

Impact Story

From Homestead to Habitat

Merrick County Historical Museum, Central City



A Central City museum's landscape tells the story of Nebraska's past and creates a vibrant habitat for its future.

We're thrilled to partner with the Merrick County Historical Museum in Central City on a landscape transformation rooted in history. The goal? To give visitors a glimpse of what the land might have looked like when their homesteading ancestors arrived in the 1860s.

In just two years, the museum grounds have been transformed from bare soil into a vibrant landscape of native plants. Nebraska botanist Gerry Steinauer hand-selected and hand-sowed the prairie with native wildflowers and grasses, while PlantNebraska designed and planted beds around the flagpole, entrance and parking lot with native shrubs, grasses and perennials.

There is an educational component to introducing the prairie landscape concept into a community, said Schavon Cordsen, Executive Director of the Merrick County Historical Museum. "Not everyone initially understands what we are doing here—they see weeds; they don't see habitat. But we are patient and willing to do the education that will help move public perception over time."

When PlantNebraska staff visited in June, the prairie was bursting with color and buzzing with pollinators. The new landscape not only creates a beautiful setting for the museum, it offers a living classroom where local students can learn about habitat, history and the many benefits of native plants.

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*Schavon Cordsen
Executive Director
Merrick County Historical
Museum*

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This project with Merrick County Historical Museum was part of our Landscape Design Services. Learning more about plantnebraska.org/what-we-do.