

Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The North Platte Natural Resources District, On Behalf of the Riverside Discovery Center, was Awarded \$105,901 Community Forestry Infrastructure Grant from Plant Nebraska

The North Platte Natural Resources District, on behalf of the Riverside Discovery Center, was recently awarded a \$105,901 Community Forestry Infrastructure grant from Plant Nebraska, formerly known as the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA). The grant was part of \$10 million in grant funds awarded to the NSA in 2024 by the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program.

The goal of the grant program is to improve Nebraska's community forestry infrastructure by supporting tree removal, care and planting to preserve tree canopy cover; protecting, enhancing and increasing access to watersheds in urban and development areas by focusing on conserving and managing community forests and green stormwater infrastructure; and improving workforce development in the tree care industry by providing pathways for high school students, creating job training programs and connecting newly trained professionals with local tree care companies.

The North Platte Natural Resources District will use the grant funds to assist the Riverside Discovery Center with the removal of dead, dying and dangerous trees, the re-establishment of the canopy while furthering plant diversity, catching up with the structural and health pruning of the existing trees and to additionally train, educate and equip zoo staff to take on a more active role in the pruning and tree care going forward. The grant funds will be utilized over a three-year period.

"We are so pleased to be able to award this grant to the North Platte Natural Resources District, which will profoundly impact the well-being of residents in the area that enjoy visiting the Riverside Discovery Center," said Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Executive Director Hanna Pinneo. "This significant investment will yield important, long-term results. We are proud to partner with the North Platte Natural Resources District to support a greener future."

For more information about NSA's Community Forestry Infrastructure grants, including eligibility requirements and information about the grant application process, visit plantnebraska.org/ucf-grants.

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