



Landscape Steward Site

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Program

A Landscape Steward Site is a single public landscape that demonstrates excellence in design, plant diversity, and long-term stewardship. Eligible sites may include parks, campuses, public gardens, historic landscapes, institutional grounds, or other managed landscapes that exhibit exceptional quality, environmental value, or historical and cultural significance.

Purpose

The Landscape Steward Site program recognizes and encourages exemplary landscapes that enhance Nebraska's communities, preserve significant places, and demonstrate best practices in landscape design, management, and stewardship.

Key Attributes & Expectations

Landscape Excellence

A well-designed and thoughtfully developed landscape demonstrating exceptional aesthetic, functional, ecological, or cultural value.

Plant Diversity & Quality

Use of diverse, regionally appropriate, and well-maintained plant material suited to the site's purpose and conditions.

Stewardship & Maintenance

Evidence of ongoing management practices that preserve and enhance the landscape over time.

Significance & Interpretation

The landscape contributes to the community through its historical, educational, ecological, or cultural importance.

Long-Term Commitment

Clear ownership or management with a demonstrated commitment to sustaining the landscape's quality and purpose.

Process of Affiliation

1. **Submit an Application** — Complete and submit a Landscape Steward Site application describing the landscape and its stewardship.
2. **Complete a Site Review** — Participate in an on-site visit and evaluation conducted by PlantNebraska staff to assess the landscape's eligibility for affiliation.
3. **Receive Affiliation Approval** — Applications meeting the program criteria are approved by PlantNebraska staff.



4. **Maintain Active Affiliation** — Landscape Steward Sites remain in good standing by paying annual affiliation dues and continuing to uphold the standards of the program.

Annual Affiliation Dues

Current dues: \$150 per year.

Benefits of Affiliation

- Frameable certificate of affiliation.
- Official PlantNebraska on-site recognition signage.
- Authorization to use official PlantNebraska plant & tree labels (purchased through PlantNebraska).
- 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 an Active Affiliation

Landscape Steward Sites remain in good standing by maintaining the standards of the program and paying annual affiliation dues. PlantNebraska's relationship with affiliated sites is intended to support continued excellence in landscape stewardship and connect site stewards to statewide expertise and shared learning.

Questions or Application Materials

For more information or to obtain application materials, contact:

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