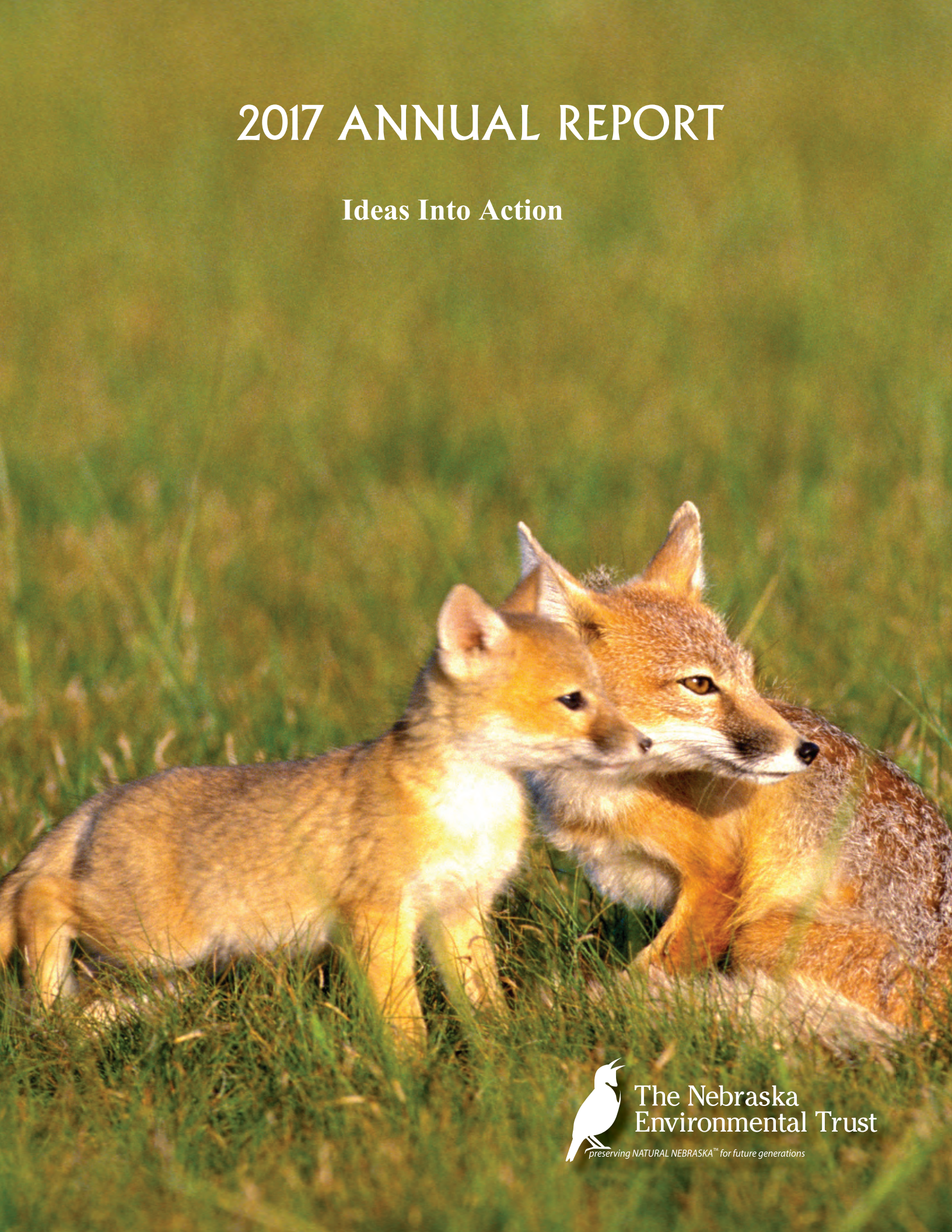
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Ideas Into Action



The Nebraska Environmental Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

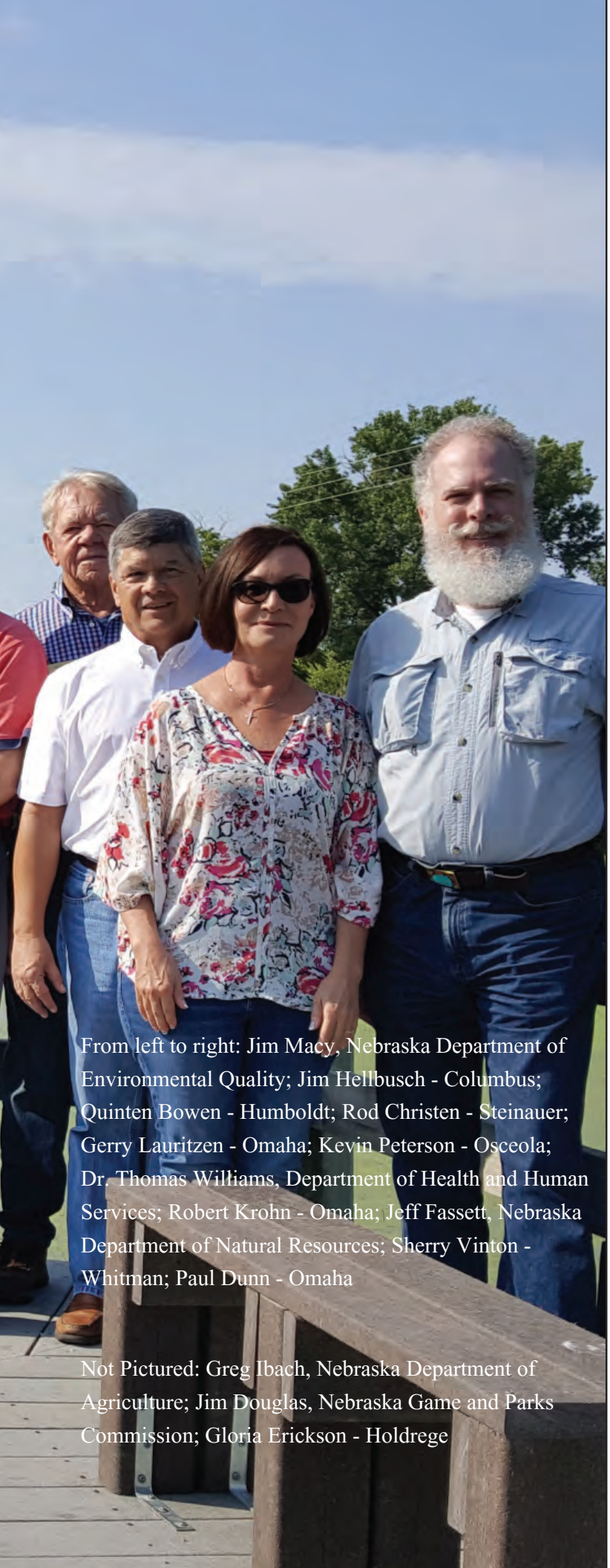
Trust Funding Categories

- Habitat
- Air Quality
- Surface and Groundwater
- Soil Management
- Waste Management & Recycling

Mission Statement:

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is established to conserve, enhance and restore the natural environments of Nebraska. A prosperous future requires a sound natural environment. We must act dynamically, progressively and systematically to ensure bountiful and thriving natural resources.

The Trust is to complement existing activities, stimulate private investment and emphasize long term gain. The Trust is to lead in the development of a vision of Nebraska's future environment. The Trust is to collaborate with public and private efforts to achieve that vision.



From left to right: Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality; Jim Hellbusch - Columbus; Quinten Bowen - Humboldt; Rod Christen - Steinauer; Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha; Kevin Peterson - Osceola; Dr. Thomas Williams, Department of Health and Human Services; Robert Krohn - Omaha; Jeff Fassett, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; Sherry Vinton - Whitman; Paul Dunn - Omaha

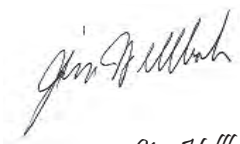
Not Pictured: Greg Ibach, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Gloria Erickson - Holdrege

Chairman's Message

As I travel through the many counties of Nebraska, I consider myself blessed to be in a state that is so rich in its natural resources. When I was appointed to the Trust Board in 2015, I knew it was an opportunity for me to give back to the State that I am so familiar with. It is where I grew up and it is where I call "home". There is no other place like Nebraska for sure.

I was flattered to be elected Chairman of this amazing board in August. Working with the other Board members this past two years has just been a gratifying experience. I have learned so much about our state through the field trips that the Board gets to make every August and met so many new people that have given me a true appreciation for our natural resources. Naturally, as much as Nebraska gives us, it is our privilege and honor to take care of our beautiful State. Our next generation and those to follow will stand to benefit from what we have done. Very aptly, being part of the grants committee and the process, has given me the opportunity to review grants first hand and know how many worthwhile initiatives are brought before us. It is a thorough process with many individuals involved in the reviewing, rating and decision making. It is all about team effort to have it come together in the end.

The grant program that the Trust has offered since 1993 is irreplaceable. It has been beneficial on so many levels to many communities. The environment being an important aspect of our daily lives, from wildlife habitats to the beautiful and pristine prairie landscapes that line our state, we have a treasure trove and an opportunity to preserve nature's gift to us. I will continue to strive for a better Nebraska and am hopeful that the work we do will have a long lasting impact.



Jim Hellbusch

Ideas Into Action

This year marks the 24th year the Nebraska Environmental Trust has awarded grants to the seven Districts of the State of Nebraska. We are grateful for the success of the Lottery program through the Department of Revenue that has made these grants possible. These grant dollars are derived from the proceeds of the Nebraska Lottery. 44 ½ percent of the proceeds are given to the Trust, which in turn are used as seed money to support environmental initiatives throughout the State. These grant dollars not only give Nebraska an economic and social boost but they also attract matching funds to the State.

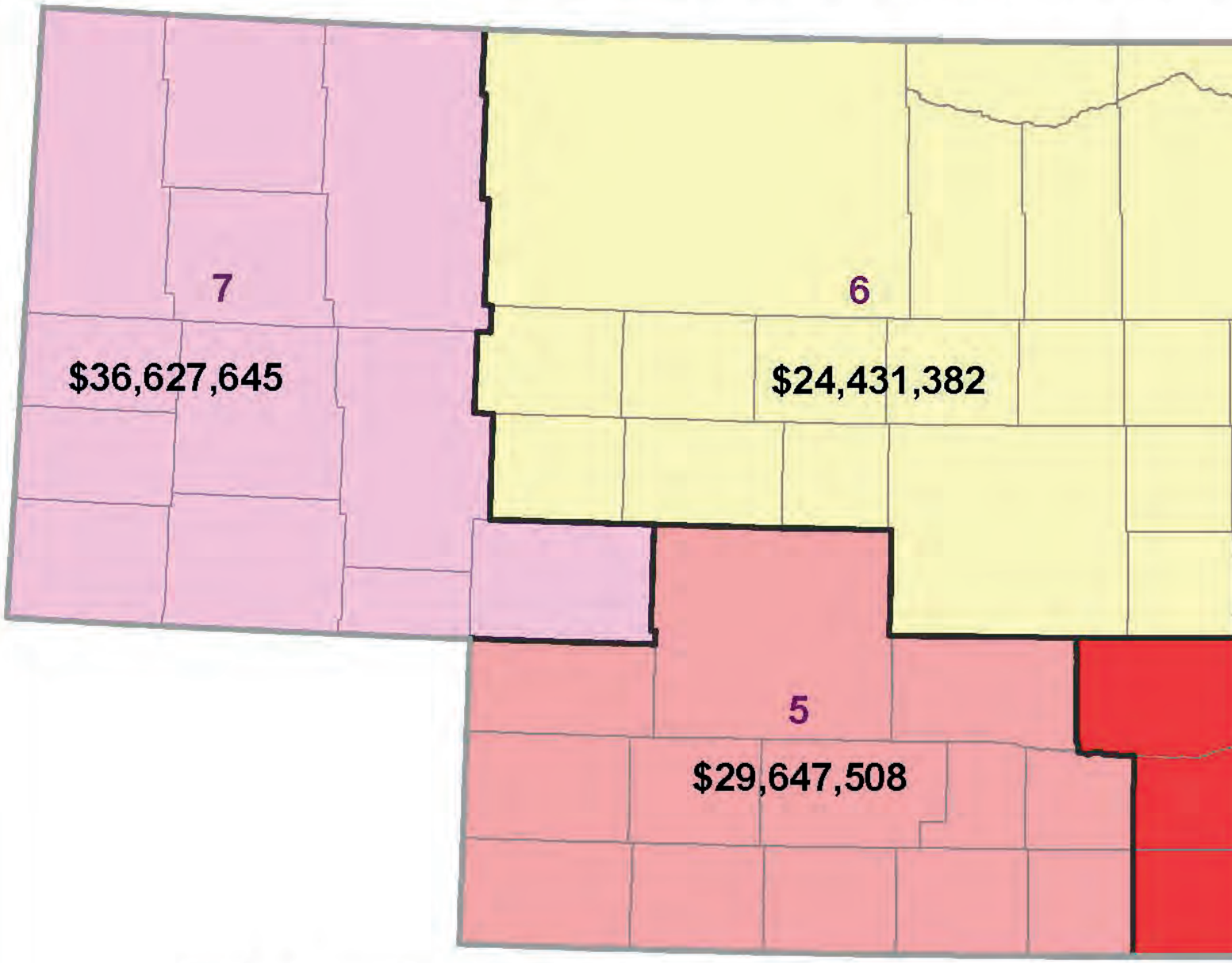
The theme for our Annual Report this year is “Ideas Into Action”. The Nebraska Lottery is not the only entity that has contributed to the success of this grant program but over the last two decades, many individuals, communities and groups have come forth to contribute in one way or another to this cause. It takes ideas, effort, initiative and input to craft proposals that become projects. This annual report seeks to thank these groups and their diverse efforts to make it all work. These are only a select few that we have chosen to highlight, but there are many more projects that deserve recognition and credit. The Trust thanks these individuals for their time, energy, conservation mindedness and input for our success. May Nebraska continue to be a leader and example to others in how we manage our natural resources.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is funded by:

nebraska LOTTERY


"No matter how few possessions you own or how
little money you have, loving wildlife and nature will
make you rich beyond measure."
- Paul Oxton

Geographic Distribution of A
Nebraska Environmen

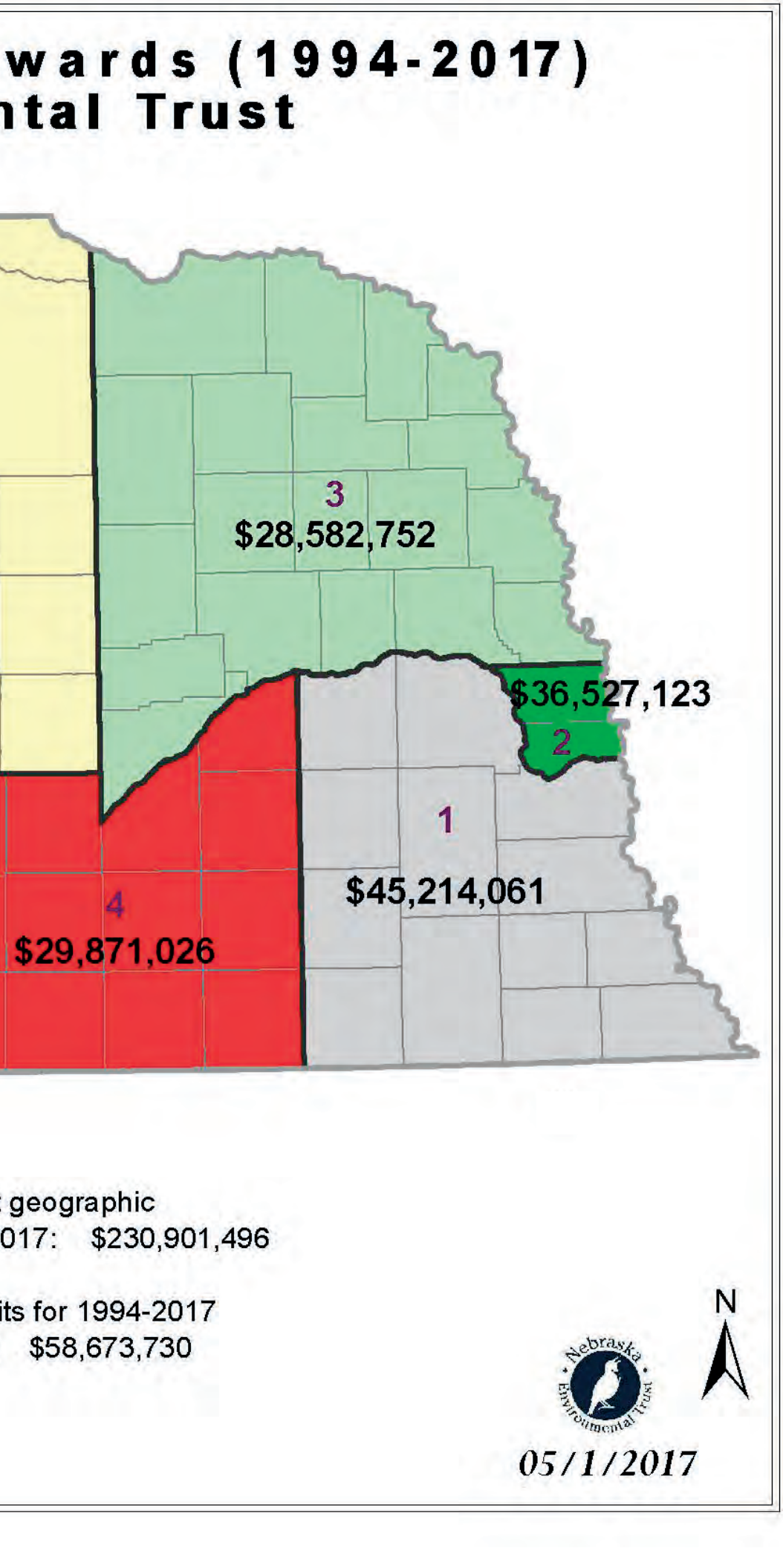


	1994-2016 Awards	2017 Awards
	$42,283,814	$2,930,247
	$34,528,906	$1,998,217
	$27,087,757	$1,494,995
	$28,276,148	$1,594,878
	$27,902,997	$1,744,511
	$22,378,444	$2,052,938
	$34,477,398	$2,150,247
Statewide	$58,673,730	$2,713,968

Figures on the map represent
area award totals for 1994 - 2

Awards with Statewide Benef
(not included in map figures):

Total Amount Awarded
1994 - 2017: $292,289,194



The Geographic Distribution map shows how grant funds have been distributed through out the entire state of Nebraska the last 24 years.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust uses these seven districts to evaluate grant proposals and determine geographic bonus points for each district.

Every year the Trust Board evaluates the grant dollars given to these districts and awards bonus points to the district or districts that have the least grant funding to ensure funds are distributed in an even and equitable manner over a period of time. This approach has allowed for a fair and just distribution of funds for people all over the 93 counties of the state of Nebraska.

NPPD Cottonwood Ranch/Brownville Pollinator Habitat

The Monarch butterfly population is down 90% in the last twenty years, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service has given the species a 30% chance of survival by 2040. Since its founding in 2014, the Save Our Monarchs Foundation (SOM) has been working tirelessly to conserve and restore habitat for this iconic insect. As part of a partnership between SOM and the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) to manage right-of-way corridors as pollinator habitat, the Nebraska Environmental Trust has provided funding for several parcels of land owned by NPPD to be restored as Monarch and pollinator habitat. With funding from the NET, two Biologically Diverse Landscape sites owned by NPPD encompassing over 3,000 acres in Nebraska are being restored for pollinators with native forbs and grasses. Restoration methods include removal of noxious weeds and undesired species through prescribed burning, mowing, and herbicide treatment, followed by seeding or planting high-pollinator value plant species that encourage healthy, diverse ecosystems. Their program's goal is to demonstrate for utilities advanced integrated vegetation management techniques that can help create pollinator and other wildlife habitat as a secondary objective to business property and regulatory needs, providing critical space for native species while also providing financial savings through lower maintenance costs associated with such habitat.

At the NPPD sites they are currently working on, this year's activities have focused on collecting plant data, preparing the sites for planting, and installing seedlings. 2017-2018 sites include a transmission line right-of-way along I-80 at Lexington, Cottonwood Ranch south of Overton on the Platte River, and several parcels near the Cooper Nuclear Station at Brownville.

Save our Monarchs is a group of dedicated citizen scientist activists who saw a problem and decided to do something about it. In 2017 the group will have restored or enhanced a total of 12,000 acres of dedicated Monarch habitat. With a large following and growing interest, and a distribution rate of 50,000 milkweed and wildflower seed packets a month, many more gardens containing milkweed and other flowering plants are being established around the country. You too can plant these beautiful species in your yard, and encourage your area to add pollinator plants to local parks and under-utilized spaces. Together we can save our Monarchs!

Volunteers install pollinator plugs at Langdon Bend WMA

Swift Fox sighting at one of the project sites

Working with students to document swift fox on Nebraska ranches

In Nebraska the distribution of swift fox, a priority conservation species, is largely unknown making management efforts difficult. To complicate matters, surveying for swift fox requires looking over a staggering 26,000 square miles of western Nebraska for one of the smallest, most elusive carnivores in North America. The challenges to uncovering information about swift fox populations are numerous, but also provide potential opportunities to engage the communities and citizens of Nebraska.

Jenny Dauer and Joseph Fontaine at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and Teresa Frink at Chadron State College worked with conservation partners to develop a program that engages students and landowners as citizen scientists to help overcome the difficulties associated with swift fox monitoring and management. Many students from Nebraska's colleges and universities have roots in western Nebraska, providing the opportunity for them to survey for swift fox on family land. Not only does their effort help us understand more about swift fox, it provides students the opportunity to learn about conservation and engage in authentic scientific research. With the support of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, they were able to bring this project to fruition, with approximately 180 students trained to date. The project coordinator, Amanda Sorensen, feels that the opportunity presented to students who participate in this research is an invaluable learning experience.

"It is exciting to be leading this class where students learn by meaningfully contributing to real scientific research. The students learn about ecology, the complexity of doing scientific research, how to use scientific data in natural resource decision-making, and gain practical research skills that they can use in future professions. This is a new approach to teaching science that can be actively useful for students, who are getting insight into the process of science, and researchers, who can broaden the scope of their research with increased data provided by the students taking the class," said Sorensen.

With the help of the students from Chadron State and the University of Nebraska, researchers are learning more about swift fox and in doing so are helping natural resource professionals meet the challenges of wildlife management in Nebraska. Researchers and students are also creating a dialogue with landowners and the public about endangered species and the future of conservation in Nebraska.

Solar panels installed at the zoo

Zoo Expands Conservation Efforts with Energy from the Sun

What started as an idea of modeling a strategy to help fight extinction with on-site clean, renewable energy at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium is now a reality. In May 2017, a newly installed solar photovoltaic (PV) panel array at the north end of the Zoo's African Grasslands near the Safari Tent Camp began generating electricity.

The project was made possible by a partnership between Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium's facilities and education departments, Creighton University's Energy Technology Program, and Verdis Group with grant funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The team's hope was to inform the Zoo's over 2 million annual visitors how accessible solar energy can be in Nebraska. The Zoo's education department and Creighton's Energy Technology Program developed an after-school science curriculum using the solar array and the data generated by the electricity production.

The 25-kilowatt array solar panel lessens the Zoo's impact on the environment and is an example of a strategy to help fight extinction. Greenhouse gases from electricity production are a leading cause of climate change, which is a major factor in accelerating species extinction due to the inability of species to adapt quickly to altering temperature and rainfall patterns. Over the panels' 40-year life, the array is projected to avoid 1,427 metric tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to avoiding nearly 1.53 million pounds of coal burned. "Installing the solar panel in the African Grasslands exhibit was a win-win situation for both our visitors and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium's interest in research conservation," said Dennis Pate, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium's president and chief executive officer. "The clean energy produced by the panel enables the Zoo to be more sustainable and move forward with its mission in conservation. The structure also provides much needed shade for our guests waiting in line to ride the Skyfari."

Solar energy production improves habitats and water- and air-quality, which ultimately improves human health. For over half the year, the array is expected to produce 100% of the electricity needed for areas such as the lion viewing structure, the Safari Tent Camps and restrooms, and nearby lighting.

Leading by example and education are central to this project. The array is in a high-traffic spot where visitors can enjoy shade provided from the solar array as they wait to board Skyfari in the African Grasslands exhibit. An educational interactive solar panel and digital screen provide information on the environmental benefits of producing electricity using the sun. Educational exhibits are being used in lessons for students in Omaha, and Zoo visitors of all ages can learn about the benefits of solar energy as well. As part of the Zoo's commitment to conservation, the Zoo will continue to maintain the system and gain the benefit of clean, renewable energy on the Zoo campus for generations to come.

Nebraska's Natural Legacy Program

The Nebraska Natural Legacy Project is a blueprint for conserving Nebraska's flora, fauna and natural habitats and has been implemented successfully through the proactive, voluntary conservation actions of partners, communities, and individuals. The Legacy Project took a strategic approach in order to effectively conserve Nebraska's at-risk species and keep common species common. There are 89 species identified in Nebraska as at-risk of extinction nationally or globally that warrant action now, before the species decline to the point that they are federally listed as endangered or threatened. Additionally, conservation actions are focused in 39 Biologically Unique Landscapes (BULs). The BULs contain relatively intact habitat and higher numbers of at-risk species, so actions focused in these locations has a greater potential impact.

Successful implementation of the Natural Legacy Project since 2005 has largely been because of the Legacy Partnership Team that developed guiding principles and helped draft the blueprint. Today, the Natural Legacy Project is delivered through many organizations and individuals statewide. The support of the Nebraska Environmental Trust has enabled Coordinating Wildlife Biologists to proactively work with landowners and partners to accomplish large-scale habitat improvements across fence lines. Annually, these biologists cooperatively improve over 22,000 acres and provide assistance to nearly 400 landowners.

The most common actions to enhance and restore habitat include invasive species removal, re-introducing natural disturbance such as prescribed fire and modifying existing grazing. Cedar removal to restore grasslands often benefits wildlife and improves rangeland. In some of Nebraska's forests, tree densities have increased significantly. Tree thinning restores the understory community, retards the spread of the devastating diseases and destructive insects, and reduces wildfire risk. Conservation actions also include wetland restoration and riparian corridor improvements.

Communication, collaboration and education efforts are critical for fish and wildlife conservation, as long-term habitat restorations are only possible when the conservation community is well informed. Resources about Nebraska's wildlife are made available to schools across the state. Each year, over 5,000 students, landowners, practitioners, educators and individuals from the public are reached through Natural Legacy education and outreach programs.

While these actions may appear short term, the process of implementation has lasting impacts. Each education event increases the awareness and appreciation of Nebraska's wildlife and the challenges faced to ensure Nebraska's wild animals are here for future generations. Each individual habitat restoration project is a learning experience for the landowner and the biologist, with the goal of developing a new approach to land management that is economically sustainable and benefits wildlife.

A Prescribed Burn in Progress

Habitat for Humanity of Omaha – Deconstruction Program

Save money, reduce landfill waste and fund homes with Habitat for Humanity of Omaha's Deconstruction Program. Habitat Omaha's Deconstruction Program is about turning what many might consider trash into treasure, then using proceeds of selling that treasure to do even more good! Launched in July 2016, the Deconstruction Program keeps quality items out of the landfill and generates money to build more Habitat for Humanity homes in partnership with low-income families in our community.

Launching the program was truly a team effort. Habitat Omaha relied on technical assistance and knowledge given by Jason Gilbreath at Reclaimed Enterprises, Johnson Deconstruct and key volunteers focused on demolition to make this project a reality. In addition, Nebraska Environmental Trust provided the much needed funding to give the program life.

"We wanted to do deconstruction for some time because it's a perfect fit for our Habitat ReStore, but we realized we needed to have that partnership with Nebraska Environmental Trust to make it happen," said Amanda Brewer, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Omaha.

Omaha Habitat ReStore outlets feature nearly everything you need for your own interior remodeling or building project. Photo Credit: Jeffrey Bebee, Omaha World Herald

Not only is Habitat Omaha strengthened by the program, homeowners and business owners who are remodeling receive valuable benefits; an opportunity for tax deductions, savings on demolition fees, plus there is no charge for the removal.

Omaha residents, Sue and Jeff Putnam were at a Habitat Omaha fundraiser when they learned about the program, which was the perfect option for a high-quality yet hulking TV cabinet unit that just didn't fit with the house. "The Deconstruction Program was mutually beneficial," Jeff said. "Habitat could potentially benefit from this piece, and we didn't know what to do with it aside from destroying it. It was a win-win for both of us."

For Johnson Deconstruct, Omaha Habitat ReStore's deconstruction expert, partnership on the program brings a sense of pride. Company owner Zack Johnson said his team are not only keeping quality materials out of the landfill, but they are also assisting a worthy nonprofit: "Habitat for Humanity is a great organization with really strong goals. It feels good to be able to help them strengthen the work they're already doing."

The Deconstruction Program makes it easier than ever to recycle while you're renovating. From kitchens and bathrooms to a whole house 'soft-strip' or full deconstruction, this program salvages tons of materials and lessens waste in our landfills. For more information contact Matt Hassenstab at Omaha Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 402-884-7462.

Initiating the deconstruction process – which can target anything from a kitchen or bathroom remodeling project to a whole-house deconstruction.

Purple Headed Sneezeweed found at Fertid Prairie.
Photo courtesy of Gerry Steinauer.

Fertig Prairie Acquisition

Wachiska Audubon Society was awarded a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant this past April to acquire Fertig Prairie. The award was for almost 50% of the purchase price for Fertig Prairie. Fertig Prairie, located in the Platte River flood plain in southern Colfax County, is a valuable and diverse tallgrass prairie. We believe that a protected Fertig prairie will provide several benefits for the residents of Colfax and Platte Counties.

Wachiska started their program of protecting high quality native prairies in the 17 county southeastern Nebraska area in 1994. From the very earliest days they have had a goal of protecting at least one native prairie in each of those 17 counties. They began with the protection of the Henry Wulf Prairie, near Eagle, strictly for the rare habitat it provided for prairie plants and animals. As many Nebraskans know, tallgrass prairie is perhaps the most rare of all the major habitat types in North America. It provides living space for over a hundred species of native plants, many hundreds of insect species, scores of birds and other animals and untold numbers of microscopic creatures. They still rely on conservation easements, because with these easements the prairie land stays in the hands of the original owner. The owner is still responsible for managing the property and paying the taxes, and that reduces the amount of work they do as a volunteer organization and reduces the amount of taxes paid. However, in the course of the last 23 or more years, they have found a number of prairies that are worthy of more attention. These prairies have either an exceptionally rich mix of native species, support one or more rare prairie plants or animals or are in very good locations to serve as educational prairies for local students and adults. Sometimes a grassland, such as Fertig Prairie, has all three of these qualities and the Audubon Society was lucky to have an opportunity to purchase the property. In addition to species protection and meeting the education needs of students, Fertig Prairie will provide a small but important extra benefit of recreation and enjoyment for hikers, photographers, birdwatchers and just interested people who live in the area.

The Clarence and Ruth Fertig family has managed their prairie for many years with the knowledge that they had something rare and valuable. They managed it with a light hand and also made it available for anyone who respected it and wanted to see it and learn from it. The Society learned of the prairie from Steve Heinisch of Central Community College in Columbus who takes his biology students to the prairie every year. As Wachiska begins their management responsibilities, their goal is to keep it as they found it, an exceptional example of a true Nebraska prairie for all to enjoy.

2017 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ANNUAL GRANT REPORT

2016 marks the eighth full year that the Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS) has administered the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Public Information and Education mini-grant program. The first grants that the Academy reviewed were submitted in the fourth quarter of 2009 and were awarded in 2010. Since then NAS has reviewed and awarded over $340,000 to numerous recipients all across the state.

In calendar year 2017 NAS received a total of 49 grant applications and a total request of $113,162. Over $48,550 has been awarded to date and the fourth quarter award is yet to be determined. Grant applications for the first quarter of 2018 will be accepted until January 5th, 2018.

This past year NAS received applications for numerous types of projects; recycling guides, garden greenhouses and garden projects, many different types of water quality and conservation projects, as well as habitat and environmental education and improvement projects. Grants were awarded to a few research projects and quite a number of grants were given to entities for conference or meeting support in order to bring in special speakers, publish educational materials, or provide activities to help attendees understand environmental concepts. Awards were granted to school groups, private foundations, individuals, and government entities such as NRDs, and city and county governments.

These projects all promise to improve our environment, increase education in environmental areas, and touch many of our Nebraska citizens in meaningful ways. Here are just a few examples of grants submitted in 2017.

16-08-1P Cedar Bluffs Community, Teaching the Fundamentals in an Environmental Setting
16-17-2P Keep Chadron Beautiful, Chadron Recycling Education
16-20-2P Omaha Children's Museum, Pirate and Mermaids: Adventure to Creature Cove
16-11-3P Keep Omaha Beautiful, Promoting and Diversifying World O! Water

One of the guidelines NAS reviewers use in evaluating grant applications is how many people are reached with the limited funds available and how easy it would be for other groups to use the same materials or process to reach an even wider audience. The groups mentioned above do an excellent job of making the best use of grant funds in reaching the widest audience.

The Nebraska Environmental Public Information and Education Mini-Grant Program awards mini-grants of up to $3,000 each, to support the presentation and dissemination of information and perspectives that will stimulate enhanced environmental stewardship in any category eligible for Nebraska Environmental Trust funding. These categories are habitat, surface and ground water, waste management, air quality, and soil management. The grant expands dialogue on important current conservation topics and provides information on emerging or highly useful conservation methods. All Nebraska individuals, private organizations, and public entities are eligible to apply for these funds.

First quarter 2018 applications are due January 5th, 2018. Grant forms and information can be found on our website, www.neacadsci.org. Click on NAS and then click on Grants and Scholarships.

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Facts and Financials

The Nebraska Environmental Trust...

.... is funded by the Nebraska Lottery. The Lottery has transferred more than $280 million to the Trust in the last 24 years.

... covers the cost of operations through interest earnings. The Trust has operated with overhead expenditures equaling less than 2.5 % of income since it was created.

... has completed 24 grant cycles and will announce the results of the 25th round of award recommendations in February 2018.

FY 16-17

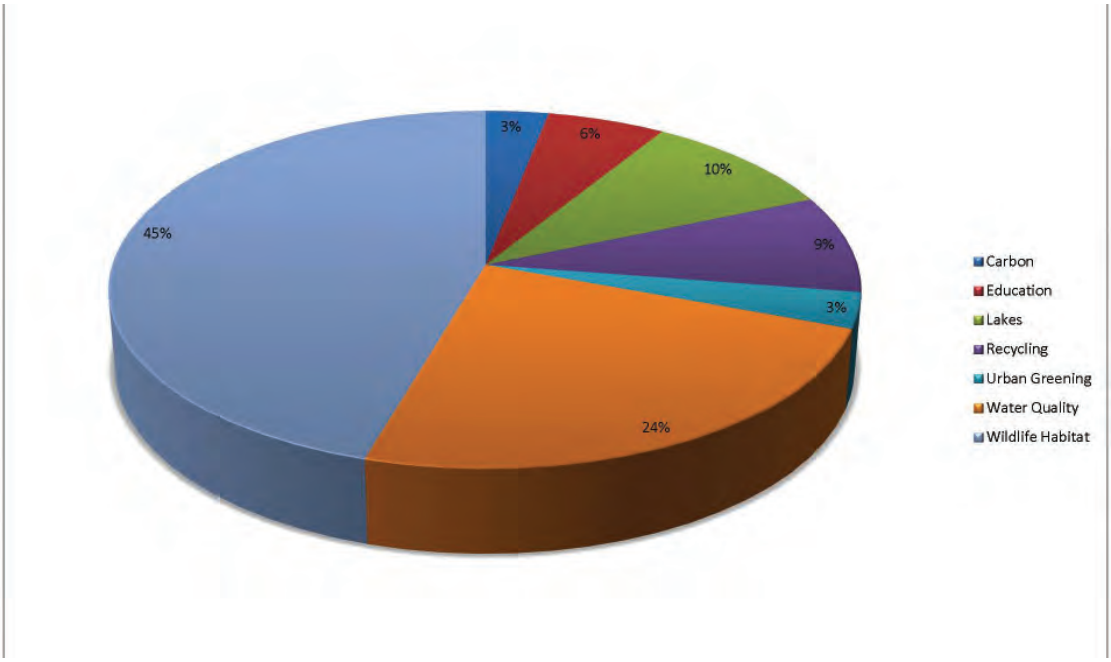
Income	
Interest income	$ 665,076.34
Lottery proceeds	$ 18,146,057.00

Expenses	
Operations	$ 450,551.84
Grant Awards	$ 16,680,000.00

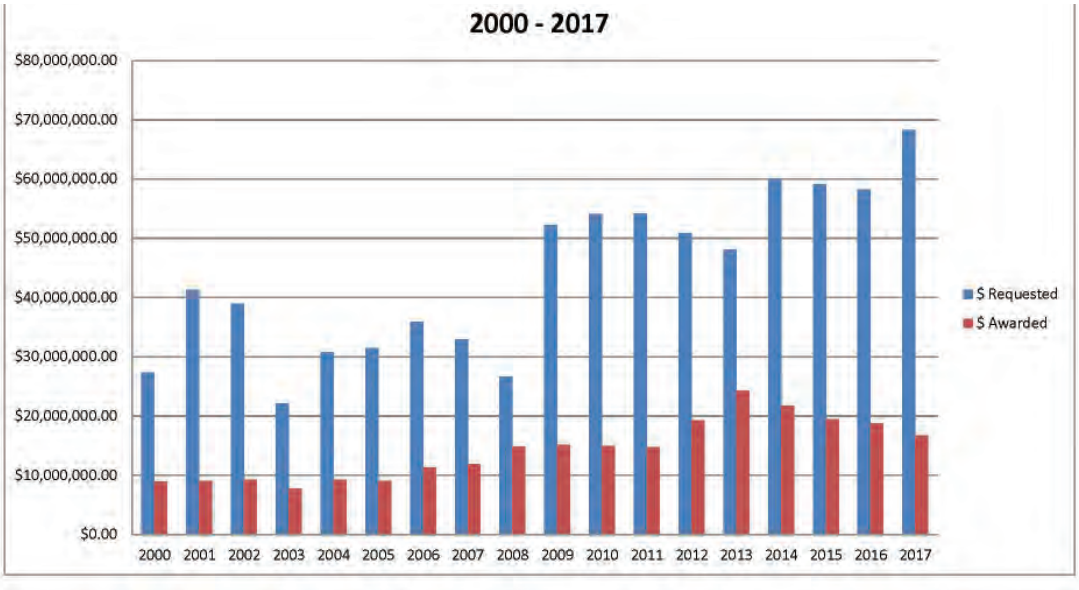
Average Operation expenses to income percentage from 1994-2017 = 2.09%

Distribution of Grants Through The Years

Grant Awards by Category 1994-2017



Amount Requested vs Awarded



2017 Grant Listing

The following is a listing of the 2017 grants awarded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Trust can provide grants over a three year period and the funding is noted accordingly. Due to space limitations, only the project sponsor and a brief description of the project have been outlined; to find additional project information, contact the Trust office at 402-471-5409 or visit our website at: www.environmentaltrust.org

Arthur Betterment Authority
Funds to develop landscape around the new community center. $10,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Boy Scouts of America, Longs Peak Council
Replanting trees at Chadron State Park. $15,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Cass County
Facilitate the use of natural gas vehicles (NGV) in the county, City of Plattsmouth and surrounding communities. $150,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation
Gathering irrigation water use and environmental data to support the irrigation water management. $67,260 (yr. 3 of 3)

Central Platte Natural Resources District
A groundwater flow model to simulate current and future groundwater and surface-water interactions within the Central Platte River basin (CPRB). $364,900 (yr. 2 of 2)

Trust funding to facilitate the mechanical tree clearing and prescribed burn technical assistance. $259,245 (yr. 3 of 3)

CLEAR Team
Community lake rehabilitation and enhancement projects. $255,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Community Investments Opportunities, LLC
Planning phase of an Environmental Improvement Demonstration Project. $37,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

Ducks Unlimited
To enhance and restore roosting and feeding habitat along the Loup River. $149,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Protection and restoration of the Melbeta Wetland where numerous landowners are working together on landscape level impact. $169,410 (yr. 1 of 1)

Restoring three parcels of land for crucial wetland functions along the North Platte River. $110,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Restoring 890 acres of wetlands on the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge (VNWR). $99,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Five Rivers Resource RC & D
Aid in controlling troublesome weed species. $6,579 (yr. 2 of 3)

Fontenelle Forest Association
Restoration of oak woodlands and prairie. $108,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Friends of Heron Haven
Two environmental education programs at the Heron Haven Wetland sanctuary. $2,700 (yr. 2 of 3)

Grand Island Area Clean Community System
Continued operation of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility for proper and safe disposal of HHW and recyclable products. $160,700 (yr. 2 of 3)

Green Recycling Enterprises
Recycling containers at public events throughout Nebraska. $142,800 (yr. 3 of 3)

Habitat for Humanity
Selectively dismantling a house through the process of deconstruction, Phase 2. $180,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Hastings, City of
Vadose Nitrate Study for the City of Hastings. $100,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Ian Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary
Integrate new core habitat and restore essential interconnectedness between grasslands and the Platte River through execution of Nebraska Natural Legacy Project strategies. $49,905 (yr. 2 of 2)

Joslyn Castle Institute for Susta6inable Communities
An annual series of public lectures, workshops, conferences and distributed information on applied practices with emphasis on Habitat, Surface and Groundwater, Waste Management, Air Quality and Soil Management. $125,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Keep Alliance Beautiful
Sustain local recycling operations, maintenance and staff wages. $83,755 (yr. 1 of 1)

Laurel Regional Recycling
Expand the "Hub and Spoke" system currently being used in and around Laurel, NE. $126,606 (yr. 1 of 1)

Lincoln Children's Zoo
Improved habitat of endangered species, efficient use of surface water and reducing greenhouse gases. $494,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Lincoln, City of
Equip and supply the new Lincoln-Lancaster County Hazardous Materials Collection Center. $100,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

The Eastern Saline Wetlands Project 2016 will conserve the most imperiled natural community in Nebraska. $265,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Lincoln, City of (Parks and Recreation)
Manage and enhance tallgrass prairie, riparian habitat and wetland areas. $305,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Little Blue Natural Resources District
Installation of two additional stream gages to monitor surface water flow and flood elevations. $15,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Restore wetlands and provide compatible solutions that will complement agriculture operations. $208,865 (yr. 2 of 3)

Live Well Omaha/City of Omaha
An expansion to increase the bike share system's ability to function as a transit extender and last-mile solution for bus commuters. $109,750 (yr. 2 of 3)

Loess Canyon Rangeland Alliance
Restoring ecological resiliency and rangeland productivity in the Loess Canyons. $180,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Loup Power District
Removal of a power line from the interior of a wetland. $14,132 (yr. 1 of 1)

Middle Republican NRD
To design and construct a network of dedicated observation wells for groundwater quality and quantity monitoring. $64,249 (yr. 1 of 2)

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Water Resources Cash Fund pursuant to legislative mandate of LB229, 2011. $3,300,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Enlarge and renovate the current Schramm Center to include a new additional classroom, new office space and support facilities for the aquarium. $975,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Funding for the design and construction of a new native freshwater mussel propagation building at the North Platte State Fish Hatchery. $97,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

An environmental educational program to learn about aquatic resources of hatching and raising trout. $34,940 (yr. 1 of 1)

Encouraging conservation and wildlife habitat on public and private lands through the WILD Nebraska program. $100,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

To provide the needed resources to a variety of wildlife species with special attention directed toward pollinators and the Monarch Butterfly. $50,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Active management of our State's oak woodlands ecosystem. $95,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

The integration of wise stewardship practices within watersheds and riparian zones, combined with site specific in-stream enhancements to benefit both landowners and sensitive aquatic communities. $100,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Constructing sediment retention structures, expanding and improving wetland complexes, creating off-channel wetlands, and improving wetland functions at Conestoga Wildlife Management Area while providing educational and interpretive opportunities. $300,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Implement 10,000 acres of intensive wetland management over the next three years. $75,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Ongoing conservation actions throughout the State by improving over 100,000 acres of habitat over the next three years. $260,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Implement 10,000 acres of intensive management of the Rainwater Basin that provides habitat for millions of waterfowl, shore birds and the Whooping crane. $75,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Enhance wetland and water quality by constructing sediment retention structures, expanding and improving wetland complexes. $300,000. (yr. 3 of 3)

Integration of wise stewardship practices within watersheds and riparian zones that provide long term benefits. $100,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Nebraska Academy of Sciences
Administration of the Public Information and Education grant to support the presentation and dissemination of information that will stimulate enhanced environmental partnership. $57,600 (yr. 1 of 2)

Nebraska Cattlemen
Capturing landowners' lives that are committed to the enhancement of land, water and wildlife to share their story. $10,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

Nebraska Community Energy Alliance
Introduction of battery storage as a component of solar and EVs. $158, 550 (yr. 1 of 3)

Nebraska Energy Office
To purchase ethanol blender pumps and where necessary new biofuel storage tanks. $500,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition
Cooperative program among local rancher working groups and Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) technicians that will provide Nebraska landowners with technical assistance and equipment to effectively monitor plant communities and soil resources on their lands. $100,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Grazing cover crops on highly erosive row crop acres that are part of routine row crop plant rotations. $99,066 (yr. 2 of 3)

Nebraska State Irrigation Association
For the continuation and growth of the Water Leaders Academy to aid in good water resources decision-making into the future. $61,665 (yr. 2 of 3)

Nebraska State Recycling Association
Recycling equipment grant to build recycling infrastructure across Nebraska by continuing the "smaller grants" program with NSRA. $292,800 (yr. 2 of 2)

Nebraska Weed Management Area
Nine Weed Management Areas (WMAs) that coordinate efforts and expertise against newly recognized invasive weed species. $54,500 (yr. 1 of 2)

North Platte Natural Resources District
Data Access and Monitoring Partnership (DAMP), a telemetry project to determine the viability of telemetry as both a water management and data gathering tool. $571,381 (yr. 2 of 3)

Northeast Nebraska RC & D
Dispose and recycle approximately 22,500 pounds of household hazardous waste and another 45,000 pounds of electronic waste (E-waste) over a 3-year period. $22,410 (yr. 3 of 3)

Northern Prairies Land Trust
Enhancement of grassland, primarily through implementation of invasive tree clearing, prescribed fire, planned grazing and reseeding prairie. $251,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Omaha, The Transit Authority of the City of Omaha
Upgrade the vehicles in the ongoing Dodge Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project to larger, 60 foot articulated buses powered by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). $300,000 (yr. 2 of 2)

Design and construct a bus rapid transit (BRT) project in Omaha, Nebraska. $200,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Pheasants Forever - Habitat Share
Partnership between Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission that works to enhance public benefit and use opportunities on state-owned land when manpower or equipment is limited. $126,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

Pheasants Forever
Establishing permanent wildlife habitat as landowners have averaged 435 wildlife shrubs and/or trees per corner. $300,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Grassland Improvement Program that has changed the culture of prescribed burning on private lands in the regions it has been offered. $150,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Platte River Basin Environments
Habitat restoration on private lands along the North Platte River. $121,000 (yr. 1 of 2)

Quail Forever
Prescribed burning on private lands in the state, forming prescribed burn associations and outreach events. $111,100 (yr. 1 of 1)

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
Integrate Rainwater Basin Wetlands into farm operations and maximize habitat on publicly owned wetlands. $350,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Develop infrastructure that will facilitate grazing on abandoned wetlands through out the Rainwater Basin landscape. $102,480 (yr. 3 of 3)

Rowe Sanctuary
Creating an outdoor wetland classroom in partnership with Kearney Public Schools. $50,518 (yr. 1 of 1)

Sandhills Task Force
Implement projects on private land to help address the problem of invasive species in grasslands. $275,000 (yr. 1 of 3)

To renovate one large Sandhill lake/wetland in southern Cherry County and install carp barriers to prevent reinfestation. $323,500 (yr. 1 of 1)

Assisting private landowners in the restoration of streams, wetlands, and lakes degraded by ditching, channelization, stream erosion, invasive aquatic species, and excessive grazing. $64,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Save Our Monarchs Foundation
Appropriate vegetation management techniques to create viable pollinator habitat in Nebraska. $38,947 (yr. 1 of 2)

The Nature Conservancy
Prescribed fire training exchanges at the Niobrara Valley Preserve (NVP). $68,962 (yr. 2 of 3)

Managing grasslands for plant diversity, pollinators and wildlife to improve habitat conditions. $41,907 (yr. 2 of 3)

The Nebraska Land Trust Incorporated
Conservation easement purchase in the Lower Platte Valley. $350,000 (yr. 1 of 1)

Pines and Buttes Preservation Project. $180,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Twin Valley Weed Management Area
Eastern Republican and Little Blue Riparian Improvement Project continues ongoing efforts to eradicate invasive species, control vegetation in stream channels, and improve riparian habitat along the Republican and Little Blue Rivers. $98,449 (yr. 1 of 1)

University of Nebraska, Board of Regents
Increase the number of new certified master naturalists by 90 over the next three years to support the established Master Naturalist Community. $68,560 (yr. 1 of 2)

To complete "Cherish Nebraska" project to redevelop the fourth floor of the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM)'s historic Morrill Hall. $591,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Tool to enable farmers to quantify and visualize the sustainability of their fields. $15,585 (yr. 2 of 3)

Project to enhance soil ecosystems services with cover crops. $83,039 (yr. 2 of 3)

"Know Your Well" is a program designed for assessing the quality of drinking water derived from rural domestic wells. $134,118 (yr. 2 of 3)

An integrated and on-line program using GIS mapping and database of quality assessed data from past and ongoing studies of Nebraska's vadose zone. $130,213 (yr. 2 of 3)

To develop and demonstrate a science based dietary intervention strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emission from cattle in ruminant production systems. $69,800 (yr. 3 of 3)

Project is intended to develop and deliver products and educational programming to Nebraska producers that will enable them to assess potential environmental and social risks on their operations. $50,000 (yr. 3 of 3)

Project to train students and work with them to set camera 'traps' on their family lands each spring and fall by surveying swift fox on private lands. $62,277 (yr. 3 of 3)

Upper Loup Natural Resources District
Funds to co-share the Upper Loup Budget Study, a hydrological equation that can be used to describe the flow of water in and out of the watershed. $27,250 (yr. 1 of 1)

Facilitate the collection of airborne thermal infrared data, purchase of additional instrumentation to measure and record groundwater-levels and temperature, and to oversee a study to enhance the understanding of spatial and temporal characteristics of groundwater/surface-water interaction in the Loup River basin. $110,000 (yr. 2 of 3)

Wachiska Audubon Society
Purchase of Fertig Prairie, a 45 acre native prairie located near Richland in Colfax County, NE. $53,250 (yr. 1 of 1)

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is funded by:

Meet The Staff of the Trust:

From left to right:
Pam Deines - Administrative Secretary, Marilyn Tabor - Grants Administrator, Sheila Johnson - Public Information Officer, Mark Brohman - Executive Director and Allison La Duke - Grants Assistant

The Nebraska Environmental Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

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The Historic Ferguson House
Office of the Nebraska Environmental Trust