



## The project

When construction began on the new Westview High School, the original homestead still remained on the property. Undeveloped, this corner of the property provided an opportunity to create an arboretum that will serve as a living laboratory for students. Students were involved from the beginning, working with UNO students to design the space as well as conducting soil and water tests. The arboretum was dedicated during a ribbon cuttin ceremony May, 2025 and the arboretum has been full of visitors ever since. Community members are welcome to walk in the arboretum and learn from the signage and virtual tour designed and built by students. Classes visit the arboretum but students and staff enjoy visiting on their own as well. “It doesn’t matter what time I go out there, I always see someone sitting on a bench, reading a book from the Little Library that’s in the arboretum or just resting,” said Dr. Rachael Arens (Westview Curriculum Specialist).

## What we learned

- 1 Using high quality tree and plant material is key to a successful project.
- 2 Having a plan for future maintenance starts on day 1.



The arboretum provides a living laboratory for students to explore and learn from. Inset: The arboretum map on the entrance sign welcomes visitors to begin a virtual tour using QR codes and a website created by students.



**Dwarf Chinkapin**  
*Quercus prinoides*



**Prairie Gold Quaking Aspen**  
*Populus tremuloides* 'NE Arb'



**Ohio Buckeye**  
*Aesculus glabra*



**Shadblow Serviceberry**  
*Amelanchier canadensis*

## Who's involved

- Omaha Public Schools Foundation
- Keep Omaha Beautiful
- Nebraska Forest Service
- Papio NRD
- Great Plains Nursery

## Funding and costs

\$21,542	PAID BY GREENER TOWNS
<del>\$29,520</del>	RAISED LOCALLY
<b>\$51,062</b>	<b>PROJECT VALUE</b>
<b>213</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>



Newly planted redbuds will create a beautiful understory layer beneath historic trees.

# Westview High School Arboretum

**GREENER TOWNS**

 **POLLINATORS**

 **SAVES ENERGY**

 **BIG TREES**

 **NATIVE PLANTS**

