

# 2019 Annual Report

## *Embracing Our Mission*

Habitat  
Surface & Groundwater  
Waste Management  
Recycling  
Soil Management  
Air Quality



**The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust**

*preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations*

Photo by Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservancy featuring Nelson Winkel, Land Manager of Platte River Prairies

## Chairman's Message



**What a difference 20 years makes**  
The first Annual Report issued by the Trust was in 1999, the year I was appointed to the Nebraska Environmental Trust board. The Chairman's message in that first issue was penned by one of Nebraska's preeminent conservationists, Susan Seacrest. That original Annual Report was just eight pages, produced on a first generation color copier, and assembled by hand with limited distribution. This year's report is 20 pages and produced by the state print shop with a production run of 3,500 copies.

The grant awards for the year 2000, the seventh grant cycle in the Trust's history, totalled \$9 million. The Trust staff at that time consisted of an Executive Director and an Administrative Assistant who had a cramped office in the Game & Parks Commission building.

### Great changes

1999 was the second year with the ability to make grants of up to three years. \$9 million of grants have grown to \$20 million. There are now five staff members, and a new place to call home, the Ferguson House. Fifty pounds of paper grant applications to review are now completely gone, replaced by an on-line application, review, and reporting system.

**Some things remain the same**  
Grant requests far exceed the funds available. In 1999 it was reported at \$5 for every \$1 available, this year it was \$3 for every \$1 available. The Trust's overhead for operation remains remarkably low—less than 2½%. Other than adding Air Quality, the funding categories have remained essentially the same since the enabling legislation in 1992.

### Regular Reviews

The Legislature wanted the Trust to remain in step with the ideas and needs of Nebraska over time. Hence in 2020 we will again be conducting gatherings to review, update, and refresh, the funding categories. These gatherings are required every five years.

In late 2018 the Nebraska Tourism Commission announced their new marketing strategy.

**HONESTLY,  
IT'S NOT FOR  
EVERYONE.**

Initially going over like the proverbial lead balloon, the strategy has worked. It is something we at the Trust have known all along. Nebraska is special in many ways. It's what we, the Environmental Trust, are about and what we pledge to protect, preserve, and enhance not just for generations, but for millennia.

Nebraska, it is...The endless horizon and vast sky. The breathtaking sunset, the clean, cool, crisp air in the mornings. It's people, with a love for wildlife and their habitats, systemically rooted in conservation.

Paul L. Dunn

## 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.

## Nebraska Environmental Trust Board



From left to right (first row) : Paul Dunn - Omaha, Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha, Sherry Vinton - Whitman and Steve Wellman - Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

From left to right (second row): Jeff Fassett - Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Jim Macy - Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, Rod Christen - Steinauer, Jim Hellbusch - Columbus, Ryan McIntosh - Syracuse, Jim Douglas - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and Quentin Bowen - Humboldt.

Not pictured: John W. Orr - Blair, Jeff Kanger - Lincoln (recently appointed) and Dr. Gary Anthone - Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (recently appointed).

The Historic Ferguson House  
Office of the Nebraska  
Environmental Trust



Staff of the Nebraska Environmental Trust



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

## Embracing Our Mission

This year marks the 26th year of the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant program. More than \$319 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.

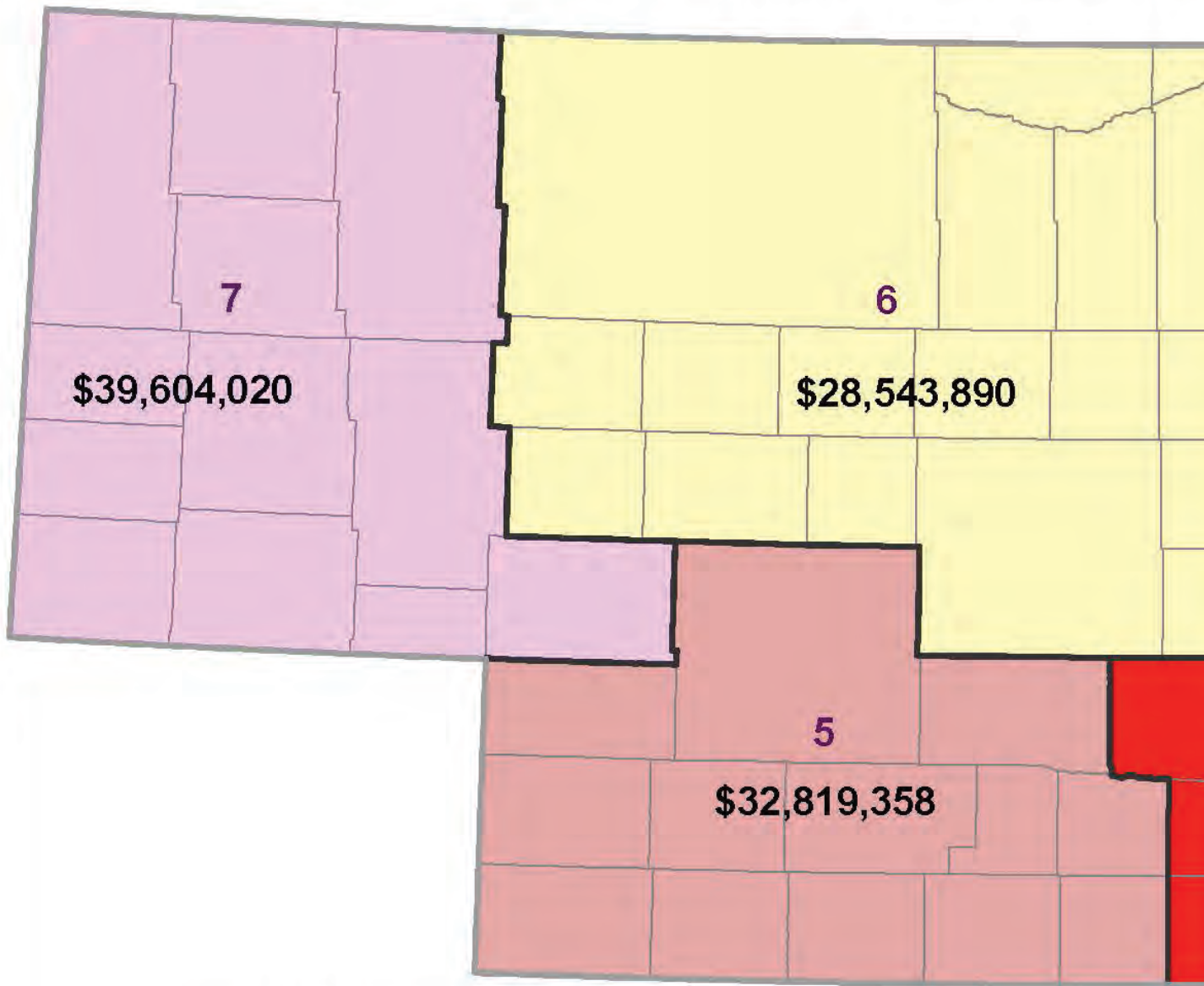
The theme for our Annual Report this year is “Embracing Our Mission”. This year we would like to emphasize our mission as it will be crucial in reassessing our funding categories in 2020. We will have meetings in three separate locations in the state to get public input and opinions on the types of projects we should be funding. Any Nebraskan may join us at those meetings.

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 most needed to make environmental improvements that will benefit our natural resources in the long run.








The Nebraska Environmental Trust is funded by:



# Geographic Distribution of Nebraska Environment



1994-2018 Awards      2019 Awards

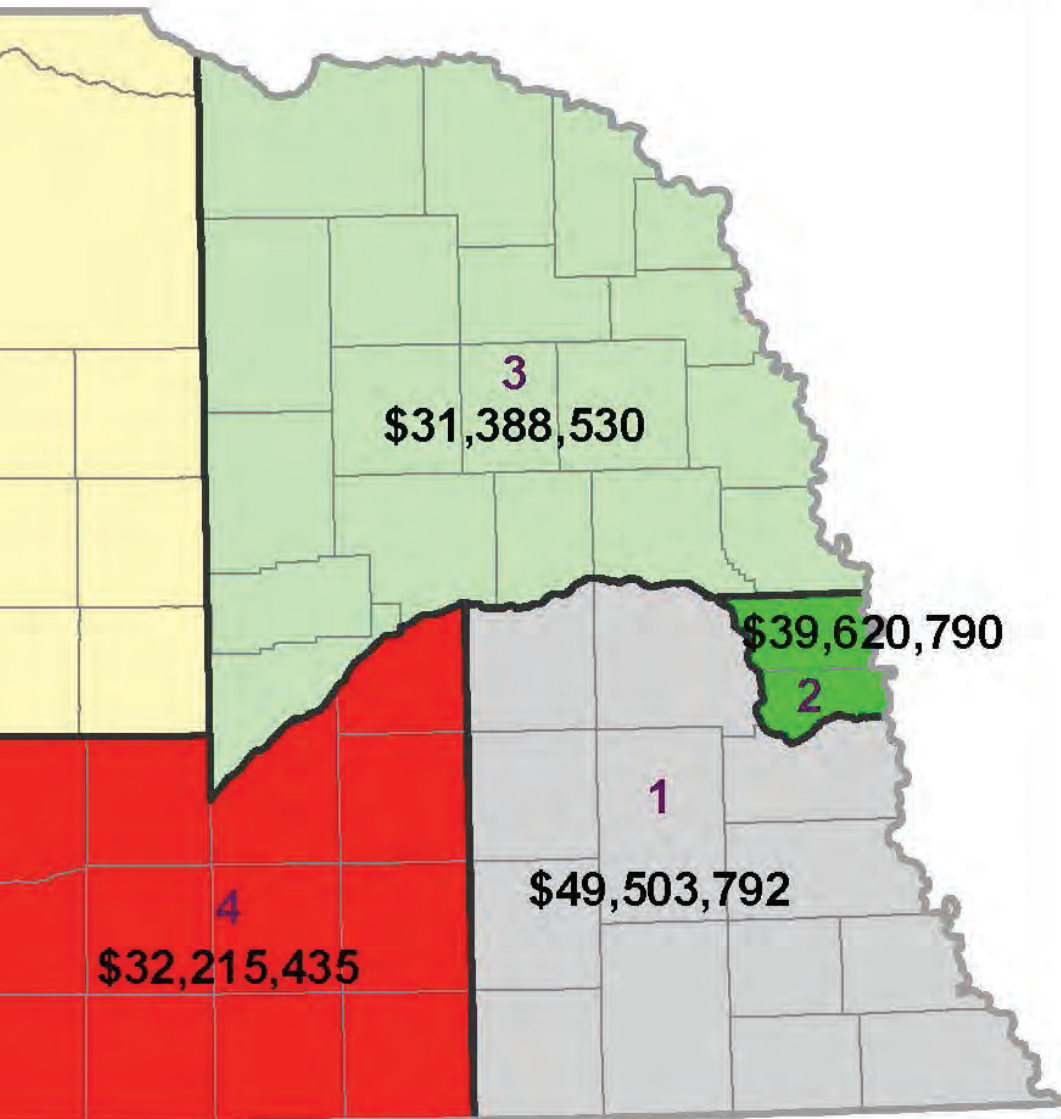
	\$48,276,086	\$1,227,706
	\$38,281,961	\$1,338,829
	\$29,656,397	\$1,732,132
	\$31,443,664	\$ 771,771
	\$30,924,201	\$1,895,157
	\$26,229,743	\$2,314,148
	\$37,740,939	\$1,863,081
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>\$68,038,022</b>	<b>\$8,358,620</b>

Figures on the map represent area award totals for 1994-2018

Awards with Statewide Benefit are shown in red on the map (not included in map figures)

Total Amount Awarded  
1994 - 2019: \$330,092,400

# Awards (1994-2019) Environmental Trust



The Geographic Distribution map shows how grant funds have been distributed through out the entire state of Nebraska the last 26 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.

Present geographic  
4 - 2019: \$253,695,815

Benefits for 1994-2019  
(res): \$76,396,642



4/4/19

# The Xerces Society - Nebraska Bumble Atlas

*Bombus pensylvanicus* by Katie Lamke: American bumble bee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*) captured, photographed, and released as part of a bumble bee survey. High quality photographs like these allow for experts to verify bumble bee identifications submitted by community scientists.



Pollinators are critical to the health of our environment, yet many have undergone startling declines. More than one-quarter of North American bumble bee species face extinction risk, and several of the most endangered species live in Nebraska. In order to protect these pollinators and restore their native habitats, there was a need to gather more information to better understand where they occur and what characteristics contribute to high-quality habitat. The support from the Nebraska Environmental Trust allowed a new statewide community science project to be launched in June 2019 to do just that: the Nebraska Bumble Bee Atlas.

The Nebraska Bumble Bee Atlas is a collaboration between The Xerces Society and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As a community science project, the Atlas invites people from all over the state to actively participate in pollinator conservation, no matter the age or skill level. Leveraging the community's help is a key component to the success of the Atlas. By engaging Nebraskans statewide to participate in bumble bee surveys, the Atlas will be able to gather more information than a few researchers could ever dream of.

During a bumble bee survey, participants capture, chill and photograph bees, releasing them unharmed. Volunteers then document habitat information and finish by submitting their data online. UNL and Xerces are delivering

educational workshops and online trainings to equip community scientists with the knowledge, skill, and confidence needed to carry out their own surveys. With the resulting data, the Atlas will produce evidence-based recommendations to guide conservation biologists, restoration practitioners and land managers when protecting, restoring, or creating effective pollinator habitat. Additionally, the Atlas will improve knowledge of at-risk bumble bees' distribution, abundance, and habitat use. This data will be provided to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for use in evaluating the conservation status of Nebraska's bumble bees and determining if additional species require protection under the Nebraska Natural Legacy Plan. Lastly, the data will be used to generate a comprehensive guide to Nebraska's bumble bees.

Aligning with the Trust's mission to conserve, enhance and restore the natural environments of Nebraska, the Atlas begins by engaging the whole community. Providing the citizens of Nebraska with an opportunity to take action on pollinator conservation not only benefits the bees, but encourages the public to explore and connect with the many biologically unique landscapes this state has to offer.

Anyone is welcome; to join the Atlas, visit [NebraskaBumbleBeeAtlas.org](http://NebraskaBumbleBeeAtlas.org) for more information on the project.



# Ian Nicolson

## Audubon - New Discovery Centers for Rowe Sanctuary



The new Discovery Stations at Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary are an important part of supporting the mission at Rowe. Rowe Sanctuary is dedicated to the conservation of Sandhill Cranes, Whooping Cranes and other migratory birds, and their habitat along the Platte River in south-central Nebraska. While providing important program funding for Audubon's mission on the Platte River, the creation of these new stations directly supports the mission of the Environmental Trust by engaging people and supporting Audubon's on the ground conservation programs throughout the Platte River Valley.

Audubon staff work all year protecting and improving Platte River habitat for the birds and animals that rely upon the river for their existence. One important way they fund this work is through the annual crane migration, and the tourism industry that Audubon has built around this amazing spectacle. These Discovery Centers provide an opportunity for thousands of people each year to witness close up the magnificence of hundreds of thousands Sandhill cranes roosting on the Platte River. The income derived from these tours goes directly to support of their mission. This tourism growth has also increased the local knowledge and appreciation of the river and the migration which continues to support the

protection of the river and the cranes. This growing appreciation prompted Kearney to declare itself the "Sandhill Crane Capital of the World" and support Audubon's programs at Rowe Sanctuary. In addition to crane viewing, the new design will allow these stations to be used all year for education and the enjoyment of nature. The new stations are designed to open up to create a platform for school programs and camps to launch their exploration of nature. Each year Rowe's education programs serve nearly 5,000 students.

Audubon has always been a leader in connecting people to nature and the Trust has always supported this effort. When people have personal experiences in nature they learn to appreciate it and also take action to support and protect it. The Nebraska Environmental Trust has been Nebraska's most important source of funds for environmental projects and our state is the envy of other states in the country because of this important source of funds.

The new discovery stations and the impact they have on conservation of the Platte River are a testament to the broad range of important projects that the Trust funds to create a better natural world.

# UNL Master Naturalist Program - Expanding Conservation Capacity



Explore. Contribute. Connect. These are the three elements that define the community of Nebraska Master Naturalist volunteers, partners and associates. Nebraska Master Naturalists are landowners, teachers, professionals, guides, college students, parents, retirees, role models, and anyone with a passion for nature, conservation and education. Nebraska Master Naturalists Explore biologically unique landscapes alongside conservation professionals, University of Nebraska staff and faculty. They contribute their time, talents and expertise through engaging volunteer opportunities in habitat management, environmental education, citizen science and outdoor skills building. Most importantly, they connect with fellow Nebraskans to promote, educate and conserve our natural heritage of Nebraska.

Since 2010, when the organization began, support for the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program has been provided from The Nebraska Environmental Trust, University of Nebraska and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program has successfully functioned by partnering with 40 other public, private, and non-profit conservation and education entities from around the state. Partnerships have allowed the program to serve multiple communities and needs.

The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program has certified 500 Nebraskans, through our in-depth and

in the field training events. The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program is a key resource for building a volunteer network dedicated to promoting the conservation of Nebraska's natural resources.

Master Naturalists have contributed over 80,000 volunteer service hours, valued at over \$2,000,000 in salary savings to natural resource agencies and organizations throughout the state. Nebraska Master Naturalists have shown commitment, ingenuity, and dedication to advancing the program. This is done so that more of our fellow Nebraskans, can have opportunities to learn and experience our great state's diverse ecosystems and to impact a developing conservation minded community. Establishing this knowledge and identity in the place we call home helps to further build on our understanding and efforts to protect and enhance our natural areas and the species that live within.

As the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program enters its 10th year, they are grateful for the support that has been provided by The Nebraska Environmental Trust, and their many partners. They look forward to many more opportunities to serve fellow Nebraskans and serve our natural areas, by providing conservation volunteers that are dedicated to enhancing Nebraska's natural environments for the next generation.

# City of Lincoln - Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch



The Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch will provide restoration of a 10-mile long passage of a tallgrass prairie extending from the Pioneers Park Nature Center in Lincoln, Nebraska to Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center southwest of Lincoln. The Corridor will conserve and enhance tallgrass prairie, saline and freshwater wetlands, riparian corridors, and other natural resources. It will also expand the opportunities for people to encounter and understand the tallgrass prairie, pollinator habitat, stream ecology, and will build on Lincoln's trail system to encourage outdoor activity and promote ecotourism. This project truly supports the mission of the Environmental Trust. Only 2% of Nebraska's tallgrass prairie remains. The Prairie Corridor presents an opportunity to conserve and restore elements of southeast Nebraska's once thriving prairie ecosystem.

The primary partners include the City, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD), Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center and the Lincoln Parks Foundation. Collaborative partnerships with more than 30 other public and private organizations are a cornerstone of this project's success in funding and in project implementation. NET Funds totaling \$2.1 million to date have assisted in leveraging significant partners

and matching funds totaling more than \$4 million, with additional funds already pledged for future years of the project.

The Prairie Corridor's priority area identifies the most valuable resources to protect and connect. Since the start of the project in 2013, 950 acres have been conserved in cooperation with interested landowners, including more than 200 acres of virgin prairie. Restoration and enhancement work has included over 140 acres seeded to re-establish high diversity tall grass prairie. Soon, that number will be 200. Approximately three miles of trail have been completed to the western edge of Pioneers Park. A partnership has been formed with UNL's School of Natural Resources to research best practices for prairie restoration and to increase habitat for pollinator species.

More than 100 individuals have volunteered their time to help lead this project. This includes a Prairie Corridor Cabinet comprised of 19 community leaders and a 16-member technical team that have been established to provide guidance for the development of the Prairie Corridor.

For more information about the project and a full list of project partners visit [PrairieCorridor.org](http://PrairieCorridor.org).

# Nebraska Historical Society - Grasslands at Chimney Rock Land Acquisition



The Nebraska Environmental Trust's support of the purchase of 360 acres surrounding the Chimney Rock National Historic Site offers an important opportunity to preserve land essential to the story of the western trails and to Chimney Rock in a way that will also protect original Platte Valley plant and animal species.

This area supports a variety of native grass and forb species and fauna - raptors, foxes, prairie rattlesnakes and prairie dogs. From the early 1840s to the late 1860s over half a million people traveled over the Oregon, California or Mormon Trails past Chimney Rock. The Pony Express, the telegraph, and the railroads followed the same Platte River Valley route across Nebraska. This movement of people was the largest voluntary human migration in history. Pioneers wrote more about Chimney Rock than any other place on the trails.

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is dedicated to preserving this property for the benefit of generations to come. The purchase of this

ground connects the Abbott Visitor Center with Chimney Rock while preserving both the grassland and the viewshed in perpetuity. In the future the Foundation hopes to improve the visitor's center interpretation by allowing the construction of walking trails and new educational programming centered on native flora and fauna.



# Nebraska Statewide Arboretum - Increasing The Resiliency of Nebraska's Community Forest



Currently the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has two programs funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Greener Towns and Trees for Nebraska Towns programs help communities improve the resiliency and environmental sustainability of community greenspaces. These programs work with local citizens, community organizations and businesses to implement tree-planting and ecological garden projects by providing technical support and funding assistance.

Properly designed and maintained ecological landscapes, including the community forest, provide a multitude of environmental benefits- from cleaning and conserving water to reducing air temperature to providing habitat for insects and birds. The benefits can be measured in the millions of dollars; benefits tied to property values, stormwater management, energy conservation, wildlife habitat, community vitality, etc. Planting in communities is a win-win. Natural resources are conserved while dramatically improving the quality of life for our citizens.

So far these programs have provided:  
Trees for Nebraska Towns - Thus far 133 planting projects (with another seven in the works) and over 1,599 public trees have been planted. These projects

have engaged 1,000 volunteers. In addition, tree preservation projects are taking place in 6 arboretum sites across the state—with more to come.

Greener Towns - Twenty-two ecological-landscapes have been completed, with another 17 in the planning phase. Over 12,000 plants and 139 trees have been planted. These projects have engaged over 400 volunteers.

For the future, Nebraska communities face a host of complex economic, social and environmental challenges. Currently they are experiencing a generational loss of community tree canopy, climate change, challenging growing conditions, public apathy and many missed opportunities for high-functioning ecological landscapes.

Partners must work together across sectors and have committed, long-term action. More investment is needed in planning, policy, planting projects and their long-term management to ensure that the community forest and associated landscapes are sustainable and healthy in the future.

# Rainwater Basin Joint Venture - Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership



The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV) is a public private partnership that develops win-win solutions for habitat on private lands. Playa wetlands are a priority habitat. These wetlands are shallow and regularly fill and dry depending on runoff. Playas provide staging habitat for millions of wetland dependent birds. The seeds and invertebrates provide waterfowl and shorebirds food to gain significant fat reserves and repair tissue. Birds that acquire sufficient nutrient resources are more likely to have offspring and maintain healthy populations.

Unfortunately only 10% of the historic playa wetlands show some level of function (pond water/grow wetland vegetation). Many of these wetlands were drained to try to improve agriculture production. Despite these drainage attempts, many wetlands continue to pond water during the growing season, significantly reducing yields.

With 72% of historic wetlands intersected by center pivots RWBJV partners developed a unique program that allows pivot travel through restored wetlands. Working with national and state leadership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) a reserved right for pivot travel was incorporated into NRCS's Agriculture Conservation Easement Program. Beyond restoring the wetland this program also provides the landowner an easement payment based on landuse. This easement precludes wetland drainage while the landowner retains ownership. The RWBJV partners leveraged a Nebraska

Environmental Trust (NET) grant with other funds to provide 85% cost-share for grazing infrastructure (i.e. perimeter fence, livestock water, cross fence) and pivot modification. The RWBJV partners worked with Nebraska pivot manufactures (Lindsay, Reinke and Valley) to develop low compression tires. These tires ensure pivot travel through the wetland without negatively impacting hydrology.

These projects provide landowners an economically viable option for transitioning flood-prone cropland to grazing lands. This program has surpassed expectations with over 250 acres of wetlands being restored. These wetlands will provide 1.5% of the foraging resources required by the 7.1 million migrating ducks using playa wetlands during migration. Nebraska residents will benefit from these restorations through groundwater recharge. Based on soil and hydrology models these projects can store 49 million gallons of water and recharge upwards of 25 million gallons to the Aquifer.

Without NET funds, this project would have not happened because the RWBJV would have not been eligible for the NRCS program with reserved rights or cost-share on non-traditional conservation practices. This rewarding project demonstrates that diverse stakeholders (i.e. agriculture industry, conservation groups, landowners) can come together to address NET priorities for the benefit of all Nebraskans.



2019 marks the tenth 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 \$410,000 to numerous recipients all across the state.

In calendar year 2019 NAS received a total of 33 grant applications and a total request of \$92,048. Over \$43,298 has been awarded to date and the fourth quarter award is yet to be determined.

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 2019.

- 18-03-1P Lincoln Earth Day; Lincoln Earth Day 2018
- 18-04-1P Keep Omaha Beautiful; Only Rain Down the Drain
- 18-05-2P Nebraska Humanities Council; Water Ways Exhibition

18-05-3P Upper Niobrara White NRD; Range Day 2019

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 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.

Grant forms and information can be found on our website, [www.neacadsci.org](http://www.neacadsci.org). Click on “NAS” and then click on “Grants and Scholarships.”

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  
[neacadsci.org/wildapricot](http://neacadsci.org/wildapricot)

# Facts and Financials

The Nebraska Environmental Trust...

FY 18-19

.... is funded by the Nebraska Lottery. The Lottery has transferred more than \$319 million to the Trust in the last 26 years.

Income

Interest income	\$ 937,648.50
Lottery proceeds	\$ 20,500,078.00

... covers the cost of operations through interest earnings. The Trust has operated with overhead expenditures equaling less than 2.2 % of income since it was created.

Expenses

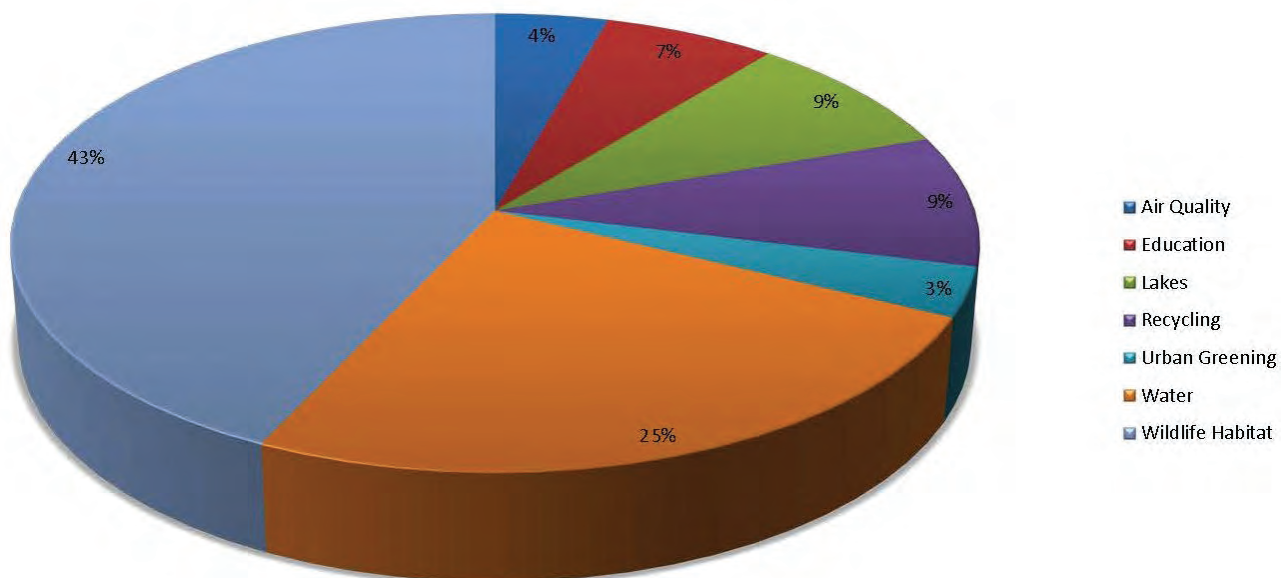
Operations	\$ 553,320.30
Grant Awards	\$ 19,501,444.00

... has completed 26 grant cycles and will announce the results of the 27th round of award recommendations in February 2020.

Average Operation expenses to income percentage from 1994-2019 = 2.25%

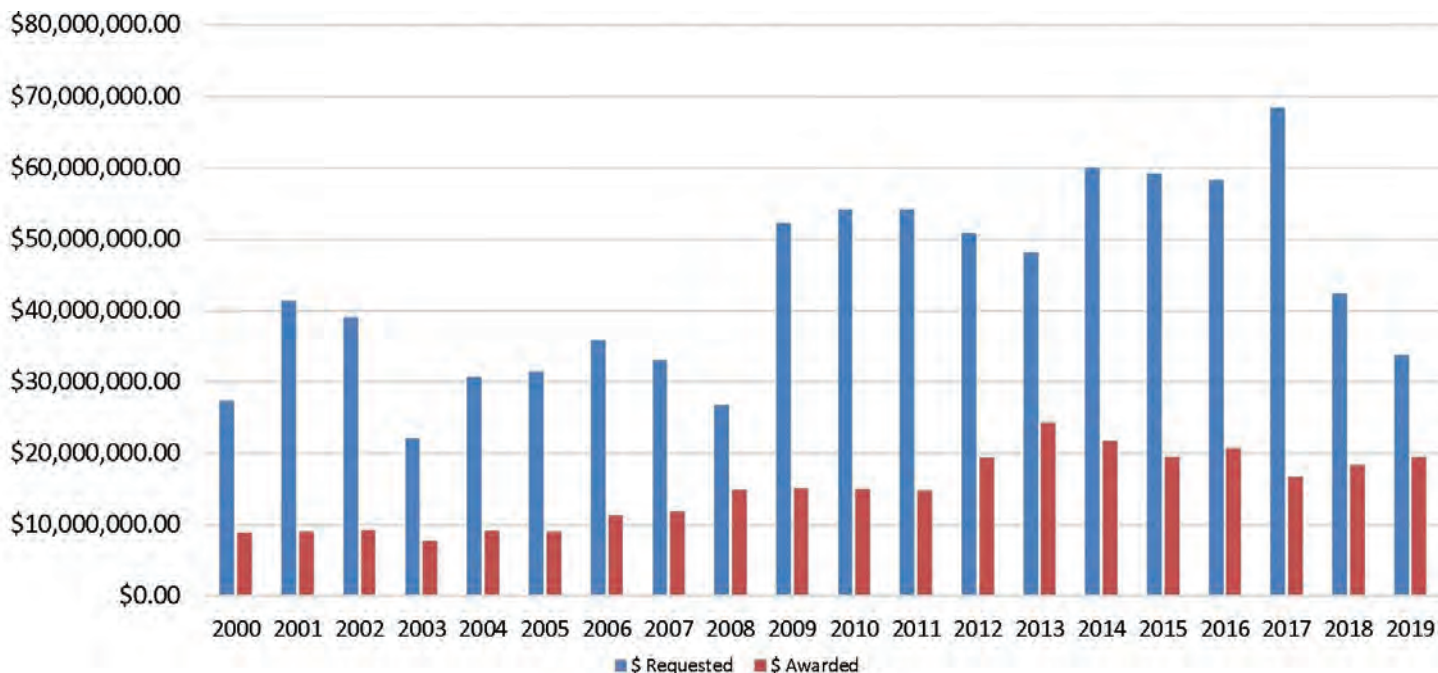
## Distribution of Grants Through The Years

Grant Awards by Category 1994-2019





## Amount Requested vs Awarded 2000 -2019



## 2019 Grant Listing

The following is a listing of the 2019 grants awarded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Trust can provide grants over 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)

**Alliance For Future Agriculture in NE (AFAN)**  
Interviewing a landowner and filming their conservation practices. \$15,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Angels On Wheels**  
Managing and processing 33 electronic collection events. \$121,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Bazille Groundwater Management Area**  
To address nitrate levels in the area. \$228,500 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Bio-Ag Solutions, LLC**  
Funding for a Doppstadt DZ grinder to help with a composting project. \$487,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Bird Conservancy of the Rockies**  
Promoting environmental literacy and good land stewardship in the Nebraska Panhandle. \$41,506 (yr. 1 of 2)

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

**Council of Independent NE Colleges**  
Funding towards a sustainability learning lab. \$200,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Creighton University**  
A study of the Nebraska Sandhills, an interdisciplinary study involving remote sensing, biodiversity and surveys. \$102,718 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Ducks Unlimited**  
Improvement of the 2,600 upland and riparian acres along Steer Creek Cherry County. \$90,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Enhance wetland habitats which provide critical migration. \$225,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

North Platte River Restoration to restore and protect wetland and wildlife. \$114,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Farwell Irrigation District**  
Converting an open water system to a PVC

buried pipeline. \$395,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Five Rivers Resource RC & D**  
Funding in controlling invasive weed species. \$79,089 (yr. 1 of 1)

Collection of household hazardous waste material. \$66,177 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Four Corners Health Department**  
Two household hazardous events in Polk and Butler counties. \$29,250 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Friends of Heron Haven**  
Capital improvements and nature education programs at Heron Haven. \$27,415 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Grand Island Area Clean Community**  
Funding to support the continued operation of the Betty Curtis Household Hazardous Waste facility. \$152,010 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Green Recycling Enterprises**  
Providing recycling containers at public events. \$138,500 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Gretna Sanitation, Inc.**  
Installation of a skid mounted compressed natural gas time-fill station. \$75,825 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Habitat for Humanity- Lincoln ReStore**  
Support for a city-wide project Scrub Day, a spring cleaning donation drive. \$6,375 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Habitat for Humanity Omaha**  
Funding for Omaha's Deconstruction Program to help reduce waste and preserve natural resources. \$462,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County**  
Purchase of a donation truck to make pick-up rounds. \$38,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**High Plains WMA**  
Funding to restore waterways of the North Platte and South Platte Rivers and its tributaries. \$189,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

**HoChunk Community Development**  
Recycling of 30 used thermal solar panels. \$60,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Keep Alliance Beautiful**  
Recycling and education program at Box Butte County. \$82,585 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Keep Keith County Beautiful**  
Funding for educational development in West Central Nebraska counties. \$44,782 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Lewis and Clark NRD**  
Plans to investigate groundwater quality and quantity of discrete aquifers in northern Cedar and Knox counties. \$75,100 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Lincoln Parks and Recreation**  
Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch with a trail stretching from Pioneers Park to Spring Creek Prairie. \$450,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Lincoln Electric System**  
Electric vehicle data collection. \$20,200 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Little Blue Natural Resources District**  
Vadose monitoring program, which targets evaluation of nitrate concentrations. \$47,833 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Loess Canyon Rangeland**  
Restoring ecological resiliency and rangeland productivity in the Loess Canyons. \$140,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

**Loup Basin RCD**  
Project to evaluate the effectiveness of 32 stabilized streambanks installed in 2002-2005 on Cedar River. \$46,862 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Lower Loup NRD**  
Assistance to install flowmeters on municipal, commercial, industrial and livestock wells. \$25,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Lower Niobrara NRD**  
Grant funding to drill test holes, record geological data, construct observation wells and install water level data loggers. \$48,500 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Lower Platte North NRD**  
Sampling and modelling efforts of how nitrate concentration levels to identify areas of aquifer infiltration. \$53,599 (yr. 1 of 2)

Shell Creek Enhancement plan to decrease nutrient runoff. \$104,688 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Metropolitan Area Planning Agency**  
Ozone Awareness ad education campaign that help improve air quality. \$50,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Middle Niobrara NRD**  
Purchase of a tractor to operate a compost turner and manure spreader. \$192,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Funding to drill test holes, record hole data, construct monitoring wells and purchase sampling equipment. \$49,892 (yr. 1 of 2)

Long Pine Creek watershed restoration initiative. \$168,750 (yr. 2 of 2)

**National Wild Turkey Federation**  
Continued forest restoration in the Pine Ridge area. \$38,644 (yr. 2 of 2)

**NCORPE**  
Grant to incorporate native forb seeds into an all native grass mixture and drilling costs associated with entire seed mixture. \$37,746 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Nebraska Academy of Sciences**  
Administering the Public Information and Education Mini Grant program to support the presentation and dissemination of information. \$57,600 (yr. 1 of 1)

**NE Assoc. Teacher's of Science**  
Provide an opportunity for 60 science teachers to participate in a 5-day workshop through an instructional model to benefit students to reason future environmental challenges. \$61,225 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Nebraska Big Game Society**  
To provide wildlife water sources on public and private lands in the arid regions of NW Nebraska panhandle. \$25,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Nebraska Cattlemen**  
Improve wildlife habitat on private and public lands by installing fencing and watering facilities to allow prescribed grazing management. \$50,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

**NE Community Energy Alliance**  
Cost share to defray the expense of three utility-scale solar installations. \$150,00 (yr. 2 of 2)

Cost share to lease purchase electric vehicles and ChargePoint charging stations for NCEA grant partners. \$536,055 (yr. 1 of 1)

**NE Community Foundation**  
Loup River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange to assists compensating landowners to rest their grass prior to prescribed fire. \$163,500 (yr. 2 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. 2 of 2)

Funding to restore 300 acres of wetlands and associated upland. \$158,550 (yr. 3 of 3)

**NE Community Foundation/RWBJV**  
Restore 1,565 acres of playa wetlands at five Waterfowl productions areas. \$420,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Working Lands Initiative (WLI) to install grazing infrastructure that will allow wetlands to be incorporated into agriculture operations. \$111,650 (yr. 1 of 3)

**NE Conservation Education Fund**  
Expansion of common ground educational program which conserves, enhances and restores the natural environments. \$65,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**NE Department of Natural Resources**  
Water Resources Cash Fund pursuant to legislative mandate of LB229, 2011. \$3,300,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

**Nebraska Game and Parks Commission**  
Integration of stewardship practices within watersheds and riparian zones. \$200,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Grassland habitat improvement on 45,000 acres. \$250,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Habitat improvement to benefit at risk species as well as common species. \$55,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Implementing WILD Nebraska program on private lands to encourage conservation and wildlife habitat on private lands including Conservation partners. \$200,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

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

Protection of the Niobrara river and basin. \$500,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Prescribed fire on 10,000 acres of oak woods, mechanical and chemical tree thinning on 1200 acres and invasive control on over 4,000 acres. \$167,500 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition**  
Decrease the number of grazing acres in Nebraska infested with Eastern Red Cedar through prescribed burning. \$155,650 (yr. 1 of 3)

**NE Pharmacists Association**  
To engage, activate and empower Nebraska pharmacies to serve as safe and legal waste collection and take back sites. \$400,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

**NE Public Power Districts**  
Utilizing battery energy storage as a resource. \$370,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Nebraska Recycling Council**  
Responsibly recycle remaining cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in Nebraska. \$157,136 (yr. 1 of 1)

Testing the viability of creating compost at feedlot sites for cropland use. \$145,900 (yr. 1 of 2)

Renewal of the Recycling Equipment Grant program. \$286,967 (yr. 2 of 2)

**NE Solar Schools**  
Project to provide NEED Solar Energy kits as an incentive for K-12 STEM educators to enroll in the Nebraska Solar Schools program. \$31,250 (yr. 1 of 1)

**NE State Historical Society Foundation**  
Support to purchase 360 acres of grazing land surrounding Chimney Rock National Historic site. \$278,650 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Nebraska State Irrigation Association**  
Chance to learn about Nebraska's surface and groundwater through the Water Leaders Academy. \$82,263 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Nebraska Statewide Arboretum**  
Project aimed at reversing the decline of Nebraska's community forests by promoting and investing in intensive tree planting. \$307,984 (yr. 2 of 2)

**NE Trout Unlimited**  
Funding assistance to rehabilitate 0.75 miles of the lower reach of Dry Spotted Tail Creek. \$75,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Nextera Energy**  
Renewable Energy Storage project. \$600,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**North Platte, City of**  
Funding towards a tree shredder. \$635,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Northeast Nebraska RCD**  
Project to dispose 12 tons of household hazardous waste. \$12,927 (yr. 1 of 1)

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

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

**Pheasants Forever**  
Habitat Share Program that enhances public benefit and use opportunities on state owned lands when resources are limited. \$137,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Funding of an innovative pilot program designed to bridge gaps between agriculture, urban, working lands and wildlife. \$217,300 (yr. 1 of 2)

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

**Platte Valley WMA**  
Project to protect habitat and water supply by maintaining and further improving channel conveyance along 336 miles of the Platte rivers. \$174,750 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Quail Forever**  
Supporting prescribed burning on private lands, forming prescribed burn associations, training, public outreach and habitat management. \$97,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**  
Acquisition of Charcoal Creek property in Sioux County, NE. \$480,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Sandhills Task Force**  
Assisting private landowners apply conservation practices on their land. \$20,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

**South Platte NRD**  
Funding for a no-till grass drill. \$22,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Tekamah, City of**  
Decommissioning of abandoned municipal wells. \$40,000 (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. 1 of 3)

Grant to install solar panels as part of a suite of practice - sustainable operations. \$32,900 (yr. 1 of 1)

Advance the practice of prescribed burn and coordinate inter-agency efforts in the North Central region. \$100,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

**The Nebraska Land Trust**  
Complete the purchase of a conservation easement at Cather prairie. \$163,508 (yr. 1 of 1)

**The Preserve Owner's Association**  
Project to rehab the dams located on Antelope creek. \$156,404 (yr. 1 of 1)

**The Save Our Monarchs Foundation**  
Purchase of seeds and plants to restore 600 acres of District right of ways to Monarch and pollinator habitat. \$109,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

**The Xerces Society**  
Project to improve knowledge of bumble bee distribution and abundance and to better understand habitat requirements. \$132,496 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Tri-Basin NRD**  
Improve groundwater quality and quantity monitoring and to promote coordinated groundwater management between NRDs. \$95,076 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Twin Valley WMA**  
Efforts to eradicate invasive species to improve habitat along the Republican River and Little Blue Rivers. \$120,000 (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)

**Washington County Pheasants Forever**  
Purchase of a no-till grass drill to be used by landowners to establish habitat. \$30,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Western Resources Group**  
Assistance in product innovation, market analysis and equipment purchases. \$100,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**University of Nebraska, Board of Regents**  
Management of Piping Plovers and Least Terns for a period of 3 years. \$20,841 (yr. 1 of 3)

An opportunity for citizens to contribute to natural resources through the Nebraska Master Naturalist program. \$48,321 (yr. 1 of 2)

A pilot program that will engage a minimum of 45 schools in growing milkweed plants. \$17,835 (yr. 1 of 3)

Project to cost effectively synthesize existing data on cover crops to create a decision support platform. \$34,900 (yr. 1 of 3)

Utilizing biochar to improve nutrient capture from manure. \$17,067 (yr. 1 of 1)

Project involving students and teachers monitoring groundwater quality and data collection. \$86,038 (yr. 1 of 2)

New approaches to habitat and resource management of removing and processing redcedar trees through UNL's Cedar Point Biological Station. \$21,318 (yr. 1 of 3)

A watershed science training program to be delivered to water resources decision makers. \$74,852 (yr. 1 of 3)

Funding of a sustainable small house as a research demonstration project to engage in the growing small house and tiny homes movement. \$150,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Project to quantify and demonstrate the water use and impact of individual and mixed cover crops species on soil quality. \$150,846 (yr. 1 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. \$182,758 (yr. 1 of 2)

Developing high quality protein fibers from waste garments and poultry feathers for industrial application via an eco-friendly approach. \$105,942 (yr. 2 of 2)

Impact of biological and physical factors on water quality in the Platte River and its tributaries. \$169,524 (yr. 2 of 2)

Impact of cover crops and grazing on soil health and system economics. \$75,467 (yr. 2 of 2)

Management of manure and eastern red cedar from "waste" to "worth". \$100,287 (yr. 2 of 2)

Reducing nitrate-N leaching beneath fertilized cropland and protecting groundwater. \$79,306 (yr. 2 of 2)

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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