



# The Nebraska Environmental Trust

*preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations*



# 2023 Annual Report

## The Nebraska Environmental Trust's Mission Statement

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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.

## FINANCIALS

### FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

<u>Income</u>	
Lottery Proceeds	<b>\$24,593,362</b>
Interest Income	<b>\$1,336,313</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Operations	<b>\$460,161</b>
Grant Awards	<b>\$11,347,203</b>



## 2023 GRANTS AWARDS

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) received 81 applications.

On November 3, 2022, NET Board approved the Grants Committee's eligibility recommendations, moving 47 projects to scoring.

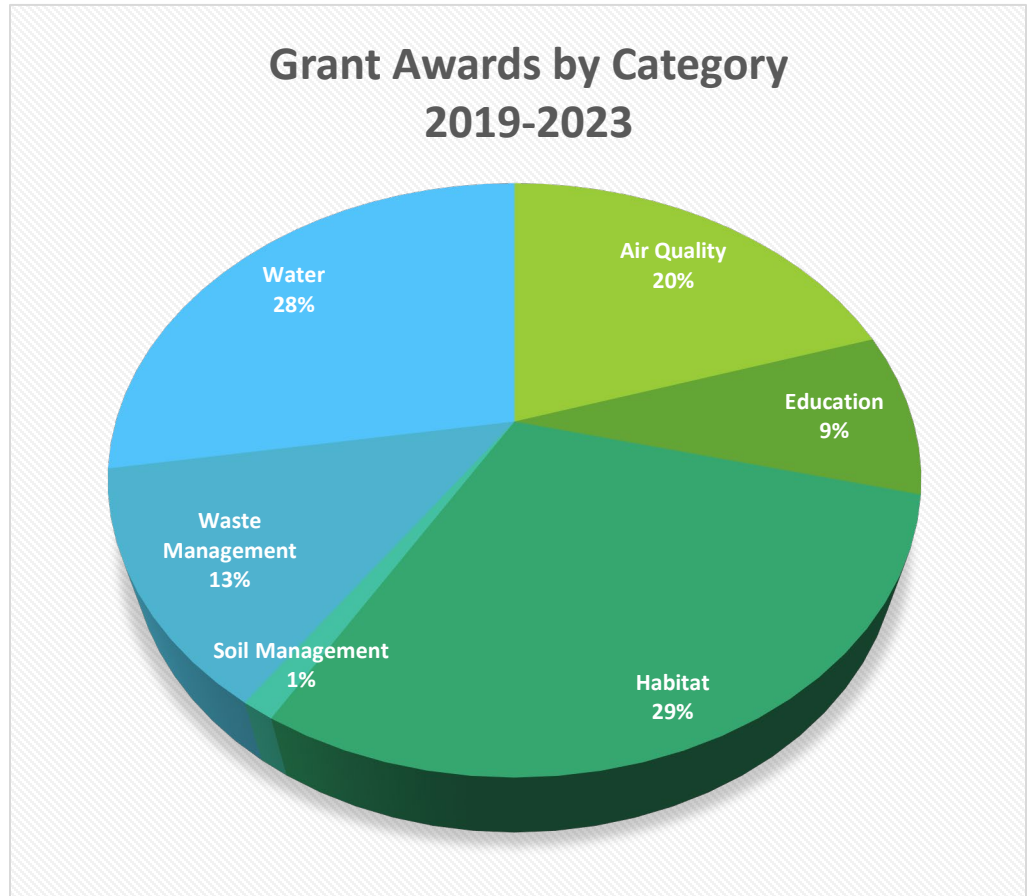
NET Grants Committee members independently scored the 47 eligible projects. On January 10, 2023, the NET Board awarded 23 projects for \$11,347,203.

*A full list of awarded projects can be found on page 3.*

## TRUST FUNDING CATEGORIES

**Any project or portion of a project funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust must achieve one or more of the following Trust categories:**

- **Habitat:** actions to preserve or restore native habitats and areas critical to at-risk, rare, or endangered species; other preservation actions for at-risk, rare, or endangered species including actions to understand ecosystem relationships which inform sound management; community habitat enhancement emphasizing native and ecologically appropriate plantings which provide food and shelter for wildlife; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.



- **Surface and Ground Water:** actions to preserve or restore lakes, waterways and ground water from degradation or depletion; actions to research, design or foster best management practices; actions to conserve water and/or efficiently and effectively manage water use; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.
- **Waste Management:** actions promoting and implementing source reduction, waste management or toxicity reduction; actions promoting and implementing the development of recycling markets; actions promoting and implementing reuse and other disposal diversion actions; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.
- **Air Quality:** actions promoting and implementing clean air strategies; including greenhouse gas reductions; actions to research, design or foster best management strategies; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.
- **Soil Management:** actions and strategies to preserve, conserve and restore soil health; actions to research, design or foster the implementation and management of these strategies; actions to inform and educate which contribute to the attainment of this category.

# AWARDED 2023 GRANT LIST

## City of Crawford

- Purchase 125 side-loader green dumpsters - \$150,000

## Ducks Unlimited

- North Platte River Valley Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Partnership III - \$170,000

## Habitat for Humanity of Omaha

- 2022 HFHO Deconstruction Project – \$500,000

## Kearney County and Lower Platte NE Pheasants Forever Chapters

- No-Till Drills Kearney Co and Lower Platte Pheasants Forever Chapters - \$70,000

## Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

- Shell Creek Enhancement Plan: Phase III - \$300,000

## Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District

- LPCW Restoration Phase 5 - \$1,641,300

## Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

- Rainwater Basin Wetland Management - \$300,000
- WILD Nebraska - \$200,000
- Standing Bear Reservoir Habitat and Water Quality Enhancement Project - \$500,000

## Nebraska Public Power District

- ME Energy Ethanol Powered Electric Vehicle Fast Charger - \$88,948

## North Platte Natural Resources District

- Grassland and Greenspace Reclamation Seeder - \$12,000
- High Plains Nutrient Management - \$50,000

## Omaha Public Power District

- OPPD/Douglas County: SOLUS (Solar on Landfills Utility Scale) - \$3,460,000

## People's City Mission

- Help Center baler upgrade - \$109,950

## Pheasants Forever, Inc.

- Pathway For Wildlife, Ranchers, Farmers, and Communities - \$834,000

## Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Inc.

- Crane Trust Habitat Maintenance - \$69,000

## Quail Forever

- Mobile Prescribed Burn Unit, Education Outreach, and Rural Fire Departments - \$247,800

## Sandhills Task Force

- Sandhills Stewardship and Conservation Project - \$395,000

## Southwest Weed Management

- Western Republican River Basin Riparian Habitat Project - \$147,140

## The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

- Maximizing HazToGo – Lincoln’s Hazardous Waste Center Through Material Reuse - \$1,345,000

## The Nature Conservancy

- Blue River Water Quality Project - \$270,525

## Twin Valley Weed Management Area

- Eastern Republican and Little Blue Watershed Improvement Project - \$205,040

## Village of Lindsay

- Lindsay Community Pond Restoration Project - \$281,500

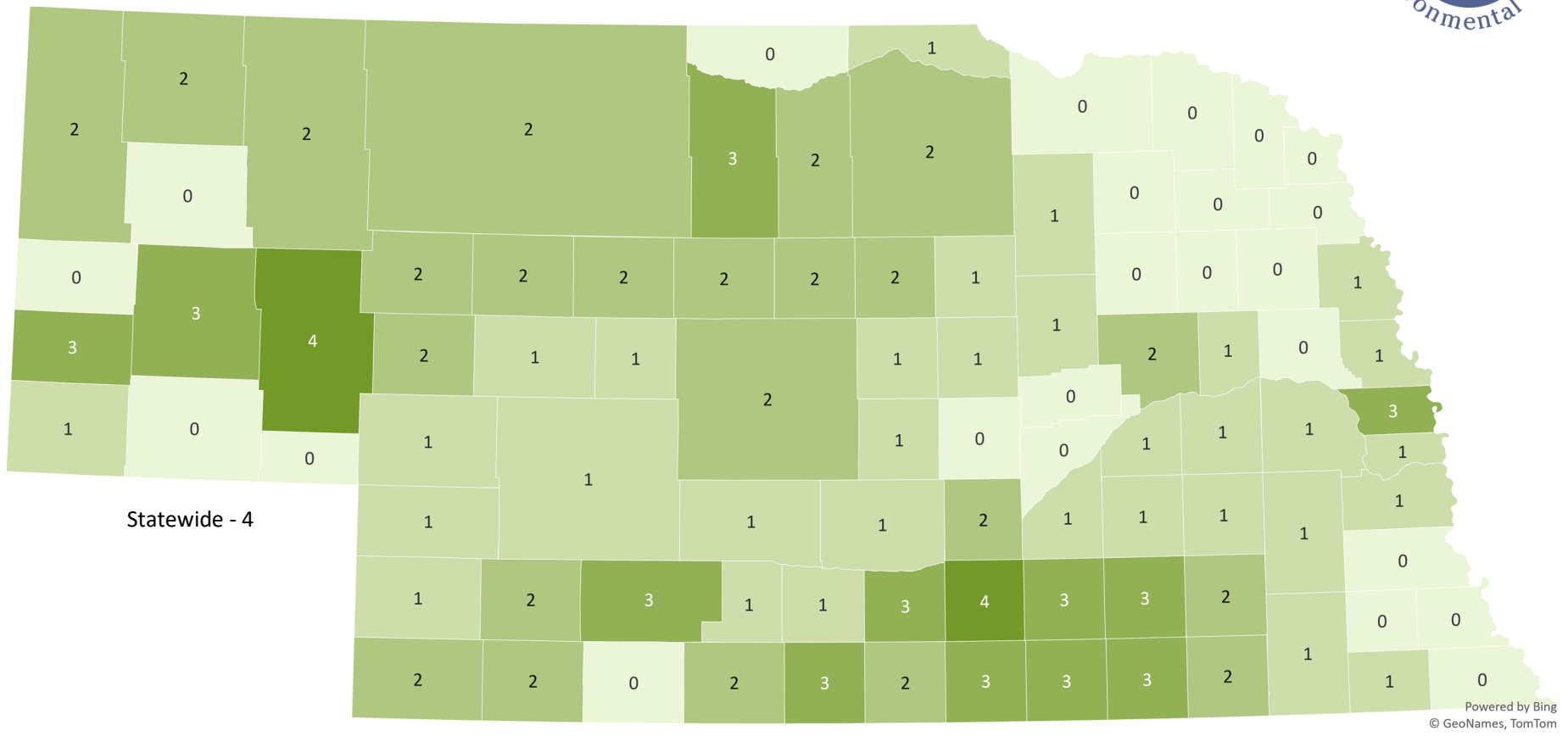


## DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDED PROJECTS

The following is a map of the number of projects located in each county. Please note, a single project can list multiple counties for their project's location.



### Number of Awarded Projects Located in Each County



## Title 137 Rules and Regulations Amendments

The Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) established the Trust 22 Committee and requested assistance from the Nebraska Center of Operational Excellence with NET's process improvements. As a result of those efforts, at least twelve items were identified in the Title 137 Rules and Regulations for possible revisions.

As a result of the efforts of the Trust 22 Committee the NET Board created the Title 137 Committee, on May 19, 2022. Four listening sessions were held to receive public comments on potential updates to Title 137. These sessions were held on October 25, 2022, in Congressional District 1, November 9, 2022, in District 2, November 15, 2022, in District 3, and a fourth session was held digitally on December 5, 2022.

Written and listening session comments were provided to the Title 137 Committee. The Committee met on six different occasions, between January and March of 2023, to develop potential changes to Title 137.

Following these meetings, the proposed amendments were submitted to the Governor's Policy and Research, Secretary of State, and Executive Board of the Legislative Committee, on April 3, 2023. On May 4, 2023, a public hearing was held. Following the public hearing, the NET Board adopted the proposed amendments.

On June 30, 2023, the Attorney General's Office provided their review and recommendation for a non-significant amendment. The NET Board adopted this revision at a special meeting, on July 11, 2023. The Attorney General's Office approved the proposed regulations on July 14, 2023, and submitted them to the Governor's Office for final consideration.

On August 7, 2023, Nebraska's Governor, Jim Pillen, approved the amendments to Title 137. On August 15, 2023, the NET grant cycle opened for applications under the new rules and regulations.

