



PLANT NEBRASKA

Accredited Arboretum

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Program

An Accredited Arboretum is a publicly accessible living plant collections intentionally developed, documented, and managed to support education, conservation, research, and public enjoyment. These collections are guided by a defined mission, maintained through ongoing curation, and supported by organized local leadership committed to the long-term stewardship of the collection.

Accredited Arboretums may be located within parks, schools, colleges and universities, botanical gardens, municipalities, cemeteries, or other public institutions where living plant collections are actively managed, interpreted, and maintained for the benefit of the public.

Purpose

The Accredited Arboretum program recognizes organizations that demonstrate excellence in developing, curating, and stewarding living plant collections. Accreditation honors a long-term commitment to plant conservation, education, and public engagement while advancing the appreciation and use of exceptional landscapes throughout Nebraska.

Key Attributes & Expectations

Purposeful Plant Collection

A documented collection of trees, shrubs, and other plants assembled to fulfill a defined mission related to conservation, education, research, display, or enjoyment.

Public Accessibility

The arboretum is open or regularly accessible to the public and provides opportunities for visitors to experience and learn from the collection.

Collection Management & Curation

Evidence of ongoing plant records, accessioning or inventory, mapping, labeling, and collection management to support the long-term care and documentation of the arboretum.

Organizational Leadership & Governance

Oversight by an established committee or support organization representing diverse community interests and providing long-term leadership, planning, and stewardship.

Education & Interpretation

Educational features such as signage, plant labeling, brochures, tours, public programs, or other interpretive resources that promote learning and appreciation of plants.

Process of Accreditation

1. **Designate Local Leadership** — Identify a local support association or advisory committee and appoint a curator or primary contact responsible for coordinating the arboretum.



2. **Develop a Master Plan** — Prepare a written master plan that defines the arboretum's mission and guides the design, development, management, and long-term stewardship of the plant collection.
3. **Complete a Site Review** — Participate in an on-site evaluation conducted by the PlantNebraska Site Selection Committee to assess the arboretum's readiness for accreditation.
4. **Receive Accreditation Approval** — Following the site review, the application and committee recommendation are presented to the PlantNebraska Board of Directors for final approval.
5. **Maintain Active Affiliation** — Accredited Arboretums remain in good standing by paying annual affiliation dues and continuing to uphold the standards of the accreditation program.

Annual Affiliation Dues

Current dues: \$250 per year.

Benefits of Accreditation

- Frameable certificate of affiliation.
 - Official PlantNebraska on-site recognition signage.
 - Authorization to use official PlantNebraska plant & tree labels (purchased through PlantNebraska).
 - Authorization to use the PlantNebraska logo on signage and publications (with prior approval).
 - Free annual visit/consultation by PlantNebraska staff when requested.
 - Professional development opportunities through annual curator meetings.
 - Access to plant material distributed by PlantNebraska (15% discount at PlantNebraska greenhouse sales; 10% discount for Spring Affair plants).
 - Priority consideration for select PlantNebraska funding opportunities.
 - Statewide exposure through PlantNebraska publications, website, and outreach efforts.
 - Opportunity to recognize local supporters and volunteers through PlantNebraska awards program.
- Full benefits of PlantNebraska Organizational Membership, including PlantNebraska annual publications *Leafings* and *The Seed*; discount on PlantNebraska landscape design services; reduced admission to PlantNebraska-sponsored workshops and events; free or reduced admission to more than 300 public gardens in North America; and monthly E-news.

Maintaining Accreditation

Accredited Arboretums remain in good standing by maintaining the standards of the accreditation program and paying annual affiliation dues. The program emphasizes long-term curation, documentation, education, organizational leadership, and stewardship of the living collection.

Questions or Application Materials

For more information or to obtain application materials, contact:

Toby Burnham, Member & Affiliate Coordinator

(402) 472-2971

toby.burnham@unl.edu or arboretum@unl.edu

PlantNebraska

P.O. Box 830694

Lincoln, NE 68583-0694