



Becoming Affiliated with PlantNebraska

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Program

PlantNebraska is a nonprofit organization dedicated to planting Nebraska for healthy people, vibrant communities, and a resilient environment. Through its Nebraska Statewide Arboretum program, PlantNebraska supports a statewide network of arboreta, botanical gardens, community landscapes, and other exceptional public green spaces that inspire appreciation of plants and promote excellence in landscape stewardship across Nebraska.

PlantNebraska's staff provides technical expertise, educational resources, financial assistance, and access to native, near-native, and well-adapted plant materials to support affiliated sites and the communities that care for them.

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum was established to recognize Nebraska's outstanding people-planted landscapes and living plant collections while fostering lasting partnerships with the individuals, organizations, and communities that steward them. Through affiliation, PlantNebraska celebrates exemplary landscape design, community investment, and long-term stewardship while connecting affiliates to a statewide network of expertise and shared learning.

Three Ways to Become Part of the Network

Organizations, institutions, and communities throughout Nebraska may become part of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum through one of three affiliation programs:

Landscape Steward Site

A Landscape Steward Site recognizes 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 with exceptional quality, environmental value, or historical or cultural significance.

Community Arboretum

A Community Arboretum recognizes a network of publicly accessible green spaces located within a Nebraska community of 25,000 residents or fewer. Sites may include parks, trails, streetscapes, cemeteries, public gardens, riparian corridors, pollinator habitats, and other managed public landscapes. Multiple sites may be designated when they are owned or managed by the same community organization.

Accredited Arboretum

An Accredited Arboretum recognizes a publicly accessible living plant collection that is intentionally developed, documented, and managed to support education, conservation, research, and public enjoyment. Accreditation is centered on purposeful plant collections, ongoing curation, organizational leadership, interpretation, and long-term stewardship.



Shared Benefits of Affiliation

Each affiliation type provides a relationship with PlantNebraska and access to a statewide network. Benefits shared across the programs include:

- A 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, including a 15% discount at PlantNebraska greenhouse sales and a 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 the PlantNebraska awards program.
- Full benefits of PlantNebraska Organizational Membership, including annual publications *Leafings* and *The Seed*, a 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.

Choosing the Right Affiliation

The three programs recognize different kinds of landscape stewardship. A Landscape Steward Site is designed around one exceptional landscape. A Community Arboretum is designed around a community-wide network of public landscapes. An Accredited Arboretum is designed around a curated, documented living plant collection with formal management and educational responsibilities.

Detailed affiliation guides are available for each program and provide information about expectations, application process, ongoing requirements, dues, and benefits.

Questions or Application Materials

For more information or to obtain application materials, contact:

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