

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“City of Norfolk Awarded \$5000 LENRD Tree Grant”

The City of Norfolk is one of ten communities that recently received tree planting funds through the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resource District’s Community Forestry Grant program. The Norfolk Community Forest project was awarded \$5,000 that will go towards tree purchases and planting on the east end of the Elkhorn River Trail in Ta-Ha-Zouka Park and also to a new tree forest on a wellfield west of Norfolk. A total of \$36,114.38 was awarded to the communities within the LENRD area for tree plantings that will take place in 2016.



Pictured is one site along the east side of the Elkhorn River Trail that will be planted with trees in 2016 thanks to a grant to the City of Norfolk from the LENRD.

“There is a bare parking lot off First Street, near the Elkhorn River which is hot, barren and not very inviting. These trees will change that. The LENRD grant will also benefit Norfolk’s Water Division in that it will be able to aid the long term protection of Norfolk’s water supply. The plan here is to plant trees and grasses on land the City owns around several wells,” said Dr. G. Tom Surber, Chairman of the City of Norfolk Tree Advisory Board that applied for the grant.

The LENRD Community Forestry Grant is open to all communities within the LENRD and can be applied only to land that is owned by local government, county government, or public schools.

“Nebraska is the ‘Tree Planter State’ after all,” said Pam Bergstrom, Forester for the LENRD. “Planting trees, especially when you plant a diverse selection of trees, improves the town’s aesthetic features and it has been proven that town’s with a good ‘community forest’ are shown to have a positive appeal to guests. Folks who call that community home will find they are not as stressed as their counterparts who occupy communities that lack a

healthy community forest. We are a state that really does like to see trees thriving in our community landscapes.”

Bergstrom said the 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 threat of new insects and diseases coming into the Midwest, the LENRD put together the program to help communities and lands owned by local or county government.

The LENRD is one of 32 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. To learn more about the LENRD and the programs they provide, go to www.lenrd.org. The LENRD Main Office is located at the Lifelong Learning Center on the campus of Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska or call 402.371.7313.