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“City of Norfolk will receive \$3500 to beautify 7<sup>th</sup> Street corridor”



This picture, taken in August of 2016 on the east side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street south of Pasewalk Avenue, shows the area where 24 trees will be planted this coming spring.

What used to be somewhat of an eye sore in Norfolk will soon be a beautiful thoroughfare of new trees. The City of Norfolk was recently awarded a Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) grant of \$3,500 to purchase and plant trees on the east side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street from Michigan Avenue to Pasewalk Avenue. A diversified selection of 24 trees will be planted on the City property just to the west of the railroad property line.

“Planting trees along this corridor will make that stretch of street inviting to our guests and a pleasant landscape for our residents. The LENRD grant will allow us to plant a number of varieties

of trees for people to enjoy and possibly replicate on their own property,” said Shane Weidner, Norfolk City Administrator.

The City of Norfolk Tree Advisory Board applied for the grant in August. The City will pay 25% of the tree purchase costs and will plant and care for the trees. The LENRD will pay 75% of the purchase of the trees. Nebraska Central Railroad has agreed to allow the City to plant the trees along its right of way to help beautify that area of the city.

“Planting trees, especially a diverse selection of trees, dramatically improves a city’s aesthetic features. Research has shown that trees foster community good will and sense of wellbeing. The LENRD is happy to be able to help communities establish trees and community forests,” said Pam Bergstrom, LENRD Forester.

The LENRD community forestry grant came about due to the large amount of trees in several communities that were being removed because of disease, environment and old age. With the Emerald Ash Borer and other insects and diseases in the Midwest, the LENRD established the program to promote the planting of diverse species of trees by local or county governments.

The LENRD is one of 23 Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) across the state of Nebraska. The NRDs were created in 1972 by the Nebraska Legislature with the following responsibilities: protecting ground water, erosion prevention, flood prevention, soil conservation, pollution control, management of wildlife habitat, forestry/agroforestry management, range management, recreation management, and providing the public with information and educational material, learning sessions, and technical assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.lenrd.org>, call 402-371-7313 or stop in at their main office in the Lifelong Learning Center on the Northeast Community College campus.