



The Nebraska Environmental Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

2022 Annual Report

Jail Rock south of Bridgeport, NE
Photo taken by Holly Adams

THE NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST'S 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.

FINANCIALS

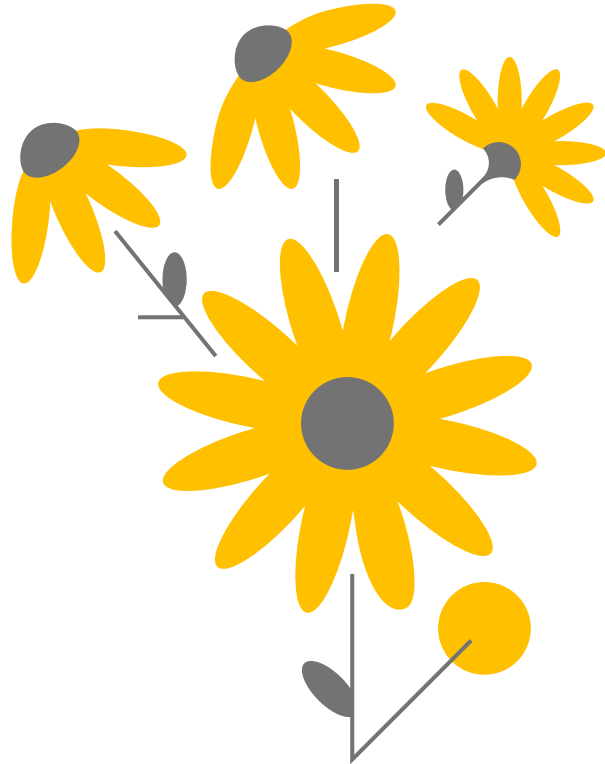
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Income

Interest Income	\$785,079
Lottery Proceeds	\$21,733,822

Expenses

Operations	\$483,684
Grant Awards	\$17,196,327



2022 GRANT AWARDS

In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) received 118 applications. The NET Grants Committee members reviewed 118 applications for eligibility using a checklist of eligibility requirements, found in Title 137. At the Committee meeting on January 13, 2022, members determined 82 projects to be eligible. The NET Board approved the eligibility list at the February 3, 2022, meeting.

NET Grants Committee members independently scored the 82 eligible projects. Serving on the Grants Committee were Jeff Kanger, District 1 as Chair, Mark Quandahl, District 2, Rod Christen, District 3, Quentin Bowen, District 3, Jim Macy, Dept. of Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, and Steve Wellman, Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

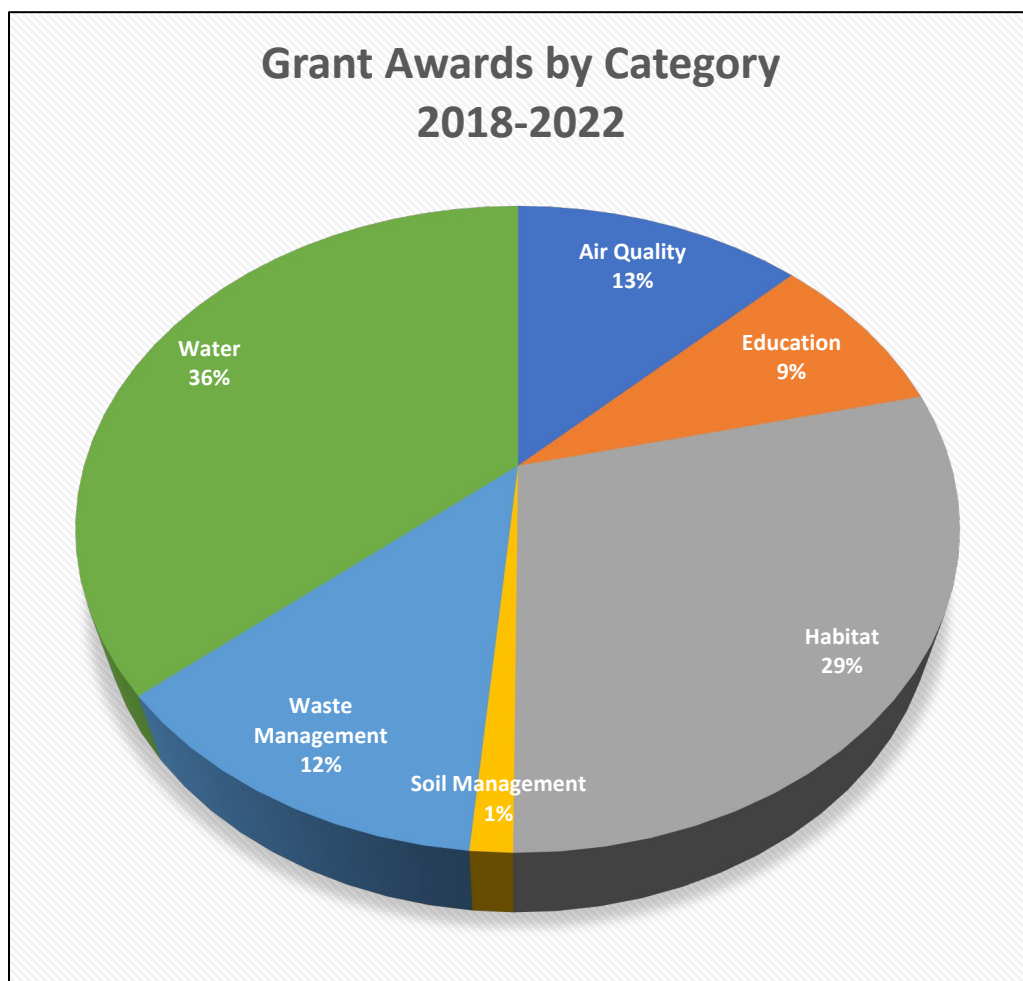
At the March 3, 2022, NET board meeting, the NET Board awarded 71 projects for \$17,196,327. Of these, 35 were new applications and 36 were carry-over projects.

A full list of awarded projects can be found on pages 3-5.

TRUST FUNDING CATEGORIES

Any project or portion of a project funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust must achieve one or more of the following Trust categories:

- **Habitat:** actions to preserve or restore native habitats and areas critical to at-risk, rare, or endangered species; other preservation actions for at-risk, rare, or endangered species including actions to understand ecosystem relationships which inform sound management; community habitat enhancement emphasizing native and ecologically appropriate plantings which provide food and shelter for wildlife; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.



- **Surface and Ground Water:** actions to preserve or restore lakes, waterways and ground water from degradation or depletion; actions to research, design or foster best management practices; actions to conserve water and/or efficiently and effectively manage water use; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.
- **Waste Management:** actions promoting and implementing source reduction, waste management or toxicity reduction; actions promoting and implementing the development of recycling markets; actions promoting and implementing reuse and other disposal diversion actions; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.
- **Air Quality:** actions promoting and implementing clean air strategies; including greenhouse gas reductions; actions to research, design or foster best management strategies; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.
- **Soil Management:** actions and strategies to preserve, conserve and restore soil health; actions to research, design or foster the implementation and management of these strategies; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.

Awarded 2022 Grant List

Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska

Leopold Conservation Award Video Project - \$45,000

Beyond School Bells

Nebraska Youth Conservation Initiative - \$33,330

Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Reduction of Water and Energy Use in the Ethanol Industry: Data Collection and Analysis - \$199,895
- Improving statewide performance of conservation investments on Eastern redcedar invasions - \$81,690
- StreamNet: Building capacity to improve water quality - \$11,202
- Detecting Atrazine Dissipation and Evaluating Herbicide Programs without Atrazine for Weed Control in Corn and their Environmental Impact Quotient: Research and Extension - \$47,154
- Nebraska Farmers and Farmland Owners Attitudes of Targeted Conservation - \$42,448
- Niobrara River Ecology and Education - \$210
- Nebraska Master Naturalist - Engaging Nebraska's Youth as Naturalists - \$71,630
- Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Resources in Districts 5, 6 and 7 to Improve Carbon Management Opportunities in Nebraska - \$118,438

Central Platte NRD

Partnering to Manage Central Nebraska's Core Grasslands - \$408,500

City of Lexington

Lexington's Patriot Park and Pond - Connecting Community to Nature - \$276,930

City of Papillion

Valley Road Channel Improvements - \$200,000

Ducks Unlimited

- Improving Wildlife Habitat and Public Recreation - \$119,000
- Restoring Western Alkali and Riparian Wetlands - \$40,000

Five Rivers RC&D

- SE Nebraska Household Hazardous Waste Collections - \$197,292
- SE Nebraska Electronics Collections - \$168,657
- Native Grassland Protection Against Invasive Species - \$274,320

Four Corners Health Department

Household Hazardous Waste - \$87,750

Habitat for Humanity of Omaha

Habitat Omaha ReStore Deconstruction Project - \$250,000

Keep Columbus Beautiful

23rd Street Streetscaping Project - \$25,000

Keep Keith County Beautiful

Western Nebraska Regional Education program - \$78,073

Keep Nebraska Beautiful

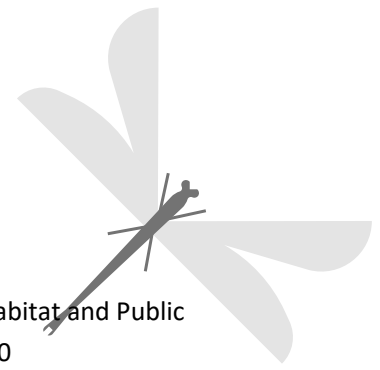
Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3) - \$162,180

Lewis and Clark NRD

Bow Creek Watershed Project - \$44,345

Loess Canyon Rangeland Alliance

Loess Canyon Grassland Stewardship - \$230,000



Lower Big Blue NRD

Turkey Creek Watershed & Source Water
Protection - \$75,000

Lower Elkhorn NRD

LENRD Establishment of Baseline Vadose Zone
Sampling in Cuming, Colfax, and Dodge Counties -
\$44,534

Lower Loup NRD

Cover Crop Utilization and Nutrient Management -
\$35,000

Metropolitan Utilities District

Used Oil Filter Recycling Project - \$9,097

Middle Niobrara NRD

Sandhills Interactive Natural Resources Education
Complex (SINREC) - \$158,000

National Wild Turkey Federation

Forest Stand Restoration on Pine Ridge WMA -
\$75,643

Nebraska Academy of Sciences

Nebraska Environmental Public Information and
Education Mini-grant Program - \$60,580

**Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom, a
program of Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation**
Agriculture and the Environment, Education and
Outreach - \$57,100

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Integrated Water Management Action Initiative -
\$6,600,000

Nebraska Department of Transportation

Statewide StreamStats Web Tool for Estimating
Streamflow Statistics - \$74,600

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

- Bringing the Natural Legacy Project to
Nebraska's Private Land Producers and
Stewards - \$803,000
- Rainwater Basin Wetland Management -
\$75,000
- Connecting Students to their Water
Resources in Nebraska - \$17,650
- Wagon Train Reservoir Wetland and
Water Quality Enhancement Project -
\$50,000
- Cool Water Stream Management in
Nebraska - \$325,000
- Statewide Grassland Enhancement
Project - \$500,000

Nebraska Recycling Council

Recycling Equipment Grants - \$628,400

Nebraska State Irrigation Association

Water Leaders Academy in Nebraska - \$56,854

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

- Greener Nebraska Towns (GNT) -
\$656,390
- Trees For Nebraska Towns: More
Biodiverse & Resilient Communities -
\$646,842

Northeast NE RC&D

Early Detection & Integrated Management of
Invasives - \$39,040

Northern Prairies Land Trust

- Extending the Tallgrass Prairie
Partnership - \$50,000
- Enhancing Nebraska's Oak Woodlands -
\$165,000



Omaha Children's Museum

Forever Forest Refurbishment & 2nd Half of 10
Year National Tour - \$32,603

Papio Missouri River NRD

- Know Your Well Phase III - Growing Youth-led Groundwater Science in Nebraska - \$531,000
- 10 County Scrap Tire Collection - \$199,550

Pheasants Forever

- Habitat Share - \$198,000
- Pathway For Wildlife, Ranchers, Farmers, and Communities - \$236,700

Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust

- Big Bend of the Platte River Partnership for Habitat Preservation - \$1,675
- A Partnership to Restore Central Nebraska Native Prairies - \$129,500

Quail Forever

Mobile Prescribed Burn Unit and Education
Outreach - \$114,400

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

- Happy Cows Happy Wetlands II - \$202,080
- Enhancing Groundwater Recharge and Habitat through Rainwater Basin Wetland Conservation - \$172,500

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Connecting Youth and Families to the Natural
World in the Nebraska Panhandle - \$38,925

**Sandhills Task Force**

- Sandhills Conservation Partnerships- Grassland & Wetland - \$24,000
- Sandhills Working Ranch Conservation Partnership - \$50,000

Southeast Nebraska Pheasants Forever

No-Till Drill Southeast NE Pheasants Forever -
\$29,000

Southwest Weed Management

Western Republican River Basin Riparian Habitat
Project - \$130,700

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon

Launching Spring Creek Prairie as a Demonstration
Site for Tallgrass Prairie Conservation - Denton
Hills - \$112,171

The Nature Conservancy

- Increase Fire Capacity & Rangeland Impact – Sandhills - \$60,388
- Connecting Nebraskans to Nature: Trails Development and Enhancements - \$28,349

Trailblazer RC&D

- Electronics Recycling Events - \$43,150
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Recycling - \$40,350

Twin Valley Weed Management Area

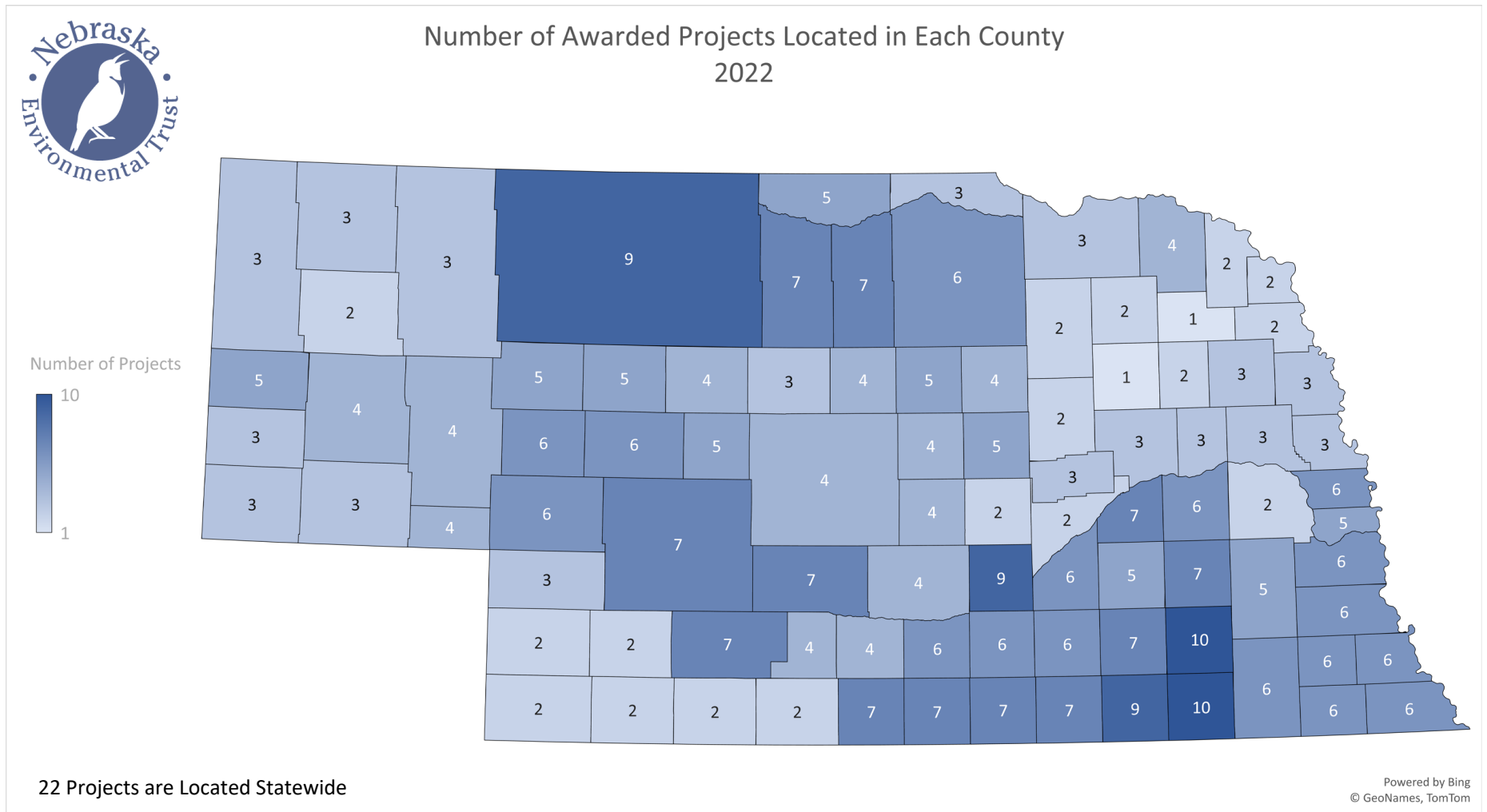
Eastern Republican and Little Blue Watershed
Improvement Project - \$176,000

**Wachiska Audubon Society Eastern Nebraska
Chapter of National Audubon Society**

Prairie Habitat Management Program 2022-2024 -
\$154,512

Distribution of Awarded Projects

The following is a map of the number of projects located in each county. Please note, a single project can list multiple counties for their project's location.

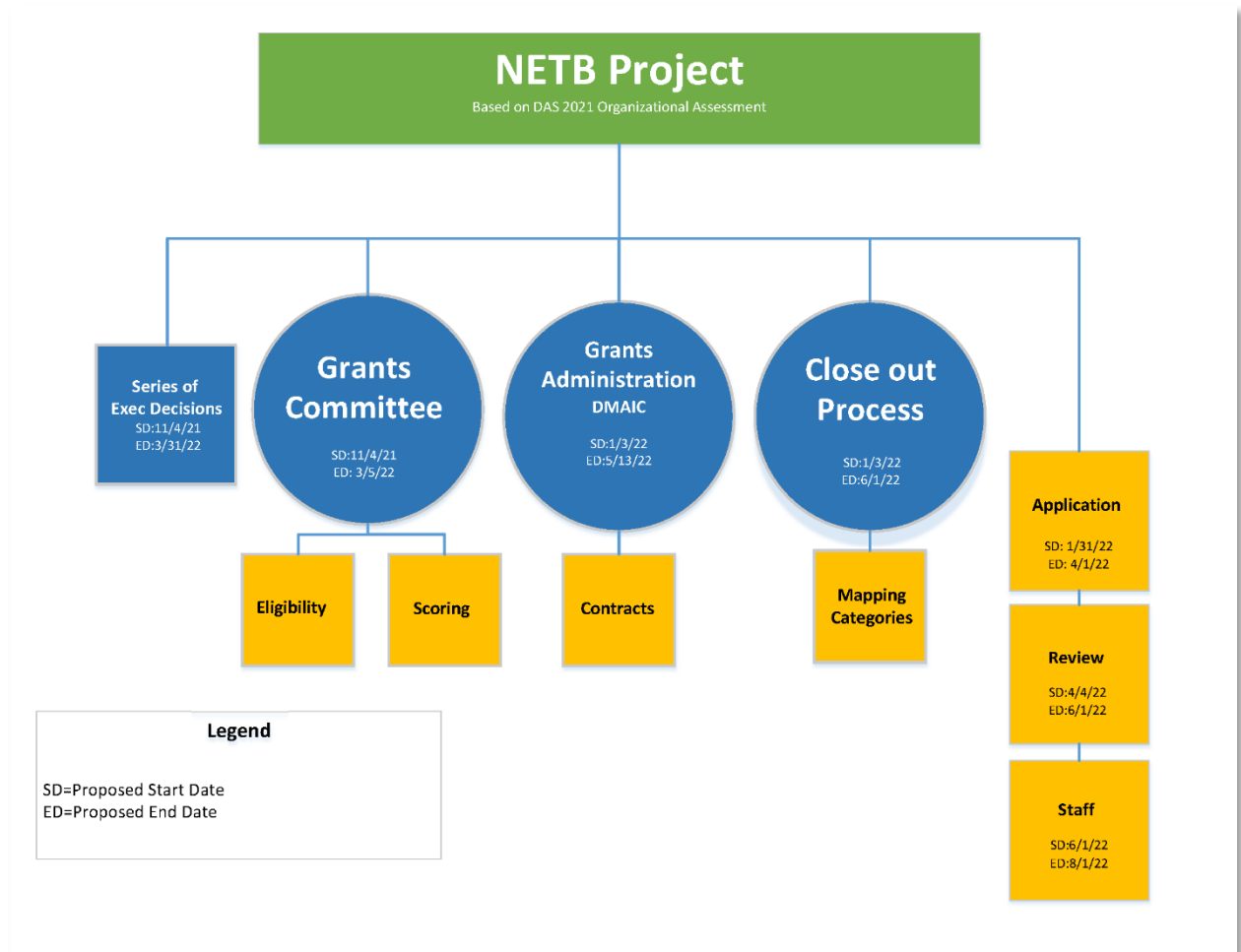


Process Improvement

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Staff and Board worked with the Nebraska Center for Operational Excellence to improve NET's procedures while working within the statutes, bylaws, rules and regulations, and NET policy parameters.

NET's processes were broken down into groups and examined in detail. Adjustments and improvements were made within each process group.

Below is a list of each group and sub-groups for every NET process.



Updates to Website

In June 2022, the Nebraska Environmental Trust website was redesigned for easier navigation to find information for applicants and the public. This was critical for the upcoming grant round, that opened in July, and was an important part of NET's process improvement. The previous website had not been redesigned since 2005.

