

# Fire Hall Arboretum Project 2020





## Greener Towns Grant

A Public Landscape Project

 Co-coordinated by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Nebraska Forest Service and sponsored by the Nebraska Environmental Trust.







This grant was one of 8 approved across the state



# Program Rules

#### Establish a Green Team

 Shane Young, Anna Baum, Lexi Hingtgen, Julie Schaeffer, Leah Carson, Rich Gilbert, Desarae Porter, Loren Eaton, Sally Sawyer, and Terry Higgins

## Partner with a landscape designer

Chrissy Land (Western Nebraska Community Forestry Specialist)

#### Match funding request

- Match must be at least 50% of funding request.
   For our project that is \$10,000
- Match must be both paid and donated goods and services



# Program Rules

- Plant at least 50 plants for every \$1,000 (~ 1,000 plants)
  - Plan includes 52 trees, 546 Shrubs, 750+ perennials and native grasses
- Get done by deadline
  - Deadline is December 2020
- Take care of project for 10 years
  - Proper maintenance of both landscape and hardscape included in annual operating budget



# **Project Partners:**

Upper Loup NRD
Thedford Rural Fire Department
Village of Thedford





# **Project Goals**

- Education of youth and general public
  - Inform and show different types of trees, shrubs and plants, pruning, fertilizing, mulching, watering etc.
  - Teach and show plant varieties that perform the best under local conditions
  - Provide a living lab for students of range, horticulture, nature, and conservation studies, etc.



# **Project Goals**

- Conservation of soil, water and energy
  - Arboretum will visually show the benefits of planting trees and shrubs as a conservation practice
  - Plantings will reduce runoff, aid in wind erosion and capture snow to help with water recharge
  - Hardwoods will aid in shading building in summer months helping with energy needs
  - Native shrubs and plant species will be a good habitat and food source for wildlife such as pollinators, birds, insects and small mammals
  - A water efficient drip line will be installed along with natural mulch materials to help with water conservation



# **Project Goals**

#### Research

- Project will assist in research to identify the species of plants that grow best in the Sand Hills
- Show the options that the public has for conservation vegetation in their own landscapes
- Knowing the top species for our area will take less work and resources to grow and will usually have fewer problems with insects, diseases and changing weather patterns



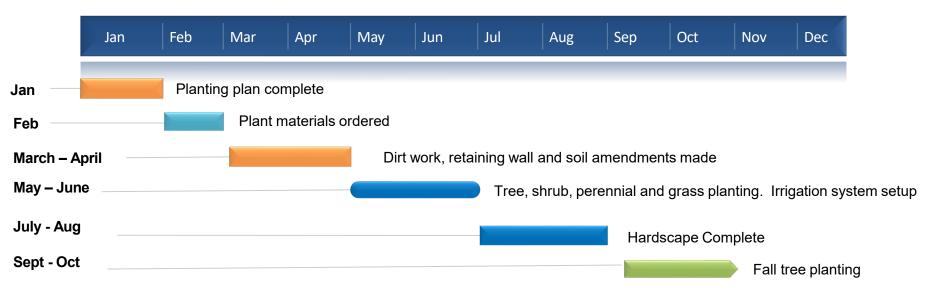


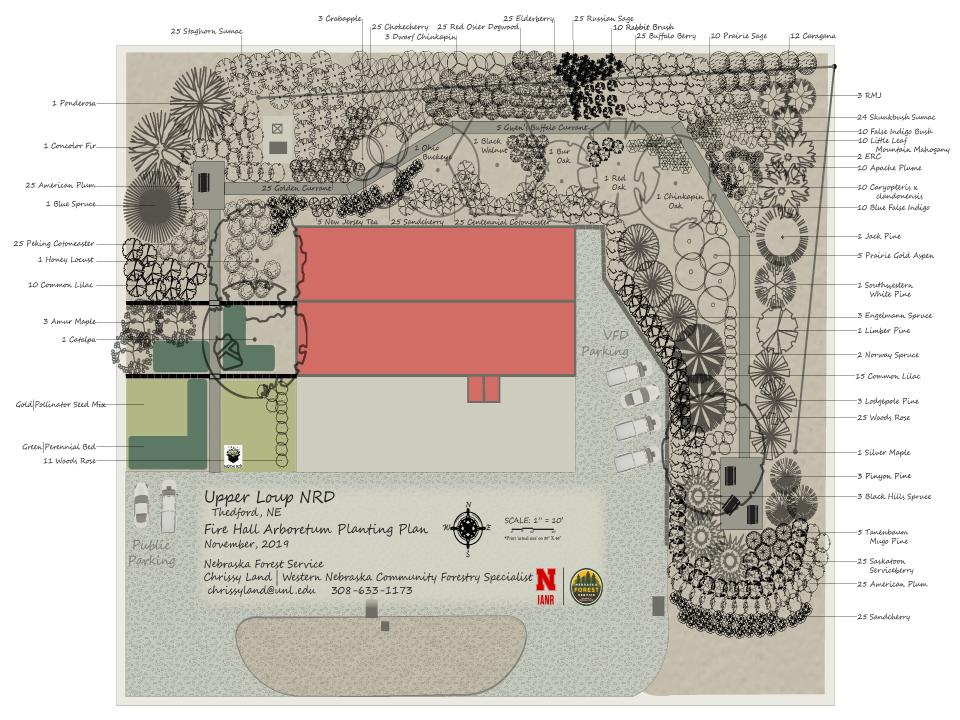
An additional benefit of this project is providing the community with an aesthetically pleasing place for people to visit and enjoy. It has been proven that "green space" is important for the physical, spiritual and emotional health of individuals.

# **Project Time Line**

(Tentative)

2020





#### Some of trees and shrubs to be planted include:



#### Some of trees and shrubs to be planted include:



Red Osier Dogwood



**Buffalo Berry** 



Sand Cherry



Caragana Elderberry



Saskatoon Serviceberry

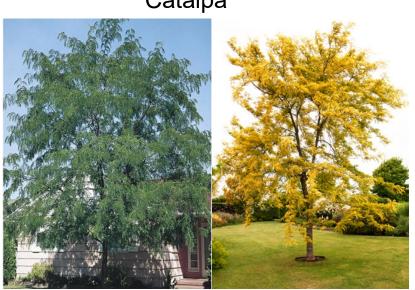


Currant

## Some trees and shrubs to be planted include:



Catalpa Amur Maple





Crabapple

Honey Locust

## Some the trees to be planted include:



Blue Spruce

Concolor Fir

Ponderosa Pine

Southwestern White Pine

# Some the trees to be planted include:







Prairie Gold Aspen

Caddo Maple



Dwarf Chinkapen Oak



Bur Oak

Engelmann Spruce

# Some perennials to be planted include:





# Your Involvement

#### Donate Time

- Participate in planting days
- Volunteer time for miscellaneous work days (mulch and hardscape installation etc.)

#### Donate Monies

- Help to purchase:
  - Tools (rakes, shovels, trowels, wheelbarrows, etc.)
  - Compost, topsoil and other amendments
  - Bird houses, bat houses, pollinator houses, etc.
  - Educational signage
  - Hardscape materials (retaining wall blocks, cement, safety railing)
  - Outdoor furniture (benches, picnic tables)



## Your Involvement

- Donate equipment or supplies
  - Tools (rakes, shovels, trowels, wheelbarrows, etc.)
  - Bird houses, bat houses, pollinator houses, etc.
  - Outdoor furniture (benches, picnic tables)
- Purchase plants or outdoor seating in honor of or in memory of someone
  - Pay the NRD NRD purchases item and attaches an engraved in memory of or donated by sign

