

# Impact Story

## *Tree Planting Grant Brings Benefits and Beauty to Gothenburg*



Gothenburg, Nebraska, is a place where rich history, vibrant community, economic prosperity and quality of life matter. Residents are proud of their town's unique heritage and charm and work hard to keep it beautiful and thriving. Like many communities across Nebraska, however, Gothenburg's tree canopy has declined in recent years, leaving public parks, green spaces and neighborhoods increasingly barren and less inviting for residents.

A grant from PlantNebraska enabled Gothenburg to plant a total of 40 trees along residential streets, in city parks, on the public schools campus and at a newly opened Impact Center for children and families.

As they mature, the trees planted along the right-of-ways will help to lower homeowners' energy costs, improve air quality, benefit habitat and bring much-needed shade to neighborhoods. The additional two dozen trees planted on the Gothenburg Public Schools campus and on the grounds of the Impact Center will bring greenery, shade and beauty to what was previously a stark landscape. "These plantings doubled the number of trees on the school campus," said Gothenburg tree board member and local business owner Jeff Kennedy. "It was pretty bleak out there."

Ag students from the high school pitched in at the school planting, and a public planting event offered children and staff at the Impact Center the opportunity to participate in the planting and learn about the benefits trees bring to communities and people. The kids are eager to help care for their new trees!

"The kids and teachers were excited to see trees being planted at the school and the Impact Center," said Gothenburg Parks Director Noah Dea. "Hearing all the positive feedback from community members about this project has been extremely rewarding. People are very thankful for the tree grant funding."

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More information about programs and funding is available at [plantnebraska.org](http://plantnebraska.org).