. In 2002, Area 28 triggered Phase III level of the LLNRD's Groundwater Management Plan by exceeding the 8.50 milligrams per liter threshold of nitrate concentration in groundwater. Even with the Phase III requirements, groundwater monitoring has shown increases in nitrates. The drinking water standard for groundwater nitrates is 10.00 ppm.

In 2012, a literature review by the LLNRD suggested the use of cover crops as a nitrogen management tool. Cover crops have shown to be beneficial in limiting nitrate movement through the soil profile. Starting in 2019, this project addresses the need to protect the health and safety of the public within Area 28 as high nitrate concentration levels have been shown to be linked to increases in the occurrences of Blue Baby Syndrome, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and Indolent B-Cell Lymphoma. This project also improves groundwater and surface water quality by reducing nitrate contamination from fertilizer application by converting mobile nitrate-nitrogen into immobile plant-based protein. This conversion restricts nitrates to the upper soil profile and prevents losses to leaching or runoff.

In 2020, this project was further aided by

Trust funds to expand cost-share for nitrate management.

Over two hundred producers were mailed an application for the program. The program was advertised on the radio and was featured in the LLNRD Spring 2020 Quarterly Newsletter, which reaches 37,200 households throughout the District.

The LLNRD provided cost-share on a per acre basis for the implementation of multiple species of cover crops. Upon completion of this program, the District will have implemented cover crops on approximately 27% or 8,330 acres of Area 28 over the next 3 years with an emphasis on targeting nitrate hot spots.

The LLNRD approved cost-share on 3,028 acres in Area 28, in the Fall 2020. The average groundwater nitrate level of the approved acres was approximately 21 ppm with the highest individual nitrate level being 44.4 ppm.

Diminishing the nitrate levels of Area 28 is a directive set forth by the LLNRD's Groundwater Management Plan to protect the health of the public and to preserve the surface and groundwater resources for future generations. This project is innovative for the region where cover crops have not been used as a nutrient management tool and could be easily replicated in other NRDs that are experiencing elevated levels of nitrate concentrations in groundwater.

# Southeast NE Household Hazardous Waste Collection



Thanks to Five Rivers RC & D along with the help of volunteers as well as county and city representatives, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events were a huge success throughout southeast Nebraska. The events were held in eleven communities across the region and brought in more than 600 participants. A variety of waste was collected for proper disposal, including used oil, antifreeze, pesticides, paint, and other household hazardous waste. Additionally, residents brought in 2,207 fluorescent light bulbs and nearly 350 batteries.

Volunteers assisted the Red Willow County Hazmat team on unloading products from vehicles and either storing or dumping waste into barrels, which were later hauled back to Red Willow County for proper disposal.

Residents were appreciative and provided positive feedback during and upon completion of the events. This type of project allows communities to properly dispose of these dangerous chemicals, making our environment a much cleaner and safer place to live.

# StarTran Electric Bus Project Reduces Harmful Emissions While Achieving Cost Savings



With Nebraska Environmental Trust funds the “Lincoln Electric Bus Fleet Replacement Project,” managed by the City of Lincoln’s public transit service and StarTran, secured three new electric buses with three more in November. This brings StarTran’s electric bus fleet total to 10 out of a fleet of 67. Combined with 24 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses, 51% of StarTran’s fleet will be using renewable fuels.

The 35-foot electric buses are replacing heavy-duty diesel buses built in 2004 that have exceeded 12-year federal guidelines for usable vehicle life. According to a 2016 Columbia University study, electric buses have higher upfront purchase costs but, pay dividends by lowering operational and maintenance costs with a payback period of 7.69 years. The positive environmental impacts are many. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory reports that electric buses significantly lower energy consumption by about 17.48 miles per diesel gallon equivalent. The StarTran project saves 389.77 diesel equivalent gallons per bus per month, for a 28,063.44 gallons annually and a total of 336,761 gallons over the 12-year life cycle of the buses. Fuel cost savings are also realized, totaling \$740,875. The project significantly reduces harmful and direct carbon emissions. Since Lincoln Electric System’s energy feedstock is derived from 50% renewables with solar being dominant, harmful carbon emissions are being reduced.

The project helps StarTran meet the Lincoln Environmental Action Plan 2017-18 goal to support and promote municipal and community-wide energy conservation, and increase use of renewable energy sources and technologies by reducing nonrenewable fuel usage in City fleet operations by 50% by 2030.

The NET grant of \$387,569 provided match for StarTran’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emission Vehicle Program grant for \$4,867,351 awarded in 2019. NET funds helped cover the cost of purchasing the electric buses, installing the charging stations, electrical wiring, and staff training. Other project partners included the Lincoln Electric System (LES) and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE). LES installed the transformer for the electric bus charging unit and NDEE provided \$489,934 toward the purchase of the electric buses. Additionally, StarTran provided \$501,527 in match.

# 2020 Public Information And Education Annual Grant Report



2020 marks the eleventh 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 \$460,000 to numerous recipients all across the state.

In calendar year 2020 NAS received a total of 38 grant applications and a total request of \$94,036. \$42,675 has been awarded to date and the fourth quarter award is yet to be determined. Grant applications for the first quarter of 2021 will be accepted until January 11th, 2021.

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 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 final reports submitted in 2020.

- 19-04-1P Prairie Pines Partners; Prairie Pines Nature Preserve “Second Saturdays” Nature Experience and Education Project
- 19-09-2P Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway; Community Pollinator Gardens
- 19-04-3P Upper Niobrara White NRD; Range Day
- 19-09-3P Nebraska Wildlife Federation; Urban Pollinator Flyway Phase II

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 did 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 funding. These categories are habitat, surface and ground water, waste management/recycling, 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.

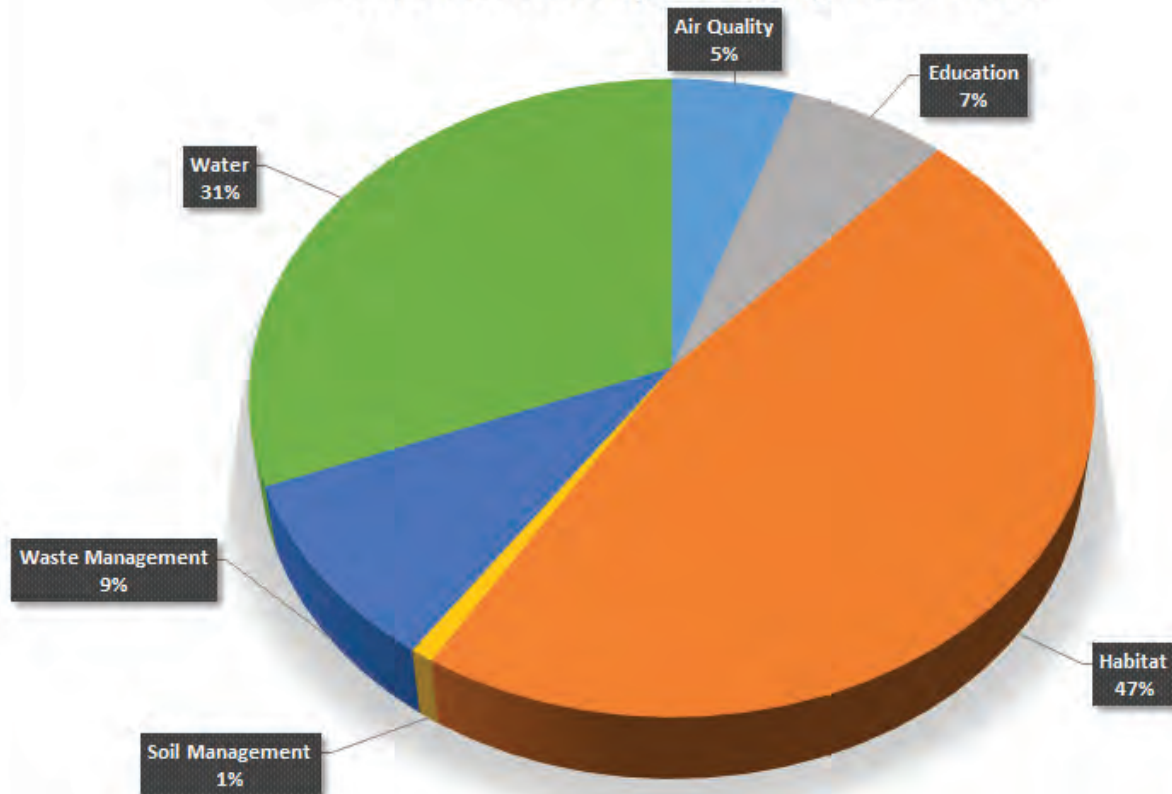
Grant forms and information can be found on the website, [www.neacadsci.org](http://www.neacadsci.org).

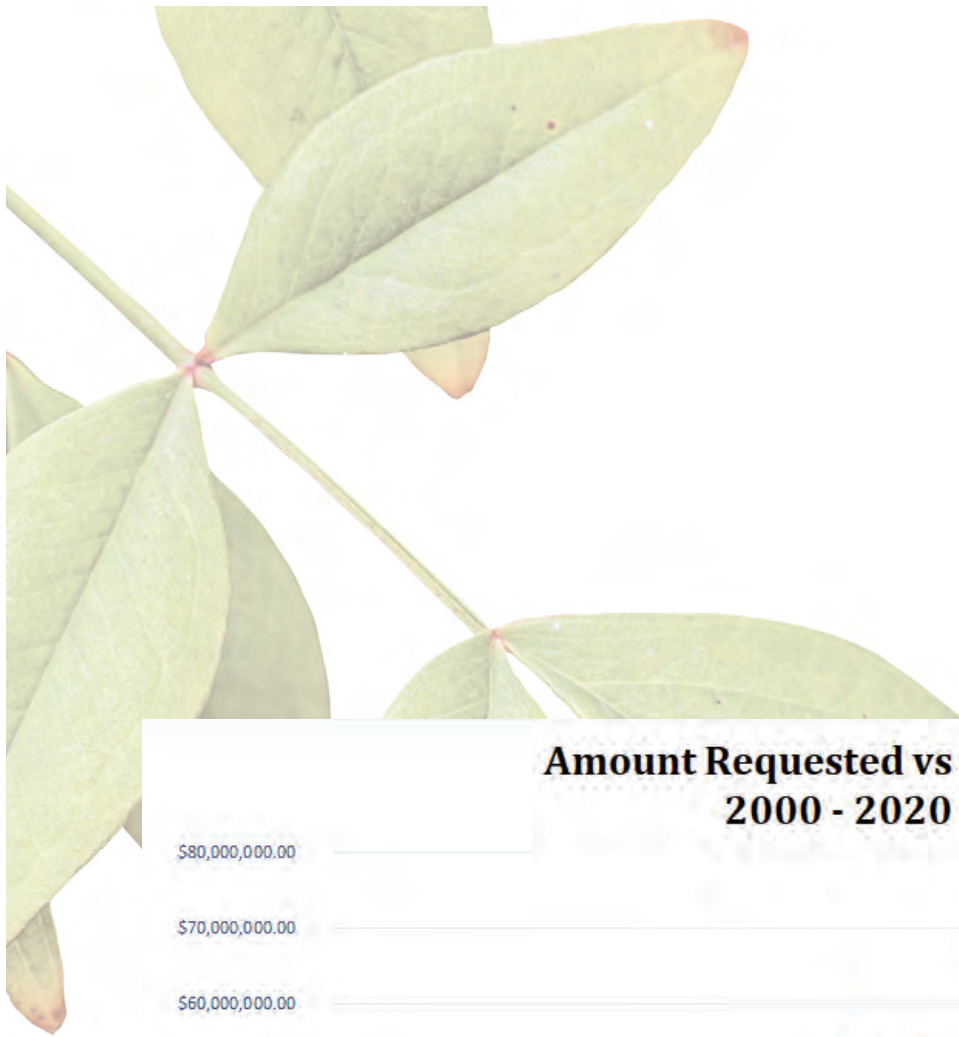
Executive Secretary  
Nebraska Academy of Sciences, INC.  
302 Morrill Hall, 14th and U Streets  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0339  
402-472-2644 voice  
402-472-8899 fax  
[neacad@unl.edu](mailto:neacad@unl.edu)  
[neacadsci.org/wildapricot](http://neacadsci.org/wildapricot)

Public Information and Education (PIE) Grant

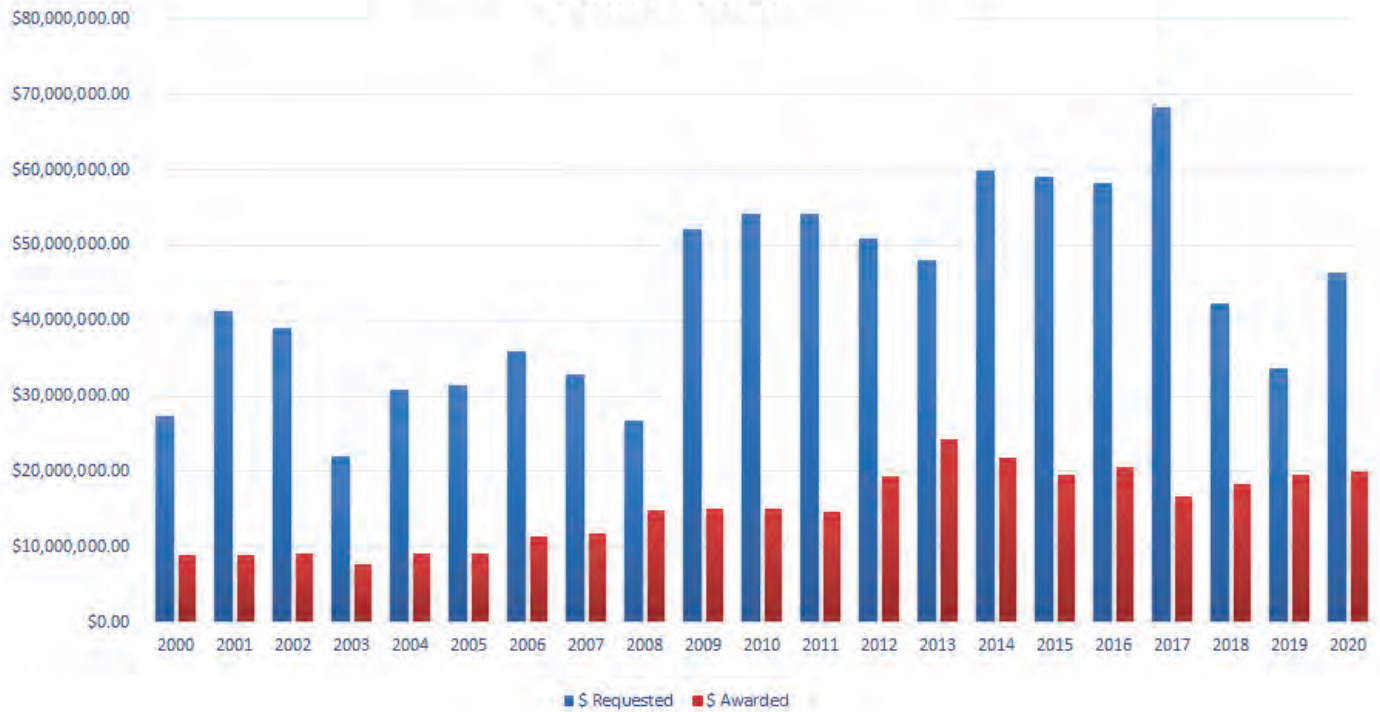
# Distribution of Grants Through The Years

Grant Awards by Category 1994-2020





### Amount Requested vs Awarded 2000 - 2020



# Partnerships From Past Projects



Charge Point Project at the Ferguson House



Helping with Tree Planting in Omaha



Partnering with the Crane Trust on Platte River Habitat, Bison are part of their Management Plan.



HazToGo Center with the City of Lincoln



Fertig Prairie with Wachiska Audubon



Master Naturalist program with UNL

# Facts and Financials

The Nebraska Environmental Trust...

FY 19-20

.... is funded by the Nebraska Lottery. The Lottery has transferred more than \$338 million to the Trust in the last 27 years.

## Income

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Interest income  | \$ 937,648.50    |
| Lottery proceeds | \$ 18,648,007.00 |

... covers the cost of operations through interest earnings. The Trust has operated with overhead expenditures equaling less than 2.3 % of income since it was created.

## Expenses

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Operations   | \$ 554,774.10    |
| Grant Awards | \$ 20,000,000.00 |

... has completed 27 grant cycles and will announce the results of the 28th round of award recommendations in February 2021.

Average Operation expenses to income percentage from 1994-2020 = 2.24%

# 2020 Grant Listing

### **Alliance For Future Agriculture In Nebraska (AFAN)**

Leopold Conservation Award Video Project. \$15,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

### **Angels On Wheels**

Managing and processing electronic recycling. \$159,452 (yr. 1 of 1)

### **Bazille Groundwater Management**

To address nitrate levels in the area. \$209,500 (yr. 2 of 3)

### **Beyond School Bells**

Nebraska Youth Conservation Initiative. \$33,340 (yr. 1 of 3)

### **Bird Conservancy of the Rockies**

Promoting environmental literacy and good land stewardship. \$38,206 (yr. 2 of 2)

### **Central Platte NRD**

Richard Plautz Crane Viewing Site Restoration. \$50,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

### **Chadron State College**

Math Science Building Initiative. \$75,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

### **Conservation Blueprint**

Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat Education. \$9,800 (yr. 1 of 2)

### **Conservation Nebraska**

Support for the Common Ground Program. \$67,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

### **Council of Independent NE Colleges**

Funding for the Sustainability Learning Lab. \$130,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

### **Creighton University**

A study of the Nebraska Sandhills, involving remote sensing, biodiversity and surveys. \$95,536 (yr. 1 of 1)

### **Ducks Unlimited**

Steer Creek Habitat Improvement. \$10,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

### **North Platte River Restoration**

Restore and protect wetland and wildlife habitat near the North Platte River Valley \$74,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Northeast Nebraska Wetland Restorations Restore and enhance wetland habitats. \$30,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

### **Five Rivers RC & D**

Collection of household hazardous waste material. \$75,512 (yr. 1 of 1)

Saving our native grasslands from invasive species. \$87,572 (yr. 1 of 1)

### **Four Coners Health Dept.**

Household hazardous waste events. \$29,250 (yr. 2 of 3)

### **Friends of Heron Haven Inc.**

Funding for nature education and capital improvements. \$7,430 (yr. 2 of 3)

### **Girl Scouts Spirit of NE**

Walnut Creek Bank Restoration at Camp Catron. \$45,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

### **Grand Island Area Clean Community**

Funding to support continued operation of the Betty Curtis Household Hazardous Waste Facility. \$168,900 (yr. 1 of 2)

### **Green Plains Inc. & NE Department of Environment and Energy.**

Funds to purchase and install 60 advanced biofuel blender pumps. \$1,465,408 (yr. 1 of 3)

### **Green Recycling Enterprises**

Providing recycling containers at public events and on-going support towards recycling efforts. \$143,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

### **Habitat For Humanity Lincoln**

Support for a city wide project. Scrub Day, a spring cleaning donation drive. \$6,400 (yr. 2 of 3)

# 2020 Grant Listing

## Heartland Bike Share

Connecting Bike Share to Omaha Rapid Bus Transit (OBRT) \$289,446 (yr. 1 of 1)

## High Plains WMA

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

## Iain Nicolson Audubon - Rowe

Embarking on 50 years of conservation. \$69,890. (yr. 1 of 2)

## Keep Alliance Beautiful

2020-2021 Recycling Center Operations & Education. \$83,828 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Keep Keith County Beautiful

Funding for environmental education development in Western Nebraska. \$66,845 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Lewis and Clark NRD

Bow Creek Watershed Project. \$132,425 (yr. 1 of 3)

Plans to investigate groundwater quality and quantity of discrete aquifers in northern Cedar and Knox counties. \$40,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Lied Lodge & Conference Center

Funding of Prairie Restoration and a Conservation Trail. \$22,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Lincoln, City of

Support for equipment to continue Lincoln's Hazardous Waste Center. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Lincoln Star Tran

Lincoln Bus Fleet Replacement Project. \$387,569 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Lincoln - Parks & Recreation

Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch with a trail stretching from Pioneers Park to Spring Creek Prairie. \$350,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## Lincoln Electric System

To further plug-in research, education and promotional plans. \$120,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Lower Big Blue NRD

To install flowmeter on irrigation systems in the Odell and Diller Wellhead Protection Areas. \$122,500 (yr. 1 of 2)

To install flowmeter on irrigation systems in the Beatrice and Dewitt Wellhead Protection Areas. \$98,900 (yr. 1 of 2)

Creation of a watershed management plan at Turkey Creek. \$50,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Lower Elkhorn NRD

Expansion of its groundwater monitoring program. \$8,750 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Lower Loup NRD

Cover Crop Utilization and Nutrient Management. \$45,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Installing flowmeters on municipal, commercial, industrial and livestock wells as well as additional irrigation systems. \$25,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## Lower Niobrara NRD

Grant funding to drill test holes, record geological data, construct observation wells and install water level data loggers. \$61,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## Lower Platte North NRD

Intensive sampling and modelling effort to better understand nitrate concentration levels. \$61,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## Middle Niobrara NRD

Funding to drill test holes, record hole data, construct monitoring wells and purchase sampling equipment. \$61,358 (yr. 2 of 2)

Long Pine Creek Watershed Restoration initiative. \$485,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Sandhills Interactive Natural Resources Education Complex. \$288,015 (yr. 1 of 3)

## National Grazing Lands Coalition

Three day bus tour for the Nebraska Sandhills. \$27,037 (yr. 1 of 3)

## National Wild Turkey Federation

Forest stand restoration on Pine Ridge WMA. \$75,643 (yr. 1 of 3)

## NCORPE

NCORPE Re-seeding Project. \$159,486 (yr. 2 of 3)

## NE Dept of Natural Resources

Integrated Water Management initiative. \$3,300,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

## NE Academy of Sciences

Administering the Public Information and Education Mini Grant Program. \$60,580 (yr. 1 of 3)

## NE Big Game Society

Solar Water Well Catchments to provide wildlife water sources on public and private lands. \$15,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## NE Community Energy Alliance

Cost-share program for "Connection NE Communities Driving America's Fuel" with several partners. \$533,604 (yr. 1 of 1)

Cost-share program for "Connection NE Communities Driving America's Fuel" with several partners. \$333,333 (yr. 1 of 1)

## NE Community Foundation- RWBJV

Financial assistance to continue the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Working Lands Initiative. \$139,480 (yr. 2 of 3)

Restore 1,565 acres of playa wetlands at five waterfowl production areas. \$162,750 (yr. 2 of 2)

## Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Rainwater Basin Wetland Management. \$75,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Treehouse Classroom Interactive Stream: Engaging Nebraskans in Conservation Education. \$300,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Grassland Enhancement Initiative. \$250,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Nebraska Natural Legacy Project. \$315,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## NE Grazing Lands Coalition

Grant to decrease the number of grazing acres in Nebraska infested with Eastern Red Cedar (ERC) through prescribed burning. \$109,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## NE Pharmacists Association

Preventing poisoning, pollutin and prescription drug overdose. \$200,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## NE Public Power

Battery Energy Storage System. \$120,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## NE Recycling Council

Recycling Equipment Grants and Consultation. \$290,016 (yr. 1 of 2)

Feedlot composting Planning Project. \$145,900 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Nebraska State Irrigation Association

Chance to learn about Nebraska's surface and groundwater through the Water Leaders Academy. \$93,223 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Northeast Nebraska RCD

Project to dispose 12 tons of household hazardous waste. \$13,471 (yr. 1 of 2)

Early Detection & Integrated Management of Invasives Plants. \$38,740 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Northern Prairies Land Trust

Extending the Tallgrass Prairie Partnership. \$275,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## Omaha, City of

Long term benefits to the Thomas Creek stream system. \$20,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Oma-Gro Compost Turner

To purchase compost turner for its Oma-Gro yard waste processing facility. \$499,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## Omaha Public Power District

OPPD BRIGHT (Battery Research Innovation Guided by High Potential Technologies) \$525,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## Pheasants Forever

Pathway for Wildlife and Working Lands - This program will provide complementary efforts to continued focus on Working Lands within the Nebraska Sandhills. \$80,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Establish permanent wildlife habitat through the Corners for Wildlife program. \$293,800 (yr: 1 of 2)

Conservation Ag, Urban and Working Lands - funding an innovative pilot program, designed to bridge gaps between agriculture, urban, working lands and wildlife. \$217,300 (yr: 1 of 1)

#### **Platte River Whopping Crane**

Purchase of adaptable, reliable and efficient equipment to protect and restore critical habitat throughout Big Bend Reach of the Platte River. \$342,675.00 (yr: 1 of 3)

#### **Platte Valley WMA**

Project to protect habitat and water supply by maintaining and further improving channel conveyance along 336 miles of the Platte rivers. \$173,250 (yr: 1 of 3)

#### **Quail Forever**

Supporting prescribed burning on private lands, forming prescribed burn associations, training, public outreach and habitat management. \$104,500 (yr: 1 of 1)

#### **Sandhills Task Force**

Conservation of partnerships on wetlands and grassland. \$330,000 (yr: 1 of 3)

#### **Soil Dynamics Composting Farm**

Funding to mitigate compost malodors and reduce volatile organic compounds utilizing Turned Aerated Pile (TAP) technology. \$87,800 (yr: 1 of 1)

#### **South Sioux City**

Matching funds to install two public/community electric vehicle charging stations. \$30,481.00 (yr: 1 of 1)

#### **SouthwestWeed Management**

Western Republican River Basin Riparian Habitat improvement to eradicate invasive vegetation. \$141,500 (yr: 1 of 1)

#### **The Groundwater Foundation**

Funding for the Recharging Groundwater Education Program. \$31,000 (yr: 2 of 2)

#### **The Nature Conservancy**

Support for prescribed fire training exchanges in the Niobrara Valley Preserve (NVP). \$41,000 (yr: 2 of 3)

Upper Big Blue Soil Health Project to reduce the risk to farmers hoping to experimentally interseed cover crops into mid-growing season cash crops. \$69,603. (yr: 1 of 3)

Increasing fire capacity & rangeland impact in the Sandhills. \$60,388. (yr: 1 of 3)

#### **The Save Our Monarchs Foundation**

Purchase of seeds and plants to restore 600 acres of District right of ways to Monarch and pollinator habitat. \$57,000 (yr: 2 of 2)

#### **The Xerces Society**

Project to improve knowledge of bumble bee distribution and abundance and to better understand habitat requirements. \$132,279 (yr: 2 of 3)

#### **Twin Valley WMA**

Efforts to eradicate invasive species to improve habitat along the Republican River and Little Blue Rivers. \$205,000 (yr: 1 of 1)

#### **Trailblazer RC & D**

Electronic Recycling event. \$5,950. (yr: 1 of 3)

Household hazardous Waste Collection & Recycling which covers several counties. \$35,950. (yr: 1 of 3)

#### **University of Nebraska Medical Center**

Conversion of three campus turf areas totaling 2.37 acres to native prairie plants. \$13,700 (yr: 1 of 2)

#### **Upper Elkhorn NRD**

Development and Implementation of Residual Soil Nitrate Sampling for Groundwater Nitrate Reduction. \$23,750. (yr: 1 of 1)

#### **Upper Loup NRD**

Assessing drought resilience of the South Loup River through environmental tracer sampling with supporting geo chemical data. \$99,000 (yr: 1 of 3)

#### **University of Nebraska, Board of Regents**

Improving statewide performance of conservation easements on Eastern Red Cedar invasions. \$77,000 (yr: 1 of 3)

Developing a comprehensive and efficient recycling operation. \$199,962 (yr: 1 of 1)

Transforming manure and cedar mulch from waste to worth. \$59,813 (yr: 1 of 3)

Direct removal of groundwater nitrate coupling water treatment and algae growth. \$240,187 (yr: 1 of 3)

StreamNet: Building capacity to improve water quality. \$307,730 (yr: 1 of 3)

Detecting atrazine Dissipation and Evaluating Herbicide Programs without Atrazine for Weed Control in Corn and their Environmental Impact Quotient: Research and Extension. \$49,979 (yr: 1 of 3)

Improving Water Quality and Surveying Fish populations using eDNA in Nebraska. \$75,000 (yr: 1 of 2)

Nebraska Farmers and Farmland Owners Attitudes of Targeted Conservation. \$104,971 (yr: 1 of 3)

Management of Piping Plovers and Least Terns for a period of three years. \$20,841 (yr: 1 of 3)

Eastern Red Cedar Design-Build Microdwelling. \$28,412. (yr: 1 of 3)

Developing Statewide Community Tree Canopy Map. \$51,057. (yr: 1 of 3)

Improving Soil Health Using Heat-Treated Manure. \$105,552 (yr: 1 of 2)

Student Integrated Forest & Prairie Management at Cedar Point Biological Station. \$13,842 (yr: 1 of 2)

Developing a decision-support tool for the successful incorporation of cover crops into Nebraska cropping. \$41,530 (yr:1 of 2)

Low-Cost Biological Odor Treatment Using an Adsorption/Desorption Concentrator Unit for Reducing Sulfur Emission into Nebraska. \$97,662 (yr: 1 of 1)

Protecting the terns and plovers of Nebraska and mentoring the next generation. \$21,355. (yr: 2 of 3)

Beneficial impact of injected air into surface drip irrigation system on plant growth and uptake of emerging antibiotics using runoff from feed lot. \$104,847 (yr: 1 of 2)

An opportunity for citizens to contribute to natural resources through the Nebraska Master Naturalist program. \$49, 179 (yr: 2 of 2)

A pilot program that will engage a minimum of 45 schools in growing milkweed plants. \$18,069 (yr: 2 of 3)

Project to quantify and demonstrate the water use and impact of individual and mixed cover crops species on soil quality. \$153,026 (yr: 2 of 3)

Project involving students and teachers monitoring groundwater quality and data collection. \$86,939 (yr: 2 of 2)

A watershed science training program to be delivered to water resources decision makers. \$71,751 (yr: 2 of 3)

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is funded by:





**The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust**

Preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

700 S. 16th St.  
P.O. Box 94913  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4913  
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