



PLANT NEBRASKA

Community Arboretum

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Program

A Community Arboretum is a network of publicly accessible green spaces located within Nebraska communities of 25,000 residents or fewer. These landscapes are owned or managed by local entities such as parks departments, tree boards, schools, nonprofits, or community committees and work together to showcase the community's investment in trees, gardens, and public landscapes.

Community Arboretum sites may include parks, trails, streetscapes, cemeteries, public gardens, riparian corridors, pollinator habitats, or other managed public landscapes that contribute to the ecological, educational, and cultural character of the community. Multiple sites may be designated as part of a Community Arboretum, provided they are owned or managed by the same community organization.

Purpose

The Community Arboretum program recognizes communities that demonstrate excellence in the planning, stewardship, and celebration of their public landscapes. Affiliation honors communities that are investing in greener, healthier, and more resilient places for residents and visitors alike.

Key Attributes & Expectations

Public Accessibility

Landscapes are publicly visible or accessible and provide community benefit.

Plant Diversity & Ecological Value

Use of diverse, regionally appropriate, and well-adapted plant material, including native species where appropriate.

Design & Development

Intentional landscape planning that contributes beauty, function, habitat, and community character.

Stewardship & Maintenance

Evidence of ongoing care, management, and long-term commitment to the landscape.

Community Engagement & Education

Involvement of volunteers, schools, local organizations, or educational interpretation and programming.

Organizational Support

Clear ownership or oversight by a community organization, municipality, nonprofit, or similar entity, in Nebraska communities with populations of 25,000 or fewer.

Process of Affiliation

Submit an Application — Complete and submit a Community Arboretum application describing the landscape and its stewardship.



Complete a Site Review — Participate in an on-site visit and evaluation conducted by PlantNebraska staff to assess the landscape's eligibility for affiliation.

Receive Affiliation Approval — Applications meeting the program criteria are approved by PlantNebraska staff.

Maintain Active Affiliation — Maintain the affiliation by meeting program expectations and paying annual site dues.

Annual Site Dues

Current dues: \$400 per year.

Benefits of Affiliation

- Frameable certificate of affiliation.
- Official PlantNebraska on-site recognition signage (one sign included; one-time fee of \$50 for each additional site sign).
- Authorization to use official PlantNebraska plant 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 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

Community Arboretums are intended to represent an ongoing community commitment to public landscapes. Maintaining an active affiliation requires continued adherence to program expectations and payment of annual site dues.

Questions or Application Materials

For more information or to obtain application materials, contact:

Toby Burnham, Member & Affiliate Coordinator

(402) 472-2971

toby.burnham@unl.edu or arboretum@unl.edu

PlantNebraska

P.O. Box 830694

Lincoln, NE 68583-0694