



Sustainable Schoolyards

A Sustainable Landscape Looks Like...

NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM

Sustainable landscaping looks different in every garden but it always: meets a need, reduces maintenance, improves the use of water and other resources, and has a beneficial impact on the environments.



Large spaces between plants require mulching and invite weeds.



Planting perennials close together minimizes the use of wood mulch and the need to control weeds. The plants become a living mulch by covering the ground and crowding out weeds.



Grassy fields are important for recreation but take a lot of time and resources to mow and



Native perennial beds require less maintenance and resources than turf. Lawns need to be mowed, watered and fertilized continuously while perennials require attention only a few times a year.



Playgrounds without shelter are no fun on hot, chilly or windy days.



Trees shade recreational areas creating a comfortable environment and increasing their use. Shade around buildings can also decrease power usage for temperature control.



Non-native plants can look out of place if not planned carefully and require nearly constant care.



Native plants reflect the natural environment and create a sense of space. They also require less care and resources such as water and fertilizers.



Heavy runoff from rain or irrigation causes erosion, pollution of waterways and is not absorbed into the ground providing no benefit to the surrounding plants.



Rain gardens capture water runoff from rain and irrigation preventing erosion and allowing the water to be filtered and absorbed into the ground.