



# NRD Trees Add Beauty to District Communities

The Upper Big Blue NRD provides thousands of trees across the district annually. However, 2022 was an exceptional year for NRD trees as it was the celebration of 50 years of Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts and 150 years of Nebraska's tree planting holiday, Arbor Day. Throughout this year of celebration, the Upper Big Blue NRD offered extra promotions in addition to their regular tree programs to make tree planting more accessible.

In the spring, the NRD promoted a commemorative tree planting on public property in all communities in the district that wished to participate in the 50th year celebration. The trees were 4'-8' nursery stock trees of any variety, for which the communities would be reimbursed (up to \$300). Stromsburg, Polk, Beaver Crossing, Gresham, Aurora, Utica, Waco, and York all planted trees in parks, at courthouses, or on other public grounds.

Via the annual Conservation Tree Program, the NRD provided more than 23,000 seedlings for planting across the district and more than 7,000 of them were planted by the NRD tree team in May and June.



In partnership with Executive Travel (see page 2), the NRD provided an extra benefit to a handful of landowners installing windbreaks. Executive Travel underwrote \$1,100 of the cost of these machine plantings, which ranged from lilacs and red cedar around a home in Milford, to chokecherry, plum, and hackberry at the site of future building project in Hastings. The

Executive Travel funds were distributed to the first five landowners to request machine planted trees when NRD tree sales opened for the season.

The summer brought wild weather, and with it, a renewed interest in the NRD's Storm Damaged Tree program. *(continued page 2)*

UPPER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
**BLUEPRINT**

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Volunteers with a newly planted bur oak at the Clay County Fairgrounds.



announcement, Executive Travel had a partnership in place with Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts to start planting trees in spring 2022. “When we were building the ETGreen initiative, we wanted to partner with a local organization dedicated to a sustainable future and a beautiful Nebraska,” Executive Travel Chairman Steve Glenn said.

This program is available to all district communities and residents who lose trees due to tornadoes, strong winds, hail, and ice storms.

This program offers a 50 percent cost-share to replace trees (up to \$300 for an individual and up to \$10,000 for a community). Seven individuals made use of this program in the summer of 2022 to replace maples, spruce, oaks, and lilacs on their property.

Similarly, the NRD offers two levels of Community Tree Resource Program to encourage either new or replacement plantings for public benefit. The Fillmore County Ag Society used this program to add trees to the local fairgrounds in summer 2022.

In celebration of 150 years of Arbor Day and 50 years of Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts, NRDs throughout the state provided commemorative trees in partnership with Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce, with the goal of reaching all 93 counties.

The partnership, called The Gift of Trees, included the Upper Big Blue NRD with tree plantings in Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Seward, and York Counties completed in the fall. Plantings took place at courthouses, fairgrounds, and other public spaces.

## Goal of a Million Trees Takes Root and 100 Millionth Tree is Planted

Executive Travel, a Lincoln-based travel management company, announced its ETGreen initiative in 2021 with a goal of planting 1 million trees to help reduce the industry’s impact on the planet. Just a few short months after the

Each year, Nebraska’s NRDs provide hundreds of thousands of low-cost, bulk trees for planting across the state. Districts collect orders for trees between November and March, then trees are distributed in April in time for spring planting. A majority of NRD conservation trees are sourced from the U.S. Forest Service’s Bessey Nursery in Halsey, Nebraska.

Executive Travel’s cost-share funding allowed Nebraska’s NRDs to plant thousands of additional trees in a variety of ways around the state. In the Upper Big Blue NRD, the additional funds offset costs of machine planting windbreaks. The Lower Elkhorn NRD used their cost-share funding to help landowners replant windbreaks that were lost to tornado damage in the previous year. Some NRDs offered a small discount to the landowner on every conservation tree ordered. Nebraska’s NRDs planted 616,000 trees in 2022, with more than 48,000 funded by Executive Travel. Executive Travel and the NRDs have committed to another year of tree planting and hope to plant 75,000 trees during the 2023 planting season.

“Nebraska has a proud history of planting trees, which reflects Nebraskans’ willingness to invest in the future,” said Dr. Orval Gigstad, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts president. “Our tree planting success is owed to the forward-thinking vision of landowners and now public-private partnerships like Executive Travel.”

*Since their inception in 1972, Nebraska’s NRDs have been planting conservation trees and shrubs for windbreaks, erosion control, wildlife habitat and other conservation purposes. This*

*spring, Nebraska’s NRDs planted their 100 millionth tree – that’s approximately 50 trees for each Nebraskan. (Photos) In September 2022, a ceremonial tree planting was held at the State Capitol building to celebrate Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts’ tree planting history. L-R: Dr. Orval Gigstad, Nebraska Association of Resource Districts president; David Eigenberg, Upper Big Blue NRD general manager; and Steve Glenn, Executive Travel Chairman. ♦♦♦*



# Another Challenging Year for Trees on the Plains

## Fire and Drought Take a Toll on Nebraska's Trees

Severe weather conditions are a way of life on the Great Plains, and Nebraskans are familiar with how such conditions impact our crops, livestock, and gardens. But what about trees? The extremes of our climate negatively impact tree health, although the symptoms are not always easy to recognize and sometimes take a while to appear.

Take drought, for example: 2022 turned out to be one of the driest on record for Nebraska. Obvious symptoms of drought include leaf scorch, leaf drop, and tree death, especially on young, recently planted trees, which have limited root systems. Long-term effects of drought are more subtle. Shorter twig growth and smaller leaves result in thinner canopies. More importantly, water stress lowers the resistance of trees to attacks by insect pests and pathogens.

“Some drought-induced pests take months or even years to cause significant, noticeable damage to trees,” said Laurie Stepanek, Forest Health Specialist with the Nebraska Forest Service. “By that time, the drought may be over and forgotten.” Recognizing the important role drought plays and providing supplemental water during dry conditions is the best way to manage many of these pests.

Untimely freezes also impact trees. Extremely low temperatures in autumn can catch trees before they have hardened off for winter, directly damaging tree tissues. Early deep freezes also often trigger the development of cankers, which are diseases affecting the branches or trunks of trees.

A freeze-induced canker is thought to be the cause behind widespread dieback and mortality of young eastern red cedar windbreaks in recent years. Stepanek has examined many dying trees in windbreaks throughout eastern Nebraska.

“When I excavated the roots and cut into the bark, I found that the lower trunk and roots were healthy,” said Stepanek. “But just a few inches up the trunk, the bark was brown and dead, typical symptoms of a canker disease.” When she checked historical weather data,

Stepanek found that in recent years, autumn temperatures had on some days dipped to the single digits -- extremely cold for so early in the season.

Late spring freezes, such as the one that affected much of western Nebraska in May 2022, are also damaging. Chrissy Land, Western Community Forester, noted that the freeze was preceded by several weeks of unusually warm weather, which pushed a lot of new growth on trees.



“This new growth is very susceptible to freeze,” said Land. “I noticed damage on a wide range of trees: oak, ginkgo, Kentucky coffeetree, honey locust, catalpa, redbud, and ash.”

With the growing frequency of extreme weather events, the challenge is finding ways to keep our tree and forest resources healthy. NFS staff continue to promote best management practices such as proper watering and protection of the root zone, which can help offset some of the effects of stressful weather. They also are working to identify and test under-utilized tree species and seed sources that may be better adapted to climate extremes. The goal is to ultimately improve the resiliency of Nebraska forests well into the future. ◆◆◆

*(below) firefighters work to extinguish the Bovee Fire in October 2022. The blaze killed one firefighter and blackened 18,932 acres in Thomas and Cherry Counties. The nearby Bessey Tree Nursery, which provides seedlings for the Conservation Tree Program offered by many of Nebraska's NRDs, escaped major damage.*





## Windbreaks & Large Plantings: Let the NRD Help!

*Cost-share funds and machine planting available for large projects*

The Upper Big Blue NRD is committed to helping district residents and landowners see the benefits available through windbreak planting. That's why we offer low cost trees, planning and planting services. Orders are collected November 1 through March 30 and trees arrive in mid-April, just in time for spring.

There are cost-share funds available through the district's Land Treatment Program for qualifying landowners for the installation or improvement of a windbreak, as well as for the installation of weed barrier fabric mulch around a new planting.

### So Many Reasons Why

According to the University of Nebraska Extension Office, there are plenty of reasons to plant trees. Here are just a few:

Windbreaks are perfect for Nebraska, as they provide the greatest benefits in areas with high winds, large amounts of snow, extreme temperature fluctuations, or minimal natural forest cover. Well-designed windbreaks reduce the amount of energy needed to heat and cool your home by 20 to 40 percent. When winter winds are combined with low temps, the resulting wind chill may create dangerous conditions. A moderately dense windbreak will reduce a 20 mph wind to approximately 5 mph out to a distance of 5H (H=height of windbreak). The trees keep you warmer in winter by reducing windspeeds and cooler in summer by providing shade.

A windbreak can be a natural air freshener. Trees and shrubs act as a natural filter, catching particles that carry odor. Some odors will be absorbed by the plants and others will be masked by more desirable smells from aromatic leaves or flowering shrubs.



Multirow windbreaks provide essential nesting, feeding, singing and breeding habitat for many birds and animals.

They also provide a safe travel corridor for wildlife between feeding, watering, and resting sites. By varying tree and shrub species, you can create a smorgasbord of seeds, nuts, and fruits for area wildlife. They also sustain birds that eat pests, improve hunting opportunities, and provide a place for family outdoor activities.

Many windbreaks planted in the 1930s and 40s are losing their effectiveness due to age, poor health, or neglect. All windbreaks, even well-designed ones, need regular maintenance in order to maintain their overall structure and to continue to function as effective wind barriers. Renovating a windbreak can be a difficult task. Help in assessing your windbreak and determining the best renovation techniques is available from the NRD.

Before you tear out an old windbreak, visit with the NRD to see what could be done to renovate it instead. Perhaps some rows could remain while others could be removed and replanted. New species could be introduced

for new purposes. Even if the entire windbreak needs to be replaced, it is better to do it in stages, as the older trees will shelter the younger trees and help them get established more quickly.

Older windbreaks have unique benefits, as they are more likely to be adopted as shelter by hawks, owls, and cavity nesting birds. Snags are trees that have died and possibly lost limbs, but the tops are still standing. Snags are great for wildlife. If they are not where they pose a safety hazard, consider saving part of an older windbreak for wildlife. Owls, woodpeckers, and chickadees will thank you for the additional foraging and shelter.

For the best wildlife benefits, a shelterbelt should have a developed tree canopy and an understory that includes shrubs and herbaceous plants that provide both food and cover. Some plant species provide more wildlife benefits than others and a variety of species is necessary to provide the range of habitat needs of most wildlife. In general, greater windbreak width provides better winter protection. Including a variety of trees and shrubs in the windbreak planting gives a more naturalistic landscape appearance and improves wildlife values for more species. It also reduces the chances of disease or insect pest problems.

### Getting started with NRD trees

Interested in adding a windbreak to your property? Reach out to NRD District Forester Kyle Yrkoski ([trees@upperbigblue.org](mailto:trees@upperbigblue.org)) to get started. Tree plantings aren't a one-size-fits-all solution. That's why Yrkoski meets with district landowners who want to add trees to create a customized plan. He asks many questions as part of this process: What are you hoping to accomplish with trees? Are you looking for a windbreak to protect a house or crops? Do you want to improve wildlife habitat? Do you want a living privacy fence or an ornamental enhancement? How quickly do you need results? The answers to these questions guide Yrkoski's recommendations for the project. The NRD also works with communities on urban planting needs, such as improvements to city parks. In 2020, the town of Stromsburg made use of these services when they worked with the NRD to add about 500 trees to expand the campgrounds area at Buckley Park.

For large-scale plantings, Yrkoski typically visits the property to look at geographic considerations including boundary lines, power lines, nearby roads and water ways, and trees that are already present to make sure that any additional trees planted will be well set up for growing success. Yrkoski then creates a proposal for the landowner that maps where trees could be installed, how

many, and of which varieties. The plan includes a total cost for labor and trees as well as projected cost-share funds available. The Upper Big Blue, like other NRDs across the state, offers financial assistance to qualifying landowners for large-scale planting projects, such as windbreak installations, renovations, or extensions, and wildlife conservation plantings. Cost-share funds are also available for communities for improvements, including trees, in public nature areas.

Once a tree plan is complete, Yrkoski works with the landowner to fine tune the project and answer questions. Sometimes the landowner gets started with planting the following spring (NRD trees are planted each year from April to June) and other times they delay a year or two before enacting the plan. While pricing may vary slightly from one year to the next, a planting plan can easily be updated depending on when the trees will be installed. Collaborating on a tree plan with the NRD does not obligate a landowner to implement the plan, and since there is no cost to the landowner to consult on these types of projects, there is no risk involved in getting started.

Yrkoski encourages landowners who are thinking about trees to reach out to the NRD. After all, trees are a long maturing investment. "There's a saying that the best time to plant a tree was ten years ago and the next best time is today," said Yrkoski. "You may wish you had put in trees a long time ago, but it's never too late to start. You'll be glad you did in a year or two." For tree resources and programs offered through the NRD, online tree orders, or to contact Yrkoski, visit [www.upperbigblue.org/trees](http://www.upperbigblue.org/trees) or call 402-362-6601. ♦♦♦

*(Left) District Forester Kyle Yrkoski with an established windbreak at a farm in York.*



# Your Natural Resources District...

## Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future



There's a lot going on at the Upper Big Blue NRD! Our team is dedicated to the conservation and careful development of natural resources to serve everyone's needs.

- 1. Trees** ~ We provided more than 23,000 trees for planting in the district in 2022. More than 7,000 of those were planted by our tree team.
- 2. Research Partnerships** ~ NRD staff are collaborating with researchers from UNMC and UNL to gather data on soil and water quality from our district.
- 3. Parks and Recreation** ~ In the past year, we have made improvements to several of our recreation areas, as well as provided funding through our Parks Program for an all-inclusive playground facility in York and a walking trail in Geneva.
- 4. Wildlife** ~ One of our 12 areas of responsibility is fish and wildlife management. Our investment in this area has led to Oxbow Trails Recreation Area (near Ulysses) being named a top ice fishing spot in the state by the Nebraska Tourism Commission.
- 5. Dam Projects** ~ From our Private Dams Program to public dams with water storage, flood control, and recreation benefits, the NRD is involved in construction, maintenance, and repair for many district dam structures.
- 6. Water Testing** ~ The NRD offers walk-in water testing, as well as at-home test kits (pictured here being used in a farm safety day activity) for all district residents.
- 7. Education** ~ From hosting land judging events, to classroom visits and field trips, to college scholarships, the NRD provides the next generation of land stewards with the tools they'll need for the future.
- 8. Soil Health** ~ The NRD offers cost-share and incentive programs for many soil health best management practices that make sustainable agriculture more accessible.

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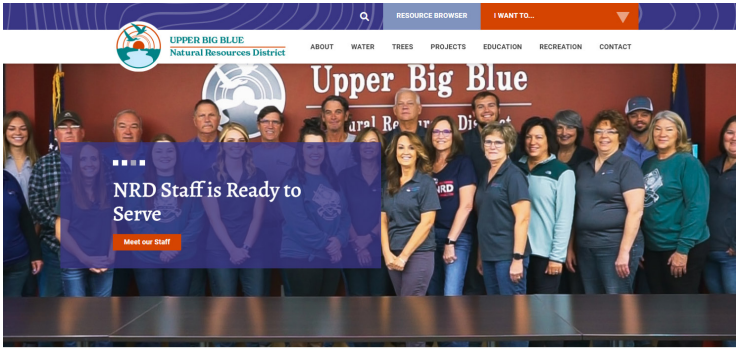


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## What's New at the NRD?

### New People

The NRD is pleased to have a number of new employees on the staff. Jaden Groff and Jake Mitchell joined the NRD in November as water resources technicians. Both are recent graduates of South Dakota State University. Jaden is from Malcom, Neb., and majored in ecology and Spanish at SDSU. She loves to be outside and is excited about environmental stewardship and the care of the land. Mitchell is from Fairmont, Minn. His studies at SDSU included a major in Geographic Information System Mapping (GIS), with a minor in infomatics/computer science. At the NRD, he will utilize his GIS skills to create maps to visually present district data.

Amanda McLeod has taken on the role of water data assistant. She is a recent graduate of UNL, where she completed a bachelor's degree in natural resources, with emphasis in conservation biology, and fisheries and wildlife management. Amanda is passionate about the environment, water conservation, and aquatic wildlife, especially turtles.

Erin Lee joined the NRD as a water resources technician. Erin grew up in York and is pleased to be back in the community where she has so many connections. She attended Kansas State University and earned a degree in biology and natural resources, then went to work for the Upper Niobrara White NRD in Chadron for several years. At the Upper Big Blue NRD, she oversees the chemigation program, including flowmeter inspections and permitting. What she enjoys most about her work with the NRD is being out in the field and working with producers.

### New Website

Be sure to visit our new and improved website at [upperbigblue.org](http://upperbigblue.org)! Launched in January, this site is your one-stop shop for conservation information, from cost-share to tree care. ♦♦♦

# IS YOUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

IF YOUR DRINKING WATER TEST LEVELS ARE ABOVE 10 PPM OF NITRATE YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE ON A REVERSE OSMOSIS SYSTEM TO REMOVE NITRATE FROM YOUR PRIVATE WELL

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

PRIVATE WELLS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Check if your well is registered:



Water well registration instructions:



For well registration information visit: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/>

## GET YOUR WELL TESTED BY THE STATE LABORATORY

Request a test kit:



Request a test kit: <https://www.nebraska.gov/dhhs/water-test-kits/private.html>

GET A COST ESTIMATE FROM A LICENSED PLUMBER FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A REVERSE OSMOSIS TREATMENT DEVICE CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE

FUNDING AMOUNT: UP TO \$4,000 PER SMALL TREATMENT INSTALLATIONS VIA REBATES

Notice: maintenance is not reimbursable under the reverse osmosis rebate program

APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS JANUARY 1, 2023  
RANKING WILL BE BASED ON CONCENTRATION OF NITRATE



For more information visit: <http://dee.ne.gov/>

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Resources.

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



# Saving Their Soil

## Butler County Brothers Invest in Erosion Prevention

For Butler County farmers Dave and Dan Rech, utilizing cost-share dollars to improve their farming operation over the past few decades has been a simple action with big impact. The Rechs have worked with the Upper Big Blue NRD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to add terraces and outlets to their row crop acres. Erosion control was their primary objective, as they were seeing significant soil loss on their hillier acres.

“With terraces, tiled outlets, and no-till farming, we can pretty much eliminate erosion,” said Dave. In addition to keeping the topsoil, adding these measures has also made farming easier in places. “If you get these terraces in and you control that erosion, you’re eliminating a lot of ditches to cross,” he said.

It’s been a long-term project to install these upgrades. The Rechs were committed to making the land improvements happen a little at a time, each year making use of the maximum cost-share dollars. Previously, the maximum amount available for cost-share for land treatment practices with the NRD was \$5,000 per year per landowner. The amount has since been increased to \$7,500.

“Over the last 40-some years, most every part of our land that needed some treatment, got it,” Dave said. “It’s been a lifelong battle. You do a little bit every year, and that’s how you get things done.” Dave has been farming with his brother for many years and today both men’s sons have also joined the operation. Dave is pleased that when it is time to turn over the farm to the next generation someday in the future, that he will have done his part to make the land as profitable and sustainable as possible.

The Rechs have been experimenting with cover crops to further reduce erosion and to improve soil health. They currently have rye as a cover crop on about 25 percent of their row crop acres and plan to plant more in the next five years. They have a cow-calf operation of about 400 head and the rye provides early spring grazing for the cattle. In the winter, the cattle graze crop residue, which Dave says is the most cost-effective way to fatten the cows and build the soil. Twenty years ago, when he went no-till then started planting cover crops, Dave says he caught some flak from other producers in his area who thought his fields were full of “trash.” As his strategy

has proven successful, his nay-sayers have started following his lead. Now the practices are becoming much more common in his area, he said.

“There are still some people that do full tillage. They’re not happy unless they are stirring dirt somewhere. They call it recreational tillage,” Dave said. However, the labor and cost savings involved with no-till makes the practice a bedrock of the Rechs’ operation. “We used to work up the soil once or twice, but now we just go out there and plant and we’re getting good stands and raising good crops,” he said.

These practices have provided a measure of protection for the Rechs’ farm when it comes to weather extremes like the wind, hailstorms, and drought Nebraska experienced in the 2022 growing season. “It’s hard to prepare yourself for something like that,” Dave said, referencing the storms. “I’ve never seen so much damage and destruction. Up and down Interstate 80...it was just terrible.”

After all that wild weather, Dave said he could see the impact of conservation activities at harvest: on ground that had been more recently tilled, he saw a 40 bushel per acre yield hit. “The difference really showed up,” he said. Better soil structure and keeping the ground covered provided a buffer against the drought.

“It’s hard to fight Mother Nature,” Dave conceded. “You think you’ve got it figured out and Mother Nature throws a whammy at you and then you’ve got to rethink. Hailstorms, drought, you never know what you’re going to be up against from one year to the next.” With the help of the NRD and NRCS, the Rechs’ operation is better prepared for whatever Mother Nature might throw at them next.

*Interested in land treatment cost-share? See what the NRD has to offer at [upperbigblue.org/cost-share](http://upperbigblue.org/cost-share).*





# NRD Education Corner

## Educational Capital Projects Fund Provides Hands-On Learning

Each year, the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District sets aside \$10,000 for capital projects that provide an educational benefit for people in our district. Past projects have included an outdoor classroom pond, an FFA-operated community garden, a sensory garden for special needs students, water quality testing equipment for a high-school environmental science class, and a greenhouse. Projects are not limited to schools. This fund could also apply to projects for adults of all ages.

The purpose of the Educational Capital Projects Fund (ECAP) is to create, develop, or enhance natural resources related educational capital projects that provide experiential learning environments and opportunities for district citizens. This fund is for capital items only, deemed to have educational/conservation value, and determined worthy of funding on a case-by-case basis.

To qualify for the program, educational/conservation projects must be physically located, constructed, and maintained within the Upper Big Blue NRD boundary. These educational capital projects are generally constructed on school property but can be located elsewhere in the NRD boundary if there is a more suitable location (such as a library or other public space).

Applications for ECAP funds are due May 1 each year. For full details and application, visit [www.upperbigblue.org/educational-assistance](http://www.upperbigblue.org/educational-assistance). ♦♦♦



## Burke Scholarship Application Deadline Approaching

Each spring, the board of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District selects two recipients as Burke Scholars. Carrying on the name and legacy of conservationist and former NRD board member Raymond Burke, the students chosen each receives \$2,000 to put toward their higher educational pursuits in natural resources or a related field at a Nebraska college or university. Full details and application are available at [www.upperbigblue.org/education](http://www.upperbigblue.org/education). Applications for 2023 are due March 24 and include three letters of recommendation that must be received by the deadline. ♦♦♦



*(Top) Dan Leininger, NRD water conservationist, and Scott Gonnerman, soil health expert and local ag partner, gave students from York and Concordia Universities a tour of Project GROW in fall 2022. Need a speaker on soil health or natural resources related topics? Give the NRD a call. Staff can tailor material for any audience or age-group.*

*(Above) Emily Theis, then president of the Osceola FFA chapter, standing at the site of an ECAP funded school garden project before the ground was tilled.*

*(Left) Keeley Conrad, a 2022 recipient of the Burke Scholarship, is a student at University of Nebraska Lincoln studying horticulture and entrepreneurship. In addition to being a Dean's List student, she also owns and operates a small business named Seeds & Strings, which sells handmade plant items and succulent arrangements. Her future plans involve owning a greenhouse business.*

# Board of Directors Transitions

Local public service roles are generally not glamorous. They come with their share of headaches, including late nights, grumpy constituents, and lots of reading and meetings to understand the issues. The reward for all the hours and labor is hard to quantify. For members of the board of directors of a natural resources district, the return on their investment isn't measured in inches, pounds, or dollars; how do you place a value on the laughter of children at a new recreation area playground, the calls of birds at a restored wetland, or the sight of vibrant, green cover crops growing in the spring?

Four such public servants were recently recognized for all they have accomplished in their time in office on the board of directors of the Upper Big Blue NRD. Larry Moore, Linda Luebbe, Ronda Rich, and David Robotham concluded their service on the board in December and were celebrated with a reception.

“The important work of stewarding our soil and water resources only happens with the effective leadership



and collaboration of our board of directors,” said David Eigenberg, general manager of the NRD. “We are grateful for each of these individuals who have provided many years of guidance on the board to serve the people of our district.”

In January, Matthew Perry (York), Anthony Bohaty (York), Teresa Otte (David City), and Kevin Peterson (Osceola) began their first terms as members of the NRD board of directors. ♦♦♦

## BLUEPRINT



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### Upper Big Blue NRD Board of Directors

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- Kevin Peterson**, Osceola, *Sub-district 1*
- Jeff Bohaty**, Seward, *Sub-district 2*
- Douglas L. Dickinson**, Seward, *Sub-district 2*
- Richard Bohaty**, Seward, *Sub-district 3*
- Bill Stahly**, Milford, *Sub-district 3*
- Paul Weiss**, McCool Junction, *Sub-district 4*
- Lynn Yates**, Geneva, *Sub-district 4*
- Micheal D. Nuss**, Sutton, *Sub-district 5*
- Kendall Siebert**, Henderson, *Sub-district 5*
- Bill Kuehner, Jr.** Aurora, *Sub-district 6*
- John Miller**, Aurora, *Sub-district 6*
- Rodney Grotz**, York, *Sub-district 7*
- Anthony Bohaty**, York, *Sub-district 7*
- Paul Bethune**, York, *Sub-district 8*
- Matthew Perry**, York, *Sub-district 8*
- Teresa Otte**, David City, *At Large Member*

### Upper Big Blue NRD Staff

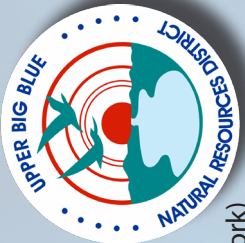
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- Nancy Brisk ..... Office Manager
- Chrystal Houston.....Public Relations Manager
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- Erinn Wilkins ..... Water Resources Technician
- Erin Lee..... Water Resources Technician
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- Jay Geiger ..... Maintenance Worker
- Andy Larkin ..... Maintenance Worker

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Sign up to receive important alerts and news  
at [www.upperbigblue.org/email](http://www.upperbigblue.org/email)





# 2023 CONSERVATION TREE PROGRAM ORDER FORM

Please select the location where you prefer to pick up your order:

- Upper Big Blue NRD Office (York)
- Adams County NRCs
- Butler County NRCs
- Clay County NRCs
- Fillmore County NRCs
- Hamilton County NRCs
- Polk County NRCs
- Saline County NRCs
- Seward County NRCs

- Each species must be ordered in lots of 25
- Sales Tax is calculated by the county in which the order will be picked up.
- You will be contacted after April 1 to pick up your order.
- The Upper Big Blue NRD will plant orders (within the District's boundaries) of 150 or more for an additional \$1.18/tree. Call **402-362-6601** for assistance creating a planting plan.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## RESERVE YOUR SEEDLINGS BY MARCH 31

Small Acreage Packages contain 10 each of five species, 50 trees total, for \$60 plus tax--a great value! LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE

- |   |                         |   |                              |
|---|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <del>West Package</del> <b>sold out</b> | <del>East Package</del> | <del>Wildlife Package</del> <b>sold out</b> | <del>Flowering Package</del> |
| • Ponderosa Pine                        | • Bur Oak               | • Chokecherry                               | • Serviceberry               |
| • Rocky Mountain Juniper                | • Peking Cotonestear    | • Elderberry                                | • Red-Osier Dogwood          |
| • Bur Oak                               | • Swamp White Oak       | • American Plum                             | • Common Lilac               |
| • Chokecherry                           | • Crabapple             | • Golden Currant                            | • Crabapple                  |
| • American Plum                         | • McKenzie Chokeberry   | • Red-Osier Dogwood                         | • Caragana                   |

Seedling Bundles contain 25 each of a single species and cost \$1.18 per tree (\$29.50 per bundle) plus tax.

- |   |                  |                        |   |
|---|------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Conifers</b>                               | <b>Deciduous</b> | <b>Fruit &amp; Nut</b> | <b>Shrubs</b>                                 |
| <del>Black Hills Spruce</del> <b>sold out</b> | ___ Cottonwood   | ___ Black Walnut       | ___ American Plum                             |
| <del>Co. Blue Spruce</del> <b>sold out</b>    | ___ Hackberry    | ___ Bur Oak            | ___ Buffaloberry                              |
| ___ Eastern Red Cedar                         | ___ Honeylocust  | ___ Catalpa            | ___ Caragana*                                 |
| ___ Jack Pine                                 | ___ Silver Maple | ___ Crabapple*         | ___ Chokeberry*                               |
| ___ Norway Spruce                             |                  | ___ HazelNut*          | ___ Chokecherry                               |
| ___ Ponderosa Pine                            |                  | ___ Manchurian Apricot | ___ Cotonestear                               |
| ___ <b>Southwestern White Pine*</b>           |                  | ___ Red Oak            | ___ Elderberry                                |
|   |                  | ___ Swamp White Oak    | ___ False Indigo                              |
|   |                  |                        | ___ Golden Currant                            |
|   |                  |                        | ___ Lilac                                     |
|   |                  |                        | ___ <del>Hanking Cherry</del> <b>sold out</b> |
|   |                  |                        | ___ Redosier Dogwood                          |
|   |                  |                        | ___ Serviceberry                              |
|   |                  |                        | ___ Skunkbush Sumac                           |

**\*limited quantity available**

Your Cost (Number of Small Acreage Packages Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ x \$60) + (Number of Seedling Bundles Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ x \$29.50) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SALES TAX (7.5%--Geneva, David City, York, Seward), (7%--Clay Center, Hastings, Osceola, Wilber) or (5.5%--Aurora) \_\_\_\_\_ / \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Your Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO: Upper Big Blue NRD  
 319 E 25TH ST  
 YORK, NE 68476

OR ORDER ONLINE AT [WWW.UPPERBIGBLUE.ORG/TREES](http://WWW.UPPERBIGBLUE.ORG/TREES) BY FEBRUARY 10

DATE ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_ CALLED / MAILED / ONLINE / E-MAIL / WALK-IN  
 DATE PAID \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_ CC \_\_\_\_\_ ONLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

--NRD USE ONLY--