

# NEBRASKA

## NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE

Community forests are under growing stress. Given the impact of a variable and extreme climate, invasive species, and the increasing reliance on volunteer management support, Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) identified an opportunity to develop resources to support community forestry management operations.

In an effort to address these threats, NFS developed and hosted a series of three tree risk assessment and management workshops throughout the state. These learning workshops were developed to assist those who manage trees in their community to better understand potential risk, how to address it, and how to proactively manage the community forest.

Funding for the workshop series was provided via a Landscape Scale Restoration grant. The series featured speaker Mark Duntemann, owner of Natural-Path Urban Forestry Consultants. Duntemann has traveled internationally speaking on tree risk and urban forestry policy development and has served as an expert witness on tree litigation cases. Workshop participants benefitted from Duntemann's diverse perspectives on tree risk management.

Major concepts covered during the workshop series included: Concepts of Risk Management; Defining what is "Reasonable and Practical" in the eyes of the law; Risk Analysis – an outdoor session on identifying tree defects and measuring the risk they present; Defining Risk Reduction Goals, Refining Operations to Identify and Mitigate High-risk Trees; and Long Term Polices and Management Implications.



Nearly 100 participants from across the state participated in multiple workshops in tree risk analysis and management.  
*Photo Credit: Eric Berg.*



Duntemann has traveled internationally, providing instruction on the policies and management implications of tree risk analysis.  
*Photo Credit: Eric Berg.*

Nearly 100 participants representing 28 communities participated in these full day, hands-on learning workshops. Community leaders and managers who attended the seminars saved significant time and money developing proactive response plans to invasives and extreme weather events. When educated on the methods of active community forest management, community volunteers have tremendous potential to assist and support operations and provide long term health benefits to both the forests and the people.

To further leverage the experiential learning opportunities, one of the workshop sessions was recorded and promoted via social media platforms as well as to membership within green industry organizations. All eight topic specific seminars are available for online sharing and distribution. The recordings can be found online at <https://mediahub.unl.edu/channels/18735>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nebraska Forest Service, Community Forestry and Sustainable Landscapes Program  
<https://nfs.unl.edu/>  
<https://plantnebraska.org/>