



PLANT NEBRASKA

Ready to plant Nebraska in your community? Greener Towns is here to help.

The Greener Towns Program provides plants, resources and education to help Nebraska communities improve and protect their green spaces. Green spaces (also called green infrastructure) are the living complement to the built environment in our cities and towns (roads, buildings, utilities). Through Green Infrastructure, we utilize plants to keep a community healthy and vibrant.



Apply at

plantnebraska.org/greener towns





Greener Towns Landscapes Make a Difference

You can join PlantNebraska's mission to plant Nebraska for healthy people, vibrant communities, and a resilient environment. Functional landscapes improve property values, provide energy savings, create recreation opportunities, and improve air quality.

What is a functional landscape?

- Native and well-adapted plants that offer many benefits as well as create a sense of place and pride in our Nebraska landscapes.
- Biodiversity is a cornerstone of any healthy ecosystem. Supporting birds, insects, and microorganisms makes our communities more resilient to pests and disease.
- Water is essential. We need to conserve irrigation resources, protect rainwater, and reduce waste.
- Trees shade and shelter us, mute noise, reduce energy use, offer year-round beauty, and more.

Who is eligible?

Projects must be sponsored by a non-profit, government entity, or educational organization. The project must be open to the public or directly used for educational purposes. Project sponsors must be able to explain the environmental benefits their project will provide and how their project will address an identified need in the community.

Funding for Greener Towns is provided by



What does a Greener Towns project look like?

Functional Landscaping

Projects use native and well-adapted grasses and flowering plants along with sustainable management strategies to provide ecosystem services and economic benefits. Ecosystem services include water conservation, habitat creation, and cooling the urban heat island. Economic benefits include lessening inputs (water, fertilizer), lowering maintenance time (mowing, caring for annuals), and increasing visitors.

- **Greener Towns** provides plants as well as guidance on design, site prep, and maintenance.
- **Project Sponsors** must provide mulch and watering supplies as well as the labor for site preparations, planting, watering, and maintenance.
- **Optional Tree Planting:** projects have the option to add a tree planting to any functional landscape project. Greener Towns will provide the trees, the project must provide mulch.

Lawn Conversion

Projects seek to maintain a lawn-like, walkable area that offers more ecosystem services than traditional lawn as well as lowers input costs and energy use. Lawn conversion projects utilize custom seed mixes created by Stock Seed Farms that increase the diversity of species growing in the lawn and may contain flowering plants (like clover) as well as grass species.

- **Greener Towns** provides custom seed mix, straw, guidance during establishment, and assistance in creating a management plan.
- **Project Sponsors** must provide the labor for site preparation, planting, watering, and maintenance.
- **Optional Tree Planting:** projects have the option to add a tree planting to any lawn conversion project. Greener Towns will provide the trees, the project must provide mulch.

Projects may include both functional landscaping and lawn conversion elements. Trees must be added on to any project containing one or both of these elements. Projects focused solely on tree planting should apply for the Trees for Nebraska Towns program.

Custom seed mixes for lawn conversion projects are created by:





Timeline



Applications will be accepted via our grant portal during the summer and winter. See website for full schedule.



Spring projects are planted May-June.



Fall projects are planted Sept-Oct.



Lawn seeding can be done in Nov-May.

Before you begin

- Know the square footage of the area you want to plant.
- Know who will take responsibility for completing site preparations, watering, and maintaining your project.

Ready to Apply?

- Visit plantnebraska.org/greentowns to view the full application
- Use the Project Planning Workbook to begin planning for your project.

Questions?

Contact Sarah Buckley at sarah.buckley@unl.edu

