

# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

## July 2020

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### Executive Director Corner

After delaying our April meeting till June, our next board meeting will be held in Lincoln on the original dates of August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. We have changed the location due to COVID-19 and the required social distancing. We have moved the board meeting from the Ferguson House to Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Education Center at 4703 N. 44<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln. Face masks will be required in the building and we will abide by all State and local guidelines. We will visit Lincoln's Hazardous Waste Center at 5101 N. 48<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center at 11700 SW 100<sup>th</sup> Street south of Denton in the morning of Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will hold board meetings starting at 1:30PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and at 9:00AM on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Education Center.

The Trust will be setting the dates and locations for the fall Category Roundtable meetings at the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter August board meeting. These meetings allow the public to make comments on funding categories and will be held in each Congressional District. The Trust will post and publicize the dates and locations of those meetings.



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Pete Ricketts, Governor  
Board of Trustees

### District I

Jeff Kanger - Lincoln

James Hellbusch - Columbus

John Orr - Blair

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### District II

Felix B. Davidson - Valley

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Robert Krohn - Omaha

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### District III

Sherry Vinton - Whitman

We continue transitioning to an online reporting system for the way we process reimbursements and receive reports from grantees. While the transition period continues to be challenging, we hope the end product will be a great improvement and benefit grantees and staff.

Fall sports are somewhat in limbo. Both high school and college fall sports are just starting or about to start practices. Professional baseball started holding games this week. We know the Big 10 football and volleyball schedules have been altered and attendance by fans has many unknowns. It could be a strange fall and winter in a lot of respects, including education and sports.

Stay safe, practice social distancing and wash your hands often.

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

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### **Nebraska Environmental Trust awards \$1.9 million in grants to multiple UNL projects**

The Nebraska Environmental Trust has awarded 21 grants totaling more than \$1.9 million to University of Nebraska-Lincoln projects.

The grants were awarded by the NET board in June, part of a total of 118 projects receiving \$20 million.

Grant amounts awarded in 2020:

- StreamNet: Building capacity to improve water quality, \$307,730, Jessica Corman, School of Natural Resources

Rodney Christen - Steinauer

Quentin Bowen - Humboldt

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#### Agency Directors

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Steve Wellman, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy

Jesse Bradley (Acting Director), Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Gary Anthonie, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

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#### Trust Staff

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

Marilyn Tabor  
Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson  
Public Information Officer

Pam Deines  
Administrative Secretary

Allison Majerus  
Grants Assistant

- Direct removal of groundwater nitrate coupling water treatment and algae growth, \$240,187, James Allen, biochemistry
- Development of efficient and comprehensive recycling operation, \$199,962, Prabhakar Shrestha, facilities management and operations
- Improving soil health using heat-treated manure, \$105,552, Xu Li, civil engineering
- Nebraska farmers and farmland owners' attitudes of targeted conservation, \$104,971, Andrew Little, School of Natural Resources
- Improving statewide performance of conservation investments on Eastern redcedar invasions, \$77,000, Dirac Twidwell, agronomy and horticulture
- Improving water quality and surveying fish populations using eDNA in Nebraska, \$75,000, Mark Pegg, School of Natural Resources
- Transforming manure and cedar mulch from "waste" to "worth" – Part II, \$59,813, Amy Schmidt, biological systems engineering
- Developing a statewide community tree canopy map in Nebraska, \$51,057, Yi Qi, School of Natural Resources
- Detecting atrazine dissipation and evaluating herbicide programs without atrazine for weed control in corn and their environmental impact quotient: research and extension, \$49,979, Amit Jhala, agronomy and horticulture
- Eastern redcedar design-build microdwelling, \$28,412, Jason Griffiths, architecture

Continued 2020 funding for projects from 2019:

- Water use and soil-water storage effect of individual and mixed cover species and impacts

The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust

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on soil quality variables, \$153,026, Suat Irmak, biological systems engineering

- Beneficial impact of injected air into a subsurface drip irrigation system on plant growth and uptake of emerging antibiotics using runoff from a feedlot, \$104,847, Xin Qiao, biological systems engineering
- Low-cost biological odor treatment using an adsorption/ desorption concentrator unit for reducing sulfur emission in Nebraska, \$97,662, Ashraf Aly Hassan, engineering
- Citizen Science: A valuable approach for monitoring groundwater quality in the Bazile Groundwater Management Area, \$86,939, Matteo D'Alessio, Nebraska Water Center
- Delivery of watershed science education to decision makers - a multi-agency collaboration, \$71,751, Troy Gilmore, School of Natural Resources
- The Master Naturalist program: expanding conservation capacity, \$49,179, Dennis Ferraro, School of Natural Resources
- Developing a decision-support tool for the successful incorporation of cover crops into Nebraska cropping systems, \$41,530, Andrea Basche, agronomy and horticulture
- Protecting the terns and plovers of Nebraska and mentoring the next generation, \$21,355, Larkin Powell, School of Natural Resources
- Milkweed in the Classroom, \$18,069, Doug Golick, entomology
- Student integrated forest and prairie management at Cedar Point Biological Station,

\$13,842, Jon Garbisch, School of Biological Sciences



### **Recent grant enables LES to offer first EV rebate**

Lincoln Electric System received a grant of \$120,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for its “Electric Vehicle Public Engagement and Rebate Program.” The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its June 11 meeting and LES made the official announcement during its own administrative board meeting July 17. Funds will be used to offer LES customers purchase or lease rebates for new, all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

The upcoming promotion is limited to LES residential customers only, limited one per household and only apply to purchases or leased made on or after September 1, 2020.

Incentives of \$1,500 are available for the first-time purchase or minimum 3-year lease of a new plug-in *hybrid* electric vehicle. While \$4,500 rebates will be available for the first-time purchase or minimum 3-year lease of a new *all*-electric vehicle, including the purchase and installation of an internet-connected home charging station and access to charging data for up to five years. Access to these chargers will help further LES’ ongoing study of customer charging

behaviors and their impacts on the community's electric grid.

The project is one of 118 projects from the NET this year, receiving a total of \$20,000,000 in grant awards.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have received this grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, whom we have worked with on multiple projects over the last several years," said Marc Shkolnick, manager of Energy Services at LES. "Our continued collaboration is valuable for LES customers. We are proud to be a community-owned, public power utility that is able to offer savings like this for the people in our community."

More information on the rebate and LES' recent two-year EV study results will be highlighted during the public power utility's 10<sup>th</sup> annual (first digital) Sustainable Living Festival, July 20-24. To learn more and register today visit [LES.com/fest](https://les.com/fest). If you'd like to get the most up-to-date information on EVs from your utility, LES' EV Interest Group is open to all. Go to [LES.com/ev](https://les.com/ev) for more information.

Rebate requests will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning September 1.

### **Upcoming Events**

- August 3-4, 2020 (Monday/Tuesday) - 3rd Quarter Board Meeting.  
Location: NGPC Outdoor Education Center,  
4703 N.44th St., Lincoln NE.  
Aug 3rd, 2020, 1:30pm  
Aug 4th, 2020, 9:00am
- Sep 8th - Grants Application Deadline

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