

# 2014 Annual Report

"Conserving and Recycling Towards A Sustainable Future"



The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust

*preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations*



The Nebraska Environmental Trust is  
funded by the Nebraska Lottery

# Nebraska Environmental Trust 2014 Board

*Front row (left to right) : Paul Dunn, Omaha; Barb Batie, Lexington; Pat Rice, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality; Kevin Peterson, Osceola; Dr. Acierno, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Gerry Lauritzen, Omaha.*

*Back row: (left to right): Sherry Vinton, Whitman; Gloria Erickson, Holdrege; Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Henry "Rick" Brandt, Roca.*

*Not pictured: Rod Christen, Steinauer; Robert Krohn, Omaha; Greg Ibach, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Brian Dunnigan, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.*



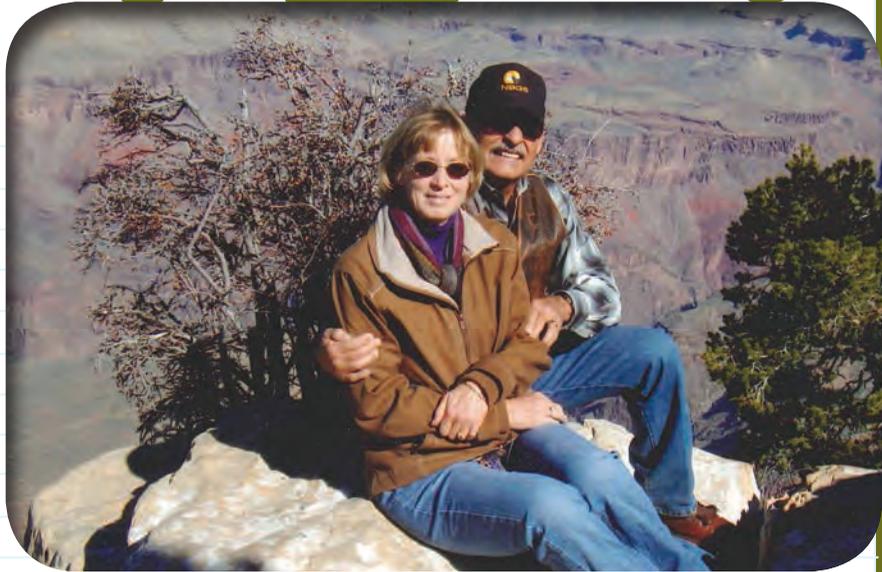
## MISSION

*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.*

# Message from Board Chair

*It is my passion for the outdoors that brought me to serve on the Trust Board over a year ago when the opportunity arose. More than a year has passed since my appointment to the Trust Board and I have enjoyed every minute of it.*



Rick and Sharon Brandt

*Sometimes the simple things in life gives us such pleasure, from a mule ride through the Pine Ridge*

*to the sounds of the hooting owl at dusk. How blessed are we to live in Nebraska! I would not trade my experiences for anything. Experiencing the outdoors has given me much insight on how I would like to preserve the surroundings for generations to come. What better way to do that than to be part of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Our legislature made such an excellent decision in 1992 when the Trust was formed alongside the Nebraska Lottery. For more than 22 years the Trust has given back to Nebraska communities in every county. We have such a diverse team of board members that are dedicated and willing to volunteer their time to fulfill the mission of the Trust. We also have a staff that works very hard to administer this wonderful program. It is amazing that these lottery funds have been used to restore and preserve our environment, which otherwise would not have been possible. More than \$225 million has benefitted all 93 counties of Nebraska. Next year will be a crucial year as we will be revisiting our funding categories again. We encourage all Nebraskans to give us their input at our public meetings. Our current funding categories are Habitat, Surface and Groundwater, Waste Management and Recycling, Air Quality and Soil Management. We certainly value all the input we get and will make the best use of it.*

*Finally, I would like to end with a quote by Aldo Leopold, "Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land." That quote rings so true to me. I believe we should all work together to make Nebraska a better place. The only way we can achieve this is by dialogue and understanding each other's viewpoints when addressing conservation and then coming to an amicable solution that will keep man and land in synchrony.*

*With gratitude,*

Henry "Rick" Brandt

# Conserving and Recycling Towards A Sustainable Future

*The Trust had another remarkable year in 2014. We once again made history this year when our request for funding from applicants surpassed the funding available to sponsor these projects. We had a record request of \$60,008,850 and were only able to award \$21,750,000.*

*The Trust had to turn away so many worthwhile and wonderful initiatives and it just reminds us of the need to do so much more in all 93 counties. It is evident that there is still a huge need for funds in Nebraska for environmental protection and restoration work and we are one of the only remaining sources or avenues to meet these needs.*

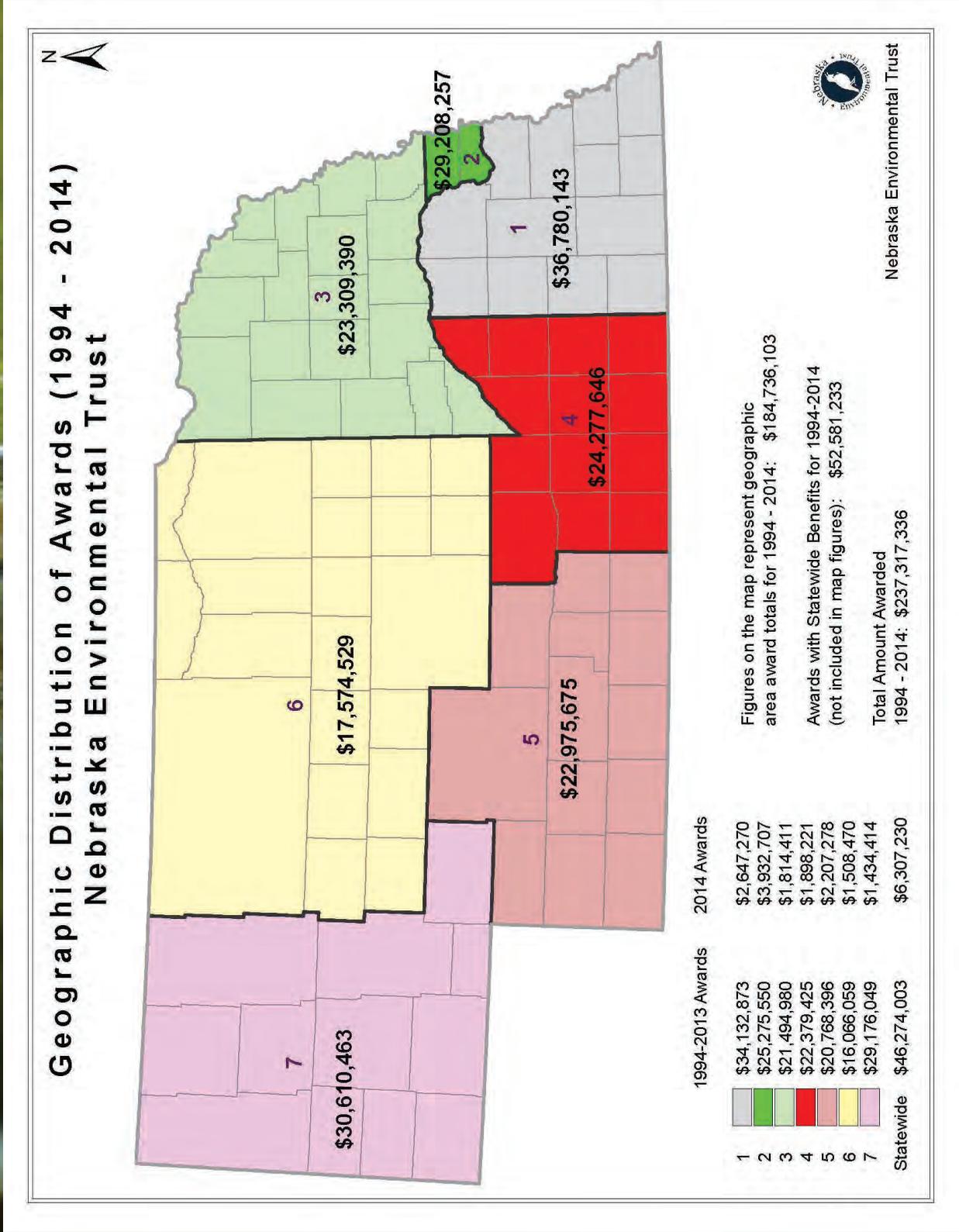
*A special thank you to our grantees and supporters who have done such wonderful work to make Nebraska a better place to live. From habitat to surface and groundwater, to soil management and recycling, we have tried to keep a good balance of serving all communities. It is hard to believe that we have now been around for 22 years, yet there is still plenty to do.*

*The theme for this year's Annual Report is "Conserving and Recycling Towards A Sustainable Future", focusing on three of our five funding categories. We will focus this year on the Recycling, Soil Management and Air Quality categories as we have already covered the other ones in last year's Annual Report preparing ourselves for Roundtable Categories Meetings coming up in 2015. We will have three meetings, one in each congressional district, so opinions and voices may be heard. Input from all Nebraskans will carefully be considered in either continuing with or making changes to the existing categories. As many of you are already aware, here are our five main categories: Habitat; Surface and Groundwater; Waste Management and Recycling; Soil Management and Air Quality.*

*If you have any changes, suggestions or input, we are happy to present it to all for discussion before finalization of the categories are done after the meetings. Once again, thank you to the citizens of Nebraska, our grantees and supporters of the Trust for believing in our mission and the work that the Trust has put forth!*

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. ~Native American Proverb*

# GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS 1994 - 2014



# RECYCLING

## Nebraska State Recycling Association - Recycling Equipment Grant



For 12 out of the last 15 years, the Nebraska State Recycling Association has received Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) grants and used them to make grants throughout Nebraska for recycling equipment such as recycling trailers, semi-trailers, trucks, balers, forklifts, skid loaders, lift-gates, recycling dumpsters, compactors, carts and more. Their grant recipients are government entities, non-profits and certain for-profit companies such as waste haulers who handle recycling as part of their service. They have completed 256 grants for a total of \$2.2 million since 1999, an average

of \$8,687 per grant. It's a quick turnaround program with application to approval in about 30 days. Their grantees report six months of grantee data to NET totaling the pounds of recycling accomplished due to the grant equipment. Their 122 grantees from the last six years reported 46,905,699 pounds (23,453 tons) recycled with the grant equipment. Using an average landfill cost of \$35 per ton that's \$820,855 in fees their grantees did NOT spend putting paper, cardboard, plastics and metal cans/containers into Nebraska landfills. Disposal fees are different at each of the

23 landfills. They range from \$25 per ton to \$65 per ton, with an average of about \$35 per ton. Comments from their grantees include one that said because of the grant they cut their trash bill in half, another said the grant containers allowed them to double their previous recycling volume. A third one (a small town) said their recycling hauler reported a huge increase in recycling when the town provided a 95-gallon recycling cart to every home for paper, cardboard, cans and plastics. They report that NET grants are a big part of their grantees' success.

“The NET has been a wonderful partner on our journey to expand the recycling program for our visitors and educate them about the importance of recycling. We appreciate the NET’s support and plan to continue leveraging the success of this grant-funded project as we expand indoor recycling as well at the Zoo.”

Dennis Pate, Executive Director of Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium.

## Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo - Zoo Recycling Expansion

With matching funding from the Nebraska Environment Trust (NET), Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium® purchased and deployed 94 additional outdoor recycling containers in the summer of 2013 to help increase the amount of recycling collected on Zoo grounds from visitors. Each container



includes illustrative signage highlighting the common recyclable items that are accepted as part of the Zoo's mixed recycling program. Additionally, the Zoo has increased its efforts to promote recycling and educate visitors about what is recyclable through a variety of channels, such as showing recycling advertisements prior to movies in its IMAX® theatre.

Since implementing the recycling expansion project, the Zoo has seen a significant increase in the amount of recycling collected. In its peak summer months immediately following the container deployment, the Zoo achieved nearly a 50 percent increase in the amount of material collected compared to the previous summer. On an annual basis, the Zoo is now collecting 70+ tons of recyclable material, which is equivalent to the weight of over 66 giraffes!

As a result of this NET-funded recycling expansion project and other waste reduction efforts, the Zoo is also quickly approaching its goal of achieving an overall diversion rate of 20 percent by 2016 as noted in its energy and sustainability master plan. Even more importantly, the 1.5 million people that visit the Zoo each year are now exposed to and educated about recycling, which helps motivate and increase recycling efforts in homes across Nebraska and throughout the region. It is this type of wide spread impact that helps the Zoo and NET satisfy their similar, conservation-focused missions. By promoting recycling and waste reduction, the Zoo and NET are helping conserve vital natural resources, which reduces the strain on ecosystems that sustain human life and wildlife.

## Second Nature Recycling - Recycling On the Go!

The Environmental Trust has helped fund the Recycling on the Go project which has been providing recycling to over 100 events over the last four years and has helped divert over 70 tons of material from Nebraska landfills. They have also been an annual contributor through grant disbursements via sponsorship for the recycling initiative in downtown Omaha.



Nebraska has been on the lower end of the learning curve when it comes to environmental consciousness surrounding recycling at public events. With the help of the NET, Second Nature Recycling was able to secure and implement the first public recycling contract with the City of Omaha, the State Fair and many other events. It is crucial that Nebraska continues to reduce the landfill space and promote a healthy environment.

Second Nature's main objective is to reduce the amount of land required to serve as dumping sites for public waste and allow that land to be returned to its natural beautiful state.

The major impact of their efforts is the reduction in the amount of recyclable waste that is generated at public events and taken (erroneously) to the public landfill. Educating the public on how and what to recycle is an on-going effort as many people still dispose of recyclable material in the regular trash. They would like to bring about a paradigm shift by increasing the environmental consciousness of every citizen in the State of Nebraska.

# WASTE MANAGEMENT

## Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department - "Be Smart, Do Your Part"

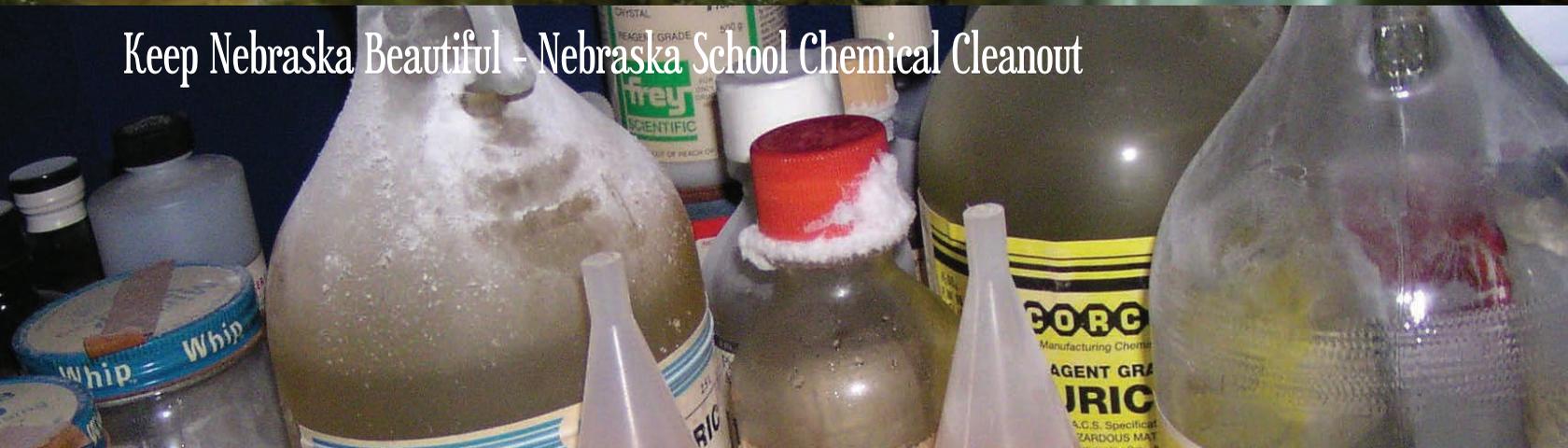


Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department's (ELVPHD) "Be Smart, Do Your Part" project emphasized the proper disposal of household hazardous wastes. Five household hazardous waste events were held in Burt, Cuming, Madison and Stanton counties with a total of 549 vehicles offloading over 30,000 pounds of hazardous waste at these events. Types of waste disposed of included paint, pesticides, acids, oils, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and mercury.

Medication take back events were also held in Norfolk, Stanton, Wisner and Tekamah and a total of 185 pounds of medication was collected at the four events.

ELVPHD also focused on educating residents on the importance of these events and encouraging proper disposal of hazardous waste in the future. Education was done through flyers, newspaper articles, social media posts, radio interviews and a "Be Smart, Do Your Part" billboard was put up in Norfolk.

## Keep Nebraska Beautiful - Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout



The primary objectives of the Nebraska School Chemical Cleanout Campaign program are to remove old, potentially explosive, highly hazardous, radioactive materials, mercury and unnecessary chemicals from K-12 schools, raise awareness of chemical hazards and encourage responsible chemical management and safety practices in schools. All of the chemicals targeted for disposal were no longer needed for instructional use and could have proven dangerous because of instability.

Of major importance is the safety and environmental health of students and staff. The cleanout of chemicals in Nebraska schools has helped reduce environmental and safety risks by properly managing the storage and disposal of chemical waste and protecting the air quality in schools. The disposal of chemicals poured down the drain or placed in the trash can result in fire, chemical reactions and corrosion within the plumbing system in addition to causing problems for the water treatment plant.

The long-term objective is for every K-12 school in Nebraska to clean out all old, unneeded chemicals as well as to reduce chemical use by providing guidance to schools suitable for instruction. Another goal is to reduce the chemical waste generated by using micro-scale and green chemistry curricula and eliminating unnecessary labs. The accomplishments of the NET grant included the removal of 3,578 chemicals weighing 3,838 pounds from 12 high schools. Chemicals removed included: 73 pounds of mercury, 9 pounds

of radioactive materials, 1,066 pounds of highly hazardous chemicals and more than 10 pounds of potentially explosive chemicals. All chemicals were removed and properly disposed by a licensed chemical vendor.

Twelve high schools in Nebraska are safer for students and staff because of the support of the Nebraska Environmental Trust in removing dangerous chemicals!



## Nebraska Renewable Energy Systems - Vineyard and Winery Waste Recycling Program

It should be clear to all that conservation and recycling are the most efficient and cost effective ways to contribute toward societal sustainability with regards to natural resources. In this NET funded project, Nebraska Renewable Energy Systems and project partners including Silver Hills Winery, UNL and Oklahoma State, Nebraska Screw Press and numerous Nebraska wineries teamed up to develop the first grape-seed pomace recycling facility in the Midwest. Early research on the topic began in 2007.

In the wine-grape industry the primary waste stream is the grape waste biomass (pomace) left over from pressing. This byproduct creates an opportunity to apply recycling techniques that can reduce or eliminate materials that are currently treated as waste. Recycling grape pomace can result in products that include grape-seed oil, grape-seed pellets for biomass heating and animal feed as well as human food grade flour.

“Trust support for this innovative new recycling technology was vital to establishment of the demonstration facility”, said Robert Byrnes, Project Manager. This project has shown a very clear demonstration of recycling innovation and offers economic benefit to the Nebraska wine industry by recycling current materials into usable products which is a clear demonstration of sustainability. Over 50 tons of material have been recycled over the last two years, largely using solar energy to do it.

Trust funds were used to support the creation of a pilot scale grape waste processing program with an eye towards making the process replicable within the various wine producing regions of Nebraska, the Midwest and the nation. Exporting of the process technology is underway and will create impacts in traditional wine growing regions of the world many thousands of times greater than all of Nebraska’s grape pomace resources combined, making Nebraska an expert in this new recycling opportunity.

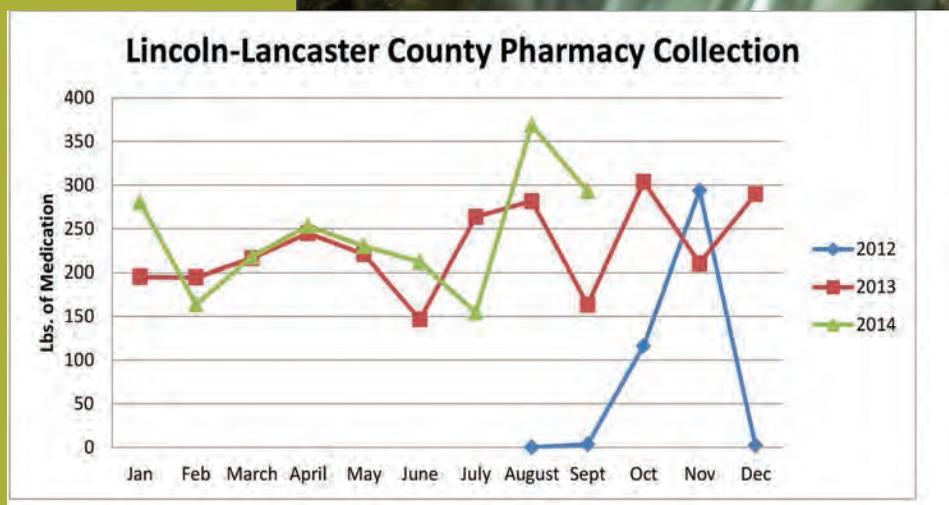
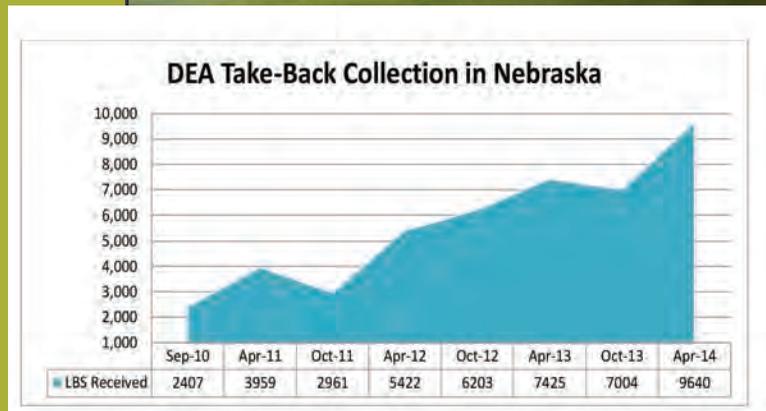
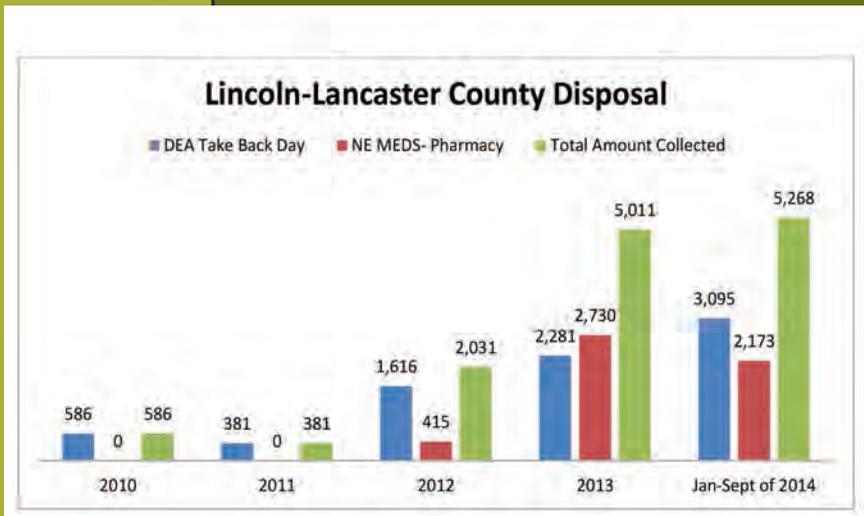
# Lincoln-Lancaster County Health - Nebraska MEDS Program

Nebraska MEDS Disposal Project - Protecting Nebraska's Water & People: The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, along with the Nebraska MEDS Coalition have worked to construct a convenient and lasting pharmaceutical waste management model that benefits residents from the Local Pilot Project in Lincoln and Lancaster County as well as communities across the state of Nebraska.

Protecting our water from being contaminated with leftover pharmaceuticals via an on-going safe and legal pharmacy take-back system is important to the conservation practices of Nebraska. The Nebraska MEDS Coalition is working to create a long-lasting disposal solution that all Nebraskans can follow to protect the natural resources for the future generations to cherish.

The Local Pilot Project pharmacies are actively participating in collecting non-controlled medications, working to protect public health and the natural environment. These stores currently have the tools, capacity and understanding of how to collect leftover medication so they are able to educate customers, properly accept, handle and ship unwanted and expired medications brought in by consumers. The pharmacies they are currently working with and those they will engage in the future will better understand their value as a community asset and educator on pharmaceutical best management practices to increase proper disposal and decrease accidental poisoning and illegal drug diversion.

Since the inception of this pilot project (August 2012), over 5,300 pounds of medication has been collected from over 40 Lincoln-Lancaster County pharmacies. With funds leveraging marketing, outreach and additional officers for Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) twice-a-year Take-back Collections, they have greatly increased the quantity of unwanted medications collected since the collection started in 2010. Between the DEA take-back days and pharmacy collection, Lincoln-Lancaster County has collected over 13,000 pounds of leftover medication for safe disposal.



# SOIL MANAGEMENT

## Community CROPS - Growing Farmers Training Program

The Growing Farmers Training Program has received two awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust in the last three years. These funds have made it possible to relocate and expand the farm incubator program and provide more beginning farmers with the opportunity to grow fresh produce for market, while concurrently improving the soil at the farm incubator site.

The first part of the training program is a series of workshops each winter. In 2014, 31 farmers enrolled to learn about sustainable farming. With an emphasis on water conservation and organic methods of pest control, weed control and soil amendments, the participants learn a wide variety of techniques for sustainable farming, which provides long-term environmental benefits.

After graduating from the workshops, some participants apply for land at Prairie Pines, the Community Crops farm incubator site. Located on land owned by the University of Nebraska Foundation and managed by the School of Natural Resources, Prairie Pines is a beautiful and fertile location just east of Lincoln. Community Crops manages five acres for beginning farmers to start growing a diversified mix of fruits, vegetables and herbs, where they can grow in a supportive environment with staff available to provide guidance as they learn to grow, harvest and sell their products.

Community Crops is very mindful of the need to improve soil quality at Prairie Pines, as it will provide long-term benefits for the farmers. The farmers



are committed to maintaining this fertility. Cover crops are the key tool used to improve soil structure, organic matter, reduce weeds and reduce erosion in the plots. A cover crop is any crop grown while a field is fallow, with rye, alfalfa or oats being the primary crops used, although they have also experimented with radishes and peas in the past year, which also provide edible benefits.

In addition, Community Crops regularly applies composted manure to improve soil fertility, which is also a great way to reuse valuable waste and they use minimal tillage in the plots to preserve soil structure.

## Nebraska Department of Education - Educating The Next Generation about Soil Conservation

The Dust Bowl was a tragic and difficult time for people living in Nebraska and large parts of the Great Plains. Mental images of great clouds of dust that destroyed crops and bankrupted families are part of our national memory of the Dust Bowl. An understanding of how people can positively impact the environment is an important part of the Dust Bowl story that needs to be taught to the next generation of young people in order for them to see the necessity for sustainable land use practices.

This need to teach the next generation of students about soil conservation was the focus of five summer workshops that were funded by a grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust. The workshops were held in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Kearney, Wakefield and Omaha. Eighty-seven agriculture, science and social studies teachers attended the workshops and came from schools across the entire state of Nebraska.

These workshops were made possible by a coalition of organizations. The teacher workshops incorporated hands-on demonstrations of soil conservation lessons, onsite field study of soil conservation practices at local farms led by a soil conservation expert. The professional development also included training with Geographic Information Systems (GIS). During the workshops, teachers were taught how to create a "story map" which combined descriptions and photos of soil conservation practices were shown on an interactive map.

The teachers felt the workshops were a great success. One teacher stated, "One of the best workshops I've been to during my teaching career." The grant calls for two more years of workshops to equip teachers with the knowledge and skills to instill in students the need to take care of the soil.

# SOIL MANAGEMENT

## Nebraska FFA Foundation - Nebraska Agricultural Education and Education Soils Project

Understanding the science of Nebraska soils is essential for over 13,000 students who annually study agriculture in high school agricultural education classes. These students are preparing to become leaders within agriculture, food and natural resource-related industries in the state. "As an agricultural state, soil serves as the basis for Nebraska's prosperity. By studying soil science, conservation and management practices, these future leaders will have a solid foundation upon which they will make decisions that impact this vital natural resource, while at the same time maximize Nebraska's potential for agricultural production," said Matt Kreifels, State Director of Agricultural Education.

The Nebraska FFA Foundation, in cooperation with local soil experts, received a three-year grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust that supports the soil curriculum in 157 Nebraska schools that offer agricultural education and FFA. Over the course of the grant, Nebraska agricultural teachers participated in three summer professional development conferences that centered on utilizing soil-testing equipment provided by Trust funds. Soil experts from UNL Extension, USDA and private industry served as presenters while teachers performed the exact tests that they would later do with their students. Each participating teacher received over \$700 worth of cutting-edge equipment and supplies that allows their students to test concepts like electro conductivity, soil pH, soil respiration and much more.

An entire soil curriculum that includes lesson plans, visual aids, worksheets and evaluations was developed to accommodate current and future teachers. Teachers also have access to archived online videos during the course of the school year in order to refresh themselves on the procedures prior to completing a test. Finally, a soil education blog was established to connect teachers with the core individuals involved with the soils project. These last three initiatives will help make soils education not only top-of-mind for Nebraska agriculture teachers, but also make soils education sustainable in Nebraska's Ag Ed classrooms.



## PrairieLand RC and D - Continuous No Till and Soil Health Education

This project is the third to be awarded to the PrairieLand Resource Conservation & Development Council for no-till education. The original goal of the project was to increase the adoption and sustainable use of Continuous No-till (CNT) by one million acres in Nebraska by educating producers about different farming techniques to help conserve the soil and water in our state. Having achieved that goal within the first three-year grant from the NET, the focus is now on soil health education. The no-till practice conserves time, fuel and labor and greatly reduces soil and wind erosion. Five to 12 inches of water can be saved per acre, reducing irrigation needs and greatly improving dryland yields. CNT can sequester large amounts of carbon, especially when used with cover crops and livestock manure management. CNT residue cover and cover crops increase wildlife habitat, numbers and diversity. Adding cover crops helps protect the soil, builds soil structure, feeds soil biological life, provides wildlife habitat, improves water management, and can provide livestock grazing. (continued)

Improved crop rotations, cover crops and biological diversity improve the soil system and minimize pest problems, greatly reducing pesticide use and nutrient losses. With improved soil health, crop production becomes more sustainable and the resulting crops are healthier.

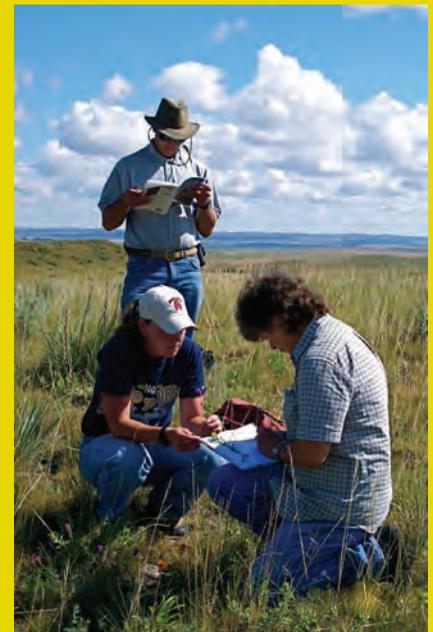
NET funds support an Extension No-till Specialist, a Western Nebraska No-till Specialist, a project administrator, in-state educational programs, networking activities, opportunities for producers to attend key out-of-state no-till events and the development and distribution of information & education materials. Partners in this grant include NRCS, UNL Extension educators and many other groups across the state.



## Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition - Youth and Land Manager Outreach Project

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) is an independent organization of ranchers, conservation minded interest groups and agencies whose mission is to collaborate on projects that improve the management and health of one of Nebraska's most valuable grazing resources...its grazing lands. Effective grazing management is the prerequisite for improved soil health and long term stability and conservation of rangeland resources. Recognizing that it is difficult to manage that which is not measured, the NGLC developed the Rangeland Monitoring Program (RMP) to provide onsite assistance for landowners to objectively measure what is happening on their grazing acres over time.

The RMP has been available to landowners and managers across the state on a first-come, first-serve basis since June 2009 for a low cost recovery fee of \$25 through support of the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). The USDA-NRCS provides technical training for the RMP technicians through the NRCS State Range Conservationists. USDA-NRCS also provides a vehicle for NGLC coordinator travel and funding for marketing, data collection/analysis and monitoring equipment. The Sandhills Resource Conservation & Development Council provides grant administration, accounting expertise and NGLC Board meeting accommodations.



To date, approximately 500 Nebraska landowners/managers have participated in the RMP resulting in grazing lands conservation which translates directly into improved forage for livestock, improved habitat for wildlife, economic benefits for rural communities and cleaner water for much of the Great Plains through improved soil health. Other significant NGLC activities made possible through NET funding include the summer grazing tour which has been held annually over the last three years in different locations across Nebraska. In addition, over the last five years, the annual NGLC – UNL Extension Traveling Road Show has featured a nationally renowned grazing speaker at eight locations across Nebraska attracting in excess of 600 ranchers and grazing lands managers in 2013. Also through NET financial support, the NGLC provides scholarships for approximately 60 youth to attend the Society for Grazing Management-Nebraska Section week long Youth Range Camp held at the Nebraska State 4-H campgrounds near Halsey, NE. For additional information about these and other NGLC activities, visit: [www.nebraskagrazinglands.org](http://www.nebraskagrazinglands.org)

# AIR QUALITY



## Metropolitan Utilities District - Driving Omaha Natural

Driving Omaha Natural's overriding goal is to proactively address the reduction of harmful vehicle emissions and improve air quality in the Omaha area.

The Omaha area is uniquely impacted by air quality issues and is at risk of violating the National Ambient Air Quality Standard established by the Environmental Protection Agency. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is the cleanest burning alternative fuel commercially available today and represents an environmentally friendly alternative to petroleum based fuels. CNG offers an immediately available solution to make substantial reductions in air pollutants from vehicles. Motorized vehicles are the single largest source of air pollution

and are a major contributor to air pollution in Omaha.

The first objective of the project was to create a CNG Fleet Fund to offset the initial vehicle costs for Omaha area fleet operators establishing or expanding their use of CNG fueled vehicles. The Fleet Fund was established and has aided numerous fleets to convert to CNG including Happy Cab, Backlund Plumbing, Werner Enterprises, City of Omaha, Ameripride, A-1 United Heating and Air and Tritsch Electric. The CNG Fleet Fund has helped local companies purchase over 60 new CNG vehicles since inception.

The second objective of the project was to initiate a new CNG fueling station in West

Omaha. Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) worked with Trillium CNG (Owner and Operator) to build a new fast fill station in West Omaha to supplement the two existing public fast fill stations M.U.D. opened in 2011. The Grand Opening for the station was August 27th this year and had over 200 attendees including multiple media outlets.

The third objective was to include a Fleet Education & Outreach Campaign that was designed to inform fleet operators of the economic and environmental benefits of CNG. M.U.D. has held multiple 'Lunch & Learns' for local fleet managers to help educate and answer a variety of questions regarding the CNG industry.

## Nebraska Clean Cities Coalition - Nebraska Clean Cities Coalition (NEC3) Statewide Outreach and Education Project

The Nebraska Clean Cities Coalition strives to replace, reduce and eliminate the use of petroleum in transportation through awareness, outreach and education while helping prepare Nebraska governments and businesses for Nebraska's growing Alternate Fuels Vehicle market.

Public safety training has been at the forefront during 2014 as the Nebraska Clean Cities Coalition formed a statewide public safety coalition to address key first responder issues. (continued)



Nebraska's 478 volunteer fire departments and 14,000 first responders need to acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to safely address transportation incidents involving Nebraska's growing fleet of Alternate Fuel Vehicles. NEC3 is helping fill the training gap. The national Propane Education and Research Council, Student Transportation of America (STA) and the Papillion-La Vista Fire Department cooperated with NEC3 to provide propane classroom training for first responders at the Papillion-La Vista Fire Department in 2014. STA's 434 propane busses are the nation's largest fleet and carries more than 20,000 students each day in the Metro area.

More first responder training is planned beginning early in 2015 at the Boys' Town Conference Center as NEC3 and Tri Mutual Aid Association provide CNG training to 28 Metro area departments. State records show that there are more than 5,200 CNG vehicles in the state. There are now three public CNG re-fueling stations in the Omaha area. The newest opened in August, 2014.

The January CNG training is a cooperative effort between the Nebraska Clean Cities Coalition, the Mid America Collaborative, the Nebraska Environmental Trust and Tri Mutual Aid (TMA). One coalition goal is to standardize safety practices and to reduce risk for incidents involving Alternate Fuel Vehicle (AFVs).

The Nebraska Clean Cities Coalition has undertaken a leadership role in creating the Interstate-80 Corridor Coalition with hopes to make the Interstate-80 Corridor a 2,880-mile multi-state Alternate Fuels Transportation Corridor.

Interstate-80 is the nation's second longest freight corridor crossing 11 states, including 459 miles in Nebraska. Interstate-80 is designated as part of the federal Primary Freight Network and is a strategic transportation asset.

Interest in the corridor coalition by an array of stakeholders from the trucking and freight industry, public safety, tourism, economic development, highway information, energy providers and municipal governments has been positive.

## Live Well Omaha - Omaha B-Cycle Expansion

Heartland B-cycle is a bike sharing program located in the Omaha, Nebraska metro area. With 11 stations on the ground and another 20 that just arrived in November 2014, Heartland B-cycle seeks to improve the air quality of the Omaha metro area by reducing the amount of driving done in the metro area.

With stations distributed at convenient locations across the region, Heartland B-cycle offers bikes as a form of public transportation. Reducing the amount of driving in the region is an important tool in the conservation arsenal. Every trip produces pollutants that in the aggregate can be harmful to all forms of life in our state. By providing bikes that are available to the public in a variety of locations we can make leaving the car parked an easier choice.

Starting in 2015, there will be 31 bike sharing stations installed, seven of which were funded by the Trust. In addition to investing in the capital expansion of the system, the Trust provides valuable resources to help with the administration, operation, and evaluation of the system. Without the \$350,000 in support over three years they would not be able to offer bikes to residents and visitors of the metro area alike.



# PIE GRANTS

The Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS) has administered the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Public Information and Education (PIE) mini-grant program for five years. 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 \$200,000 to numerous recipients all across the state.

In calendar year 2014, NAS received a total of 38 grant applications and a total request of \$108,054. Almost \$50,000 has been awarded to date and the fourth quarter award is yet to be determined. Grant applications for the first quarter of 2015 will be accepted until January 9, 2015.

This past year NAS received applications for numerous types of projects, recycling guides, garden greenhouses and garden projects, many different types of water quality and conservation projects, as well as habitat and environmental education and improvement projects. Grants were awarded to a few research projects 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 Natural Resources Districts and city and county governments.

The Groundwater Foundation of Nebraska and the Community Crops group have received several grants through the years. Both of these non-profit groups do an excellent job of writing the grant and expending the funds in order to reach the most people. This past year the Groundwater Foundation wrote a grant requesting funds for a water wonders guide and computer application to use in the classroom. The Community Crops group wrote a grant to foster local foods outreach events. These events will help attendees understand the effects of organic gardening and eating local. Community Crops is also sponsoring a Mickle Middle School Health Fair. 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 two groups mentioned above do an excellent job of making the best use of grant funds in reaching the widest audience.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust 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, 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.

For more information on the PIE grants, contact:

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The Nebraska Environmental Trust....  
 ...is funded by the Nebraska Lottery. The Lottery has transferred more than \$225 million to the Trust in the last 21 years.

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

...has completed 21 grant cycles and will announce the results of the 22nd round of award recommendations in February 2015.

### FY 13-14

#### Income

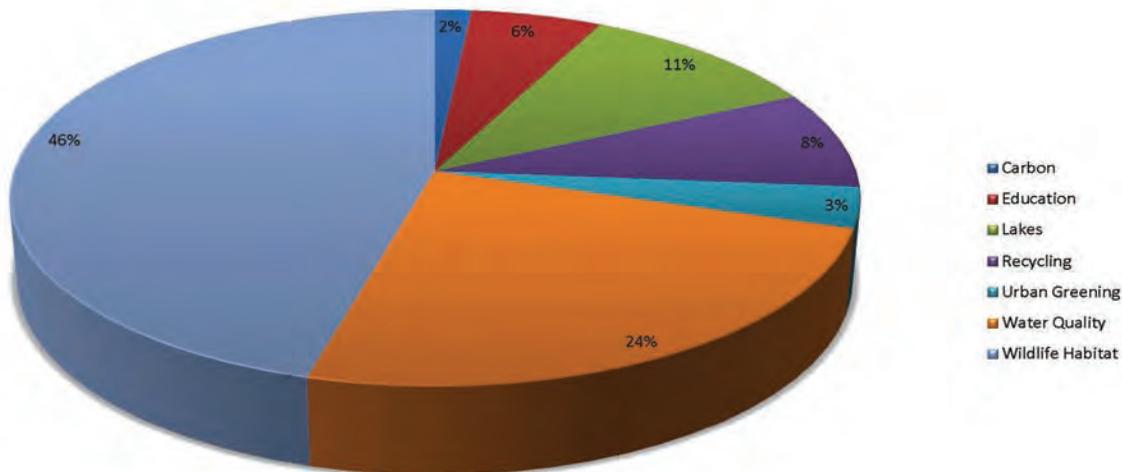
Interest Income	\$ 699,369.49
Lottery Proceeds	\$16,687,541.00

#### Expenses

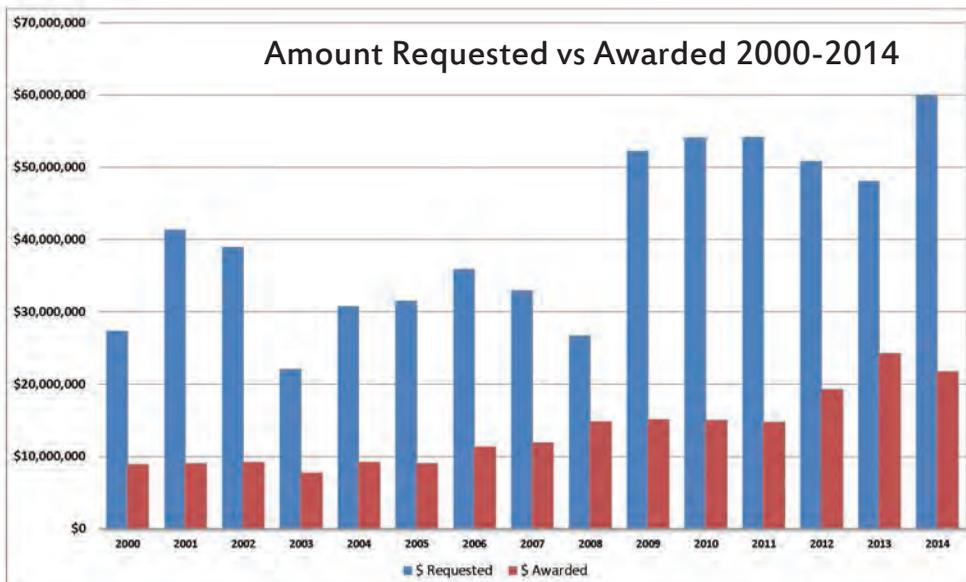
Operations	\$ 453,033.81
Grant Awards	\$21,750,000.00

Average Operation Expenses to Income  
 Percentage from 1994-2014 = 1.87%

Grant Awards by Category 1994 - 2014



Amount Requested vs Awarded 2000-2014



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# 2014 Grant Listing

The following is a listing of the 2014 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)

## **City of Bassett**

Project to create a permanent wetland with three open water ponds. \$15,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **Cass County**

Assistance to help grow existing recycling programs as well as protect the environment in the community. \$35,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **Central Platte Natural Resources District**

To help maintain critical flows in the Platte River and more effectively manage our water resources. \$40,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **Cornhusker Council, Boy Scouts of America**

Development of renewable energy Environmental and Conservation Education Center to be located in Richardson County. \$240,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

## **Crane Trust, The**

Funding of a conservation training program for college students and young professionals called REACH. \$100,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## **Ducks Unlimited**

Restoration of wetlands and associated habitats along the Platte River close to the mouth of Horse Creek. \$35,175 (yr. 1 of 1)

Habitat restoration project at property owned by Cottonwood Ranch LLC consisting of Platte River wet meadow habitat in Phelps County, Nebraska. \$111,067 (yr. 2 of 2)

Restoration activities planned on public land along the river for improved habitat. \$76,515 (yr. 1 of 1)

The restoration of Timberlake Ranch to provide an ideal habitat for tern and plover. \$57,225 (yr. 2 of 2)

To acquire and restore the Gemar property, an important "roundout" to the Rolland Waterfowl Production Area. \$38,290 (yr. 1 of 1)

To acquire and restore the Bettger property, an important "roundout" to the County Line Waterfowl Production Area in Fillmore County. \$12,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## **Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.**

Affordable invasive weed species control for landowners, land managers and other entities. \$46,250.00 (yr. 1 of 2)

## **Friends of Heron Haven**

Funding to expand nature and environmental education programs. \$6,197 (yr. 2 of 3)

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

Continued operation of a Household Hazardous Waste facility for one stop proper and safe disposal of household hazardous waste, unwanted pharmaceuticals and recyclable products. \$55,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## **Green Recycling Enterprises, LLC**

Continued promotion of public recycling programs through events. \$117,072 (yr. 2 of 2)

## **Gretna Sanitation**

Effort to recover natural resources otherwise dumped or burned through the Race to Zero Waste program. \$105,242 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities**

Development of a "strategic communications design for sustainable development" electronic handbook. \$150,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## **Keep Alliance Beautiful**

Partial funding to retain personnel and education at the recycling transfer center in Alliance and Box Butte County. \$32,749.00 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **City of La Vista**

Thompson Creek Watershed restoration to significantly improve water and habitat quality. \$375,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District**

Funding to drill test holes, record down-hole data, construct monitoring wells and install dedicated water-level readers and two dedicated pumps to establish baseline information about groundwater quality, quantity and aquifer composition. \$86,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **Lincoln Children's Zoo**

Improvement to watershed areas in and around the zoo. \$70,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **Lincoln, City of**

Conservation of Eastern Saline wetlands located in the Saltcreek watershed. \$310,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

To develop year-round access to hazardous waste disposal for the nearly 300,000 residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County. \$149,265 (yr. 1 of 1)

Expansion of prairie and riparian habitat areas, build recreational and educational connections in Lancaster County. \$200,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **Lincoln Lancaster County**

Effective approaches to better manage unwanted, expired and excess pharmaceuticals in Lancaster County. \$154,016 (yr. 3 of 3)

## **Little Blue Natural Resources District**

To restore watershed functions of wetlands throughout the Rainwater Basin Region of southcentral Nebraska. \$135,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

To manage groundwater and surface water resources as one collaborative effort to strengthen management decisions related to sustainability of water resources. \$110,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **Live Well Omaha**

Expansion of the Omaha B-cycle program, a public bike sharing program operating in the greater Omaha metro area. \$275,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## **Loup Basin Resource Conservation and Development Council**

Increase pollinator populations and public awareness of pollinator protection through pollinator habitat development and restoration along the Loup Rivers Scenic Byway. \$62,500 (yr. 2 of 2)

## **Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District**

Install and operate a district wide monitoring well network that will provide data suitable to the long term goals of groundwater quality and quantity management. \$50,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## **Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District**

Construct an annual water budget for two drainage basins in different topographic regions, one in the Sandhills and one in the Dissected Plains. \$39,930 (yr. 2 of 3)

Understanding Cyanobacteria also known as blue-green or toxic algae that poses a health threat to people and animals. \$20,270 (yr. 3 of 3)

## **Lower Loup Natural Resources District**

Assistance with renovation and modernization of Pibel Lake Recreation Area in central Nebraska. \$140,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Cost-share flowmeters for irrigation wells to increase awareness of pumping totals occurring in the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. \$49,400 (yr. 1 of 3)

## **Lower Platte North Natural Resources District**

Stream restoration plan for Wahoo Watershed. \$115,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance**

Quantifying morphologic and hydraulic conditions that favor high-quality tern and plover sandbar habitat. \$40,500 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **Lower Republican Natural Resources District**

Installing soil moisture sensor technology at field level on 80,000 irrigated acres to conserve water by managing water use. \$130,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## **Metropolitan Utilities District**

Project to facilitate the expanded use of Compressed Natural Gas fueled vehicles in the Omaha Metro Area. \$191,250 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District**

No-fill drill for north central Nebraska in the counties of Cherry, Keya Paha, Brown and Rock. \$28,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **National Wild Turkey Federation**

Forest stand improvement on four Western Weed Management Areas. \$78,837 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **Nebraska Academy of Sciences**

Administration of the Public Information and Education grant to support the presentation and dissemination of information that will stimulate enhanced environmental stewardship. \$57,200 (yr. 1 of 3)

## **Nebraska Association of Resources Districts**

Restoration of wetlands and reduce groundwater use, while being compatible with landowners agriculture operations. \$60,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **Nebraska Big Game**

Providing wildlife water sources on private land in the arid regions of the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills of Nebraska's panhandle. \$10,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

## **Nebraska Cattlemen**

Project seeks to capture the landowners' ethic in their own words and images, giving the recipients an opportunity to share their story. \$10,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

## **Nebraska City-County Management Association**

A phased-in community-based initiative to promote, illustrate and document the public benefits, (i. e., economic and air quality benefits) of alternative fuel vehicles. \$402,300 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **Nebraska Clean Cities Coalition**

Outreach and education to replace, reduce and eliminate the use of petroleum in transportation. \$12,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project**

The Sandhills Prairie Restoration Project is believed to be one of the, if not the largest conversion of irrigated cropland to native prairie on a contiguous or nearly contiguous tract of land in Nebraska history. \$700,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

## **Nebraska Department of Education**

Educating Nebraskans about soil conservation using the Power of Geographic Information Systems. \$29,627 (yr. 1 of 3)

## **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**

Well decommissioning and rehabilitation project. \$355,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

## **Nebraska Department of Natural Resources**

Funding for the Water Resources Cash fund pursuant to legislative mandate of LB229, 2011. \$3,300,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

## **Nebraska Forest Service**

To provide critical emergency funding to treat at least 2,000 strategically located acres of severely burned forest land. \$300,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

## **Conversion of the 240-acre Horning State Farm Demonstration Forest in Plattsmouth from a limited-access forestry research facility to a broadly accessible and critically needed Forestry Education Center. \$83,558.00 (yr. 3 of 3)**

## **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission**

Funding for the acquisition of the 1,023 acre Hastings property along the Missouri River, near the mouth of the Niobrara River. \$972,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

Incentives to agricultural producers to encourage them to leave their wheat and/or milo stubble taller and standing in place to provide valuable habitat for pheasants, quail and other wildlife. \$500,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Acquisition of the 1,007 acre Jessup property within the Wildcat Hills of Banner County. \$430,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Funding assistance for design, fabrication, and construction of a large aquarium with faux habitat (submerged trees and rocks) and integrated waterfall in the new "Nebraska Building" at the State Fairgrounds. \$430,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Reservoir rehabilitation to address the significantly degraded water quality and aquatic habitat conditions at Conestoga Reservoir. \$400,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Funding to help improve natural habitats in Nebraska and reduce stresses to native ecosystems. \$289,500 (yr. 2 of 2)

To complete grassland habitat improvements on 25,000 acres across Nebraska. \$255,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Conservation practices on oak woodland such as prescribed fire, thin shade-tolerant trees and control of invasive plants. \$200,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Funding to renovate Missouri River floodplain habitats on public and private lands impacted by flooding. \$111,400 (yr. 3 of 3)

Funding to complete specific bobwhite quail, pollinator and grassland wildlife habitat improvements, restoration, and evaluation on 7,500 acres of land over the next three years. \$100,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Funding for the WILD Nebraska program to encourage conservation and wildlife habitat on private lands. \$75,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

The objective of this project is to improve wildlife habitat on private and public lands by installing fencing and watering facilities to allow for prescribed grazing management. \$75,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Trout in the Classroom is an environmental education program in which students have the opportunity to raise trout and engage in habitat study. \$37,034 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Nebraska Land Trust**

Schramm Bluffs/ Patterson Farm Preservation Project. \$613,433 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Nebraska One Box Foundation**

Funding to assist with the purchase of two new Great Plains 10' No-till Habitat Drills. \$25,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Nebraska Renewable Energy Systems**

Vineyard and Winery Waste Recycling Program. Funds will be used to support the creation of a pilot scale grape waste processing program in Lyons, NE. \$50,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Nebraska State Irrigation Association**

Continuation and growth of the Water Leaders Academy through an organized education program. \$41,302 (yr. 2 of 2)

**Nebraska State Recycling Association**

Building recycling infrastructure across Nebraska by continuing the "smaller grants" program. \$265,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Nebraska Statewide Arboretum**

Sustainable Schoolyard Partnership is a statewide initiative aimed at dramatically improving the natural environment of school grounds through innovative development and management of green infrastructure. \$157,048. (yr. 3 of 3)

**NET Foundation for Television**

Development of Imagining the Platte River, a visually compelling new environmental education effort. \$19,868 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Northeast Nebraska RC & D**

Integrated management of noxious weeds in biologically sensitive areas. \$24,134 (yr. 3 of 3)

**Northern Prairies Land Trust**

To enhance 8,000 acres of tallgrass prairie on private lands through tree clearing and prescribed fire in southeast Nebraska. \$220,500 (yr. 3 of 3)

**Omaha, City of**

To rehabilitate a concrete-lined urban stream that is nearly devoid of aquatic habitat. \$350,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Construction of the wetland and stormwater detention components of a natural stormwater treatment system to reduce flooding and improve water quality in the Saddle Creek basin. \$10,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Funding to fulfill the restoration visions for Spring Lake Park that began in 1939. \$10,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District**

To acquire an estimated 750 acres of floodplain bottomlands, wetlands and riverine habitat at the historic confluence of the Platte and Missouri Rivers. \$800,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

To install clustered groundwater quality monitoring wells to improve the reliability of water quality sampling, access to sampling locations and long term reliability of the Districts sampling program. \$82,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Pheasants Forever**

Purchase of a no-till grass drill to be used by landowners to establish wildlife habitat with the Antelope Valley chapter. \$26,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Purchase of a no-till grass drill to be used by landowners to establish wildlife habitat with Boone County chapter. \$28,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Purchase of a no-till drill to be used by landowners to establish wildlife habitat with the Dakota/Thurston County chapter. \$28,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Purchase of a no-till drill to be used by landowners to establish wildlife habitat with the Oregon Trail chapter. \$28,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Establishing permanent wildlife habitat. \$280,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Continuation of a unique, proven and successful partnership called the Grassland Improvement Program. \$250,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Development of a statewide Pollinator Habitat Program. \$24,496 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Platte River Basin Environments, Inc.**

Funding to address the degrading factors impacting North Platte River Valley habitats. \$51,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

**Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Inc.**

Funding towards a trail system at the Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center. \$42,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

**Prairie Plains Resource Institute**

Purchase of Sherman Ranch which is located within a Biologically Unique Landscape (BUL) area. \$150,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

**PrairieLand RC & D Council**

To build on and expand existing efforts to increase the adoption and sustainable use of Continuous No-till by one million acres. \$100,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

**Quail Forever**

Supporting prescribed burning on private lands in the state, forming prescribed burn associations, conducting landowner education outreach events, producing landowner education materials, promoting habitat management techniques and increasing the use of prescribed burning on the landscape. \$107,700 (yr. 1 of 1)

Purchasing a Weed Wiper to be used by landowners in central Nebraska to properly manage wildlife habitat that is already established. \$3,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture**

To develop unique opportunities to restore and enhance wetland and associated upland habitats in the Rainwater Basin landscape. \$350,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Central Loess Hills Prescribed Fire Training Exchange program will assist in compensating landowners by allowing them to rest their pasture prior to the prescribed fire in order to economically increase the effectiveness of fires. \$133,500 (yr. 1 of 3)

Restoration of approximately 479 acres of Rainwater Basin wetlands on US Fish and Wildlife Service lands in Gosper and Kearney Counties. \$89,411 (yr. 1 of 1)

Collaboration with local producers to develop infrastructure that will facilitate grazing on abandoned wetlands throughout the Rainwater Basin Landscape. \$87,838 (yr. 3 of 3)

Management of aggressive and invasive vegetation negatively affecting wetlands in the Rainwater Basin region of south-central Nebraska. \$75,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Restoring watershed function to Atlanta Waterfowl Production Area located in south-central Nebraska. \$50,375 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory**

Conserving grassland and cropland species in western Nebraska. \$125,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Addressing threats to at risk species and to the shortgrass prairie and ponderosa pine habitats of the Nebraska panhandle. \$105,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

**Ruth Hill Elementary School**

To convert part of a sterile outdoor space at Ruth Hill Elementary School in Lincoln that is now covered in gravel, invasive/non-native grasses, weeds, and concrete into a new and vibrant outdoor environment for use by children. \$22,162 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway**

The development of a comprehensive and educational source of birding opportunities along the 272 miles of the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway. \$33,300 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Sandhills Resource Conservation and Development**

To provide landowners in the central Sandhills region with tools needed to control Eastern Red Cedar encroachment and restore the rangeland to productive grazing land acres. \$84,967 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Sandhills Task Force**

The placement of a conservation easement on the Parker Ranch. \$240,813 (yr. 1 of 1)

The acquisition of a conservation easement on approximately 25,450 acres of Sandhill grassland and wetlands in Loup County. \$80,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

To build capacity to enhance the entire ecosystem-its abundant surface and ground water, its grasslands and wildlife. \$45,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

**Sargent Irrigation District**

Constructing a series of jetties above our Milburn Diversion Dam. \$25,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

**Sarpy County**

Construction of a compressed natural gas fueling station near 96th Street and Portal Road. \$200,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

**Southwest Weed Management Area**

To continue to control that area within the 100' corridor to insure water is able to flow down the Republican River and help to avoid flooding during high water events. \$139,015 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Spalding, Village of**

Construct a fishway which will allow native Nebraska fishes to bypass the Spalding Dam. \$400,872 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center**

Purchase of critical land for prairie restoration, habitat improvement, and viewshed protection. \$130,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**The Groundwater Foundation**

Collaborative project with Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska. \$48,700 (yr. 3 of 3)

To effectively expand the groundwater conservation and protection work to more communities. \$41,245 (yr. 2 of 3)

Fostering groundwater protection and conservation actions in Nebraska homeowners. \$23,203 (yr. 3 of 3)

Funding for Hydrogeology: Water for the World, a science event that challenges secondary school students to research and identify solutions to eliminate or mitigate groundwater degradation. \$17,845 (yr. 2 of 3)

**The Nature Conservancy**

Future management practices across the state for wildfires. \$114,257 (yr. 2 of 3)

**Twin Valley Weed Management Area**

Ongoing efforts to control invasive riparian plants along the Republican River and Little Blue River and their tributaries. \$277,146 (yr. 1 of 1)

**University of Nebraska, Board of Regents**

Facilitates acquiring the remaining upper Glacier Creek drainage. \$425,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Purchase approximately 105 acres (the West Watershed) to extend the western boundary of Allwine Prairie to incorporate the entire upper drainage of the Glacier Creek watershed. \$340,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Manage thousands of acres of land in Nebraska by preserving and restoring native habitats, waters, and critical areas while balancing the interests of many stakeholders. \$87,433 (yr. 1 of 3)

Funding toward a one day conference centered on "Excellence in Ag Sciences Day". \$70,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Project to improve natural habitats in Nebraska and reduce stresses to native ecosystems through control of invasive species. \$62,456 (yr. 2 of 3)

Protecting state and federally threatened Piping Plovers and state and federally endangered Interior Least Terns in Nebraska. \$58,880 (yr. 3 of 3)

Processing discarded textile into composites. \$45,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Identifying bat migration and movement patterns to guide recommendations to minimize impacts of wind energy development. \$43,067 (yr. 2 of 3)

To implement a three-year pilot program on an automated water use data collection, documentation and analysis system. \$35,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

**Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District**

Long-term commitment in an effort to improve groundwater quality through Bazile Groundwater Management Plan. \$78,775 (yr. 1 of 2)

**Upper Loup Natural Resources District**

Purchase a large no-till drill. \$30,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

**Upper Republican Natural Resources District**

Moisture Monitoring Program to reduce crop irrigation water use in Perkins, Chase and Dundy Counties, thereby helping preserve the Ogallala Aquifer. \$50,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

**WasteCap Nebraska**

To educate local community leaders and businesses about the need for Zero Waste approach. \$157,572 (yr. 2 of 2)



# The Nebraska Environmental Trust

*preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations*

*700 S. 16th St.*

*P.O. Box 94913*

*Lincoln, NE 68509-4913*

*[331801]*

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The Historic Ferguson House  
Office of the Nebraska  
Environmental Trust



Front Row (from left to right)  
Sheila Aikanathan-Johnson - Public Information Officer,  
Lori Moore - Administrative Secretary, Mark Brohman -  
Executive Director  
Back row: Marilyn Tabor - Grants Administrator, Allison  
Alley - Grants Assistant

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