“Norfolk Introduces New “Tree Bud’ Program”

Trees are an important part of Norfolk’s landscape. A new community donation “Tree Bud” program allows people to contribute $2 on their water bill to purchase, plant and care for trees in Norfolk.

“Trees provide beauty, shade, windbreak and wildlife habitat in our community. We’ve started the Tree Bud program to give people an opportunity to help sustain the community tree population in Norfolk. People can choose to participate or not. This program gives us a chance to highlight the importance of trees in our lives,” said Norfolk Mayor Sue Fuchtman.

Starting on April 21 people will be given the opportunity of adding a $2 donation to their water bills for trees. Those who are interested can check a box on their bill that says “Sign up to add $2 charge to each water bill for trees.”

Two dollars will then be added to each bi-monthly bill and donated to the tree program until the person lets the City water billing office know they are no longer interested in participating.

Those who are interested in having the $2 added to their water bills to go toward trees can also fill out an online form at ci.norfolk.ne.us/treebuds.htm or fill out a form at the Norfolk City Administration Building at 309 North 5th Street. They can also call 402-844-2018 to sign up. One-time donations for trees will also be accepted if brought in or sent separately to the City Administration Building.

“The donations will go towards purchasing, planting and caring for trees on city owned and controlled property. Our hope is to keep trees as a vital part of Norfolk,” said Pat Mrsny, City of Norfolk Parks Superintendent.

The City of Norfolk has been nationally recognized as a Tree City USA since 2010. A ceremony was held April 1 in Lincoln honoring Norfolk and 100 other Nebraska communities with the Tree City USA designation.

According to the Nebraska Forestry Service, trees lower heating and air conditioning costs, prevent erosion, reduce storm water runoff, increase property values and make communities more inviting.

For more information about the Tree Bud program, call City of Norfolk Communications Director Diane Becker at 402-844-2034.