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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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City of Norfolk Receives Ten Trees from the Free Trees for Fall ReTree Planting Program

Thanks to the Free Trees for Fall ReTree Planting program, an effort of the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, the City of Norfolk received 10 free trees to plant along the North Fork Riverfront Trail.

Despite providing a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits, most Nebraska community forests have been in steady and sometimes dramatic decline. Many challenges contribute, including extreme weather, insects, disease and lack of diversity. The Emerald Ash borer is the latest major challenge added to the list.

In an effort to stop this decline and increase community forest resilience, the Free Trees program grants up to 10 high quality trees for tree-related educational events and community celebrations promoting trees and fall planting.

In addition to simply planting more trees, the program goals include increasing appreciation and awareness of the value of community forests in Nebraska. Special emphasis is place on species diversity and higher impact projects, especially street tree planting and projects in neighborhoods of highest need.

Free Trees for Fall ReTree Planting is supported by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's Trees for Nebraska Towns Initiative funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and by the Nebraska Forest Service's Landscape Scale Restoration grant funded by the US Forest Service.

The trees that the City of Norfolk received were planted in late September along the North Fork Riverfront Trail between Johnson Park and Elm Avenue. The tree species that were planted include: Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, Northern Red Oak, Triumph Elm, Northern Catalpa, and Amur Maackia.

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