



Highway 83 and West J Street, McCook, Nebraska

The project

The prairie arboretum in McCook was a dream of Dr. Joseph Magrath, a local retired veterinarian and philanthropist. He treasured and epitomized the **pioneer spirit** of the west, and felt that the **prairie** was such an important part of our **heritage** that it should be memorialized for all and for future generations. This project has been in the works for close to ten years, but we have now reached a milestone, thanks to Greener Towns and the numerous other agencies that have had a hand in our progress. The Norris Institute could not have reached this benchmark without the help of these **partners**, who have loaned us equipment and expertise: Black Rose Angus Ranch, City of McCook, Macfee Farms, McCook Daily Gazette, NRCS, and Pheasants Forever.



Picture of the slope on the west side of Highway 83, in December of 2017.

What we learned

- 1 Help from many organizations and volunteers made a great difference in what we got done.
- 2 We've become aware of just how invasive trees can be.
- 3 Using goats was an outreach opportunity, as many came to see them climb and eat trees.



Western Wild Rose
Rosa woodsii



Sideoats Grama
Bouteloua curtipendula



Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium



Dotted Gayfeather
Liatris punctata

Who's involved & costs

- Project Green Team
- Norris Institute
- City of McCook
- Pheasants Forever
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Nebraska Forest Service
- Middle Republican Natural Resource District

This project is still underway, so no costs are available.



The prairie was seeded with a new drill borrowed from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

George Norris Prairie Arboretum

GREENER TOWNS



LEARNING



NATIVE
PLANTS



CLEANS
WATER

