

Hello everyone, I am Hanna Pinneo, the Executive Director of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. In 1978 our founders came together with an idea to create a network of arboreta to bring the trees to the people of Nebraska so they could enjoy all the benefits of the trees and greenspaces. This remains, to this day, the only statewide network of arboreta in the country. Just like our unique unicameral structure, Nebraskans have always carved their own way for the benefit of the people. This tradition continued as we expanded the network of sites and the work that we do. In the 80s and 90s we built up our community landscapes program. This program continues to this day to be a driver of our mission to Plant Nebraska as we work shoulder to shoulder with community members to complete green infrastructure projects that make their communities vibrant, healthy, and more resilient.

Throughout the last 47 years it has been our honor to work in tandem with leaders and volunteers from every area of the state to Plant Nebraska. From offering technical expertise to collecting unique native seed to helping replant after storms to our award-winning Bloom Box program, we've continued to respond to the needs of Nebraskans so that they can make their hometowns somewhere everyone can live, work, and play.

Each of these additions to our mission critical work has made our organization stronger and more resilient. Each has also brought our work beyond the original goals of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. We remain rooted in that history as we announce today that the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is becoming PlantNebraska.

Same mission, fresh look – PlantNebraska is here to connect you with trees, gardens, and greenspaces statewide. This new name will help us connect with more Nebraskans and invite them to join our community. All our programs and benefits will continue. Tree planting, educational resources, volunteer opportunities, and member benefits all remain as is.

We're not saying goodbye to the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum name completely, that will remain the name of our statewide network of arboreta and landscape steward sites, the original intent of our founders.

Speaking on behalf of the entire staff and board, we are excited to invite you to join us on this next chapter. We hope you will help spread the word and excitement along with us. Hop over to our Facebook and Instagram pages to share the news with your friends. Tell your friends and neighbors about PlantNebraska and our mission. Invite them to become members! Keep joining us at events, workshops, and volunteer days. Also, we've been told our new logo would look great on a t-shirt, so we have a whole shop full of swag you can order now. They make great gifts. You can also support our work every day by donating to help us continue to plant Nebraska at plantnebraska.org/donate.

Thank you for being part of this nearly 50-year journey. We could not have accomplished any of these amazing feats without your support. Our members, friends, and supporters make PlantNebraska what it is and what it will become. We're honored to be on this journey with you.

Now, let's go Plant Nebraska.