

Nebraska

NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE

In its collaboration with the nonprofit Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc., the Nebraska Forest Service has created a partnership that leverages networks to reach new audiences. This partnership that resulted in the Community Forestry and Sustainable Landscapes Program serves community members by providing opportunities such as landscape cost-share programs and professional development for landscape managers.

The Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) and Urban and Community Forestry program partnered with the state-wide nonprofit, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc. (NSA) to deliver collaborative programming across the entire community forest spectrum.

Utilizing a memorandum of understanding, staff from both organizations are housed together under the Community Forestry and Sustainable Landscapes Program (CFSL) umbrella and operate with NFS oversight and guidance from the NSA Board of Directors.

Through this collaborative partnership, NFS and NSA are able to support turnkey green infrastructure services for municipalities, green industry professionals, and community groups. While trees are the backbone of the community forest, the CFSL program looks at trees as just one of many components within the overall landscape.

This focus has allowed NFS to diversify its efforts, partnerships, and potential program funding opportunities to other segments of the landscape and green industry including urban horticulture, landscape design, stormwater management, and water quality. A recent effort of the program has been to collaborate on a Landscape Scale Restoration project titled “Environmentally Adapted Trees” where tried-and-proven seed sources are trialed across the state and promoted for retail sales within the nursery industry to promote diversity as well as mitigate the impacts of a more extreme climate.



ReTree Ambassadors celebrate another state-wide planting during ReTree Week.
Photo: Nebraska Forest Service

The defined partnership between NFS and NSA resulted in a landscape program that serves to benefit the community in a multitude of aspects. The program’s utilization of formal agreements and defined expectations has greatly improved program effectiveness and has created cost-saving efficiencies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nebraska Forest Service
Community Forestry and Sustainable Landscapes Program
<http://nfs.unl.edu/program-communityforestry.asp>
<http://plantnebraska.org/>