How to Start a Project

Use this road map to guide you toward a successful project. By building on what you value and how that fits into the neighborhood, you’ll get more support and bigger impacts.

Work together.

• Who do you see around the community? Would they want to collaborate with you? What role could they play?

• Meet up to discover what you all value. What do you want to see in your community? How can this project benefit you?

Get organized.

• Identify what you already have. What people and resources are available? How do these compare with what you need?

• Get to know your block (context!). Take a walk around with neighbors to get a better understanding of the community and the land.

• Get to know your lot. How does it compare to the block? What does it have that you want to keep? What’s missing?

Explore designs.

• Learn about the soil and light on your lot. What is its texture and moisture? Where does the sun hit the ground? Where is it shady?

• Partner with a designer to create a vision. Share what you’ve learned so far, then set goals together and prioritize them.

• Budget your project. Consider the potential costs and risks. How much time will it take from you to make your landscape a reality?

Make connections.

• Open the door to resources by identifying organizations, city departments and businesses that can help you.

• Get in touch with experts like your local Extension agent or city Tree Board for answers and advice.

Questions can be directed to Rachel Anderson at randerson28@unl.edu. More resources can be found at www.plantnebraska.org.