

Conservation Tree Sales

Over 3.8 million trees have been sold in the Central Platte NRD since 1973. Statewide, Nebraska’s 23 NRDs have sold 100 million seedlings since 1972. The NRDs will commemorate this accomplishment by planting a tree at the Nebraska State Capitol on Friday, Sept. 2nd.

As seen in the chart to the right, the NRD sold over 100,000 tree and shrub seedlings the first year and has sold an average of 79,000 annually. Sales were hampered some years because of drought and expanded crop production.

In 1991, CPNRD began selling fabric weed barrier and has sold over 600 miles to help protect seedlings from weed and grass encroachment. The fabric also helps keep moisture in the soil which aids in better seedling survival.

Tree orders for spring 2023 planting will start on November 1st and will continue through April 1st. Watch for the November newsletter for species to be sold and pricing or visit [cpnrd.org/costshare/conservation tree program](http://cpnrd.org/costshare/conservation-tree-program)

Gift of Trees Partnership

In honor of Nebraska NRDs 50th Anniversary and 150 Years of Arbor Day, the Central Platte NRD and the Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce are partnering to gift a tree to counties throughout the District. As part of this *Gift of Trees Program*, the NRD and partners will plant the following five trees on Friday, October 21st:

- **Dawson County:** Sterling Linden at Lexington City Hall
- **Buffalo County:** Bur Oak at Cottonmill Park in Kearney
- **Hall County:** Matador Maples at Stolley Park and the CPNRD Office in Grand Island
- **Merrick County:** Bur Oak at Merrick County Courthouse in Central City

At each tree planting, representatives from the Nebraska City Tourism, Grimm Gardens, and Central Platte NRD will present a history of Arbor Day, the benefits of planting trees, tree maintenance tips and the importance of the NRD system and its history.

The public is invited to attend these plantings. Watch for information on Central Platte NRD’s Facebook and Twitter pages and your local newspaper for details on the plantings.

50th Anniversary Recap

Thank you for helping celebrate the NRD’s 50th Anniversary! Over 175 people attended CPNRD’s open house in July. Grand Island’s Mayor Roger Steele kicked off the event with a proclamation declaring the week of July 11th as “NRD Week” to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts. Attendees visited booths featuring the NRD’s progress in:

- **Water Management** GIS Irrigation Imagery, Flood Control, Irrigation and Domestic Nitrate Sampling, Groundwater Management Plans
- **Education** Schematic Design of proposed Education Center/Office
- **Soil Moisture Monitoring** Monitoring equipment used over the years
- **Prescribed Fire** NRD’s prescribed fire trucks and gear
- **Trees** NRD tree cooler, planting machine, weed barrier, fabric installation equipment
- **Cost-Share** Programs available through CPNRD and NSWCP

Visit cpnrd.org/news for photos and additional details.

TREES SOLD - CPNRD	
1973	106,355
1974	93,660
1975	79,690
1976	66,250
1977	86,548
1978	104,675
1979	122,925
1980	148,700
1981	170,075
1982	135,150
1983	111,050
1984	85,200
1985	89,300
1986	65,850
1987	73,150
1988	91,550
1999	83,700
2000	125,000
2001	104,900
2002	117,100
2003	77,975
2004	70,775
2005	80,775
2006	61,125
2007	44,950
2008	57,225
2009	68,703
2010	57,175
2011	54,275
2012	48,025
2013	37,716
2014	54,175
2015	46,575
2016	45,796
2017	35,350
2018	41,225
2019	29,775
2020	20,475
2021	30,825
2022	40,866
TOTAL	3,852,159

Important Dates

* January 1	Nitrogen Certification test due
* February 16	CPNRD Water Programs Update - Central City
* March 31	Crop Report due for Groundwater Management Program
* April 15	CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial College Scholarship applications due
* June 1	Chemigation applications due
* Sept 1- March 1	Transfer applications for irrigated acres accepted
* September 15	Chemigation reinspections must be completed
* November 10	Groundwater Management Plan - Public Information Meeting, Central City
* November 15	Groundwater Management Plan - Public Information Meeting, Kearney
* Nov 1 - April 1	Tree and weed barrier orders accepted

Follow Central Platte NRD on:



Board of Directors

Subdistrict

At-Large	Keith Ostermeier, Grand Island (Treasurer)	
1	Jay Richeson, Gothenburg	Brian Keiser, Gothenburg
2	Dwayne Margritz, Lexington	Tom Downey, Lexington
3	Marvion Reichert, Elm Creek (Secretary)	Steve Sheen, Kearney
4	Lon Bohn, Gibbon	Ryan Kegley, Kearney
5	Deb VanMatre, Gibbon	Jim Bendfeldt, Kearney
6	Jerry Milner, Grand Island	Mick Reynolds, Wood River (Chairman)
7	Jerry Wiese, Grand Island (Vice-Chairman)	Ed Stoltenberg, Cairo
8	LeRoy Arends, Grand Island	Alicia Haussler, Grand Island
9	Ed Kyes, Central City	Doug Reeves, Central City
10	Chuck Maser, Grand Island	Barry Obermiller, Grand Island

Staff

General Manager: Lyndon Vogt	Resources Conservationist: Bill Hiatt
Assistant Manager: Jesse Mintken	Resources Conservationist: Shane Max
Administrative Assistant: Kelly Cole	Secretary/CPNRD: Deb Jarzynka
Communications Assistant: Brody Vorderstrasse	Secretary/NRCS-Grand Island: Colleen Buettner
Cozad Ditch Manager: Michael Schmeeckle	Secretary/NRCS-Central City: Kyla Friedrichsen
Cozad Ditch Rider: Jake Laird	Secretary/NRCS-Lexington: Samantha Keith
Easement Habitat Specialist: Krystal Church	Secretary/NRCS-Kearney: Shelly Lippincott
GIS Coordinator: Angela Warner	Secretary/Thirty Mile Irrigation District: Marci Ostergard
GIS Image Analyst: Luke Zakrzewski	Thirty Mile Irrigation District Manager: Jim Harris
Hydrologist: Brandi Flyr	Thirty Mile Irrigation District Technician: Mike Ostergard
Information/Education Specialist: Marcia Lee	UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator: Dean Krull
Precision Conservation Specialist: Darren Cudaback	Water Quality Specialist: Tricia Dudley
Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist: Nelson Winkel	Water Resources Specialist: Dan Clement
Projects Assistant: Tom Backer	Water Resources Technician: Courtney Widup
Range Management Specialist: David Carr	

Nebraska's NRDs: Protecting Lives | Protecting Property | Protecting Your Future



IN PERSPECTIVE

Central Platte NRD Newsletter

Volume 27 No. 1
September 2022

215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island NE (308) 385-6282 cpnrd.org

Reverse Osmosis Funding Available

Funding is available for reverse osmosis and rural drinking water projects in Nebraska for communities where drinking water test levels are above 10 parts per million (ppm) of nitrate. The funds are available through the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The State of Nebraska was allocated \$1.04 billion of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Who is Eligible:

- **Villages & Cities** (populations of 5,000 or below) \$2,800,000 is allocated for community water systems supplying drinking water to at least four communities from a surface water source with the objective to convert to ground water sources by developing drinking water infrastructure such as a new wellfield, horizontal collector wells, etc.

Application period for Public Water Systems closes September 30, 2022.

- **Property Owners of Private Wells** \$1,200,000 is allocated for rehabilitation of private wells, testing to identify contaminants in wells, treatment activities and remediation strategies that address contamination including reverse osmosis systems.

Application period opens January 1, 2023 and closes June 30, 2024 for property owners.

To learn more about NDEE Guidance for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Projects visit: <http://dee.ne.gov>



Also In This Issue

- Urban Forestry for Cities/Villages
- Soil & Water Samples
- Soil Samplers for Purchase
- Staff Spotlight: Ty Swanson
- Burning to Control Cedars
- Soil Carbon Kick-Off Event
- Tree Sales, Gift of Trees Partnership
- 50th Anniversary Recap

Transferring Irrigated Acres

Transfer requests for the 2023 growing season will be accepted through March 1, 2023. If you are planning to irrigate acres that are not certified with Central Platte NRD, you must offset the new acres by applying for and completing a transfer request prior to the new acres being irrigated. Producers who fail to obtain an approved transfer from the NRD are subject to penalties.

Purchasing New Land? If you plan to purchase new land be sure to check the certified irrigated acres of the property before making any buying decisions.

Visit CPNRD’s Interactive Map at: cpnrd.gisworkshop.com

Urban Forestry Grant for Cities and Villages

Cities and villages within the Central Platte NRD are eligible for a 50% matching grant on trees and shrubs through the CPNRD’s Urban Forestry Program. A maximum of \$5,000 in matching funds over a period of either one, two or three consecutive years is provided through the grant. Past projects funded include the City of Gothenburg, Kenwood Elementary School and Kearney Public Schools.

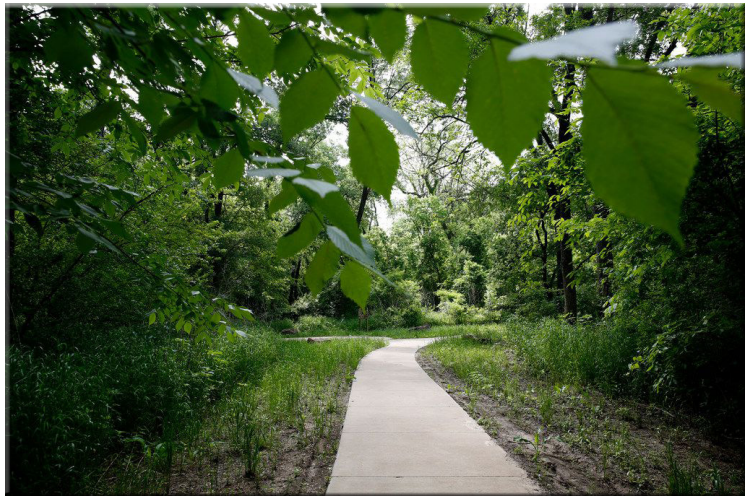
Urban forests are vital ecosystems that provide benefits to people and wildlife. They help to filter air and water, control storm water, conserve energy, and provide animal habitat and shade. Urban forests also add beauty, form, and structure to urban landscaping.

The NRD recommends that cities and villages utilize the technical expertise of a nursery, District forester, city arborist etc. in developing a tree plan. Grants are reviewed and funded on a first come, first served basis.

To learn more contact Kelly Cole (308) 385-6282 or visit cpnrd.org/costshare

Did You Know?

The largest urban forest in the United States is the Great Trinity Forest located on the outskirts of the heavily urbanized area of southern Dallas, Texas. The 6,000-acre Great Trinity Forest overshadows New York’s 840 acre Central Park.



*Texas Buckeye Trail in the Great Trinity Forest
(Photo by Rose Baca / Dallas Morning Staff Photographer)*



Cover Considerations with Later Harvest

With many producers incorporating cover crops as their normal practice, planting dates for this year’s cover may need to be altered. For those of you who experienced early storms and were forced to replant corn and soybeans, harvesting dates more than likely will be pushed back this year.

If you are planning to harvest later, consider changing to a species of cover crop that has the ability to emerge and survive at much colder temperatures.

Central Platte NRD provides 50% cost share on cover crops for the actual cost of seed up to \$500 to manage soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests, diseases, biodiversity and wildlife in agro ecosystems.

*For questions on specific species contact Dean Krull, Demo Projects Coordinator (402) 469-0155 or dkrull1@unl.edu
To learn about options and payments available, contact Kelly Cole (308) 385-6282 or cole@cpnrd.org*

Water and Soil Samples Help Analyze Water Quality

Water quality is important in our daily lives and is one of the primary management responsibilities the Legislature gave to Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts in 1972. In many parts of the state, including Central Platte NRD, nitrate levels are testing above the recommended drinking water standard of 10 parts per million (ppm). In order to monitor and analyze nitrate levels within the District, producers in Phases II and III of CPNRD’s Groundwater Quality Management Program are required to submit an annual crop report along with water and soil samples for corn, grain sorghum and potatoes. The form also requests data on expected yields, credits for past legume crop and manure or sludge. To help producers determine how much fertilizer to apply to their individual fields, UNL’s recommended nitrogen application rate appears as the data is entered.

Water Samples Groundwater samples for nitrates are required to be taken on each field.

Soil Samples Deep soil samples for residual nitrogen (NO3-N) are required to be taken on each field or 80-acre tract. The composite sample tested must consist of a mixture from no less than one three-foot probe every five acres.

Water sample bottles and soil sample bags are available to pick up in our Grand Island office or from local agronomists, crop consultants and labs. Samples are required in high nitrate areas to provide the NRD with producer-driven data to analyze and refine water quality management decisions. Producers who do not submit the report forms are in violation of the CPNRD Rules and Regulations and are issued Cease and Desist orders. Potential penalties include fines ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000 per violation per day and/or loss of irrigated acres, ineligibility for NRD cost-share and restriction from transferring irrigated acres. Violations are enforced prior to the irrigation season. Cease and Desist Orders are mailed to producers who fail to complete and submit forms by the March 31st deadline.

Soil Samplers For Purchase

If you prefer to take your own soil samples, the NRD has the following samplers for purchase in our office. Both samplers have handles that fit other JMC sampling tubes.

- **JMC Soil Collapsible Sampler** - Collapsible handgrip, two 13” rod extensions and one 12” dry sampling tube **\$183.72 + tax**
- **JMC Backsaver Sampler** - System comes with backsaver handle, leather belt pouch with special cleaner and one 12” dry sampling tube. Fitted with 18” sampling tube and allows soil samples down to 46”. Handgrip stays at waist level throughout sampling process. **\$565.44 + tax**

To learn more about water and soil sampling, or JMC soil samplers, contact Tricia Dudley at (308) 385-6282 or visit www.jmcsoil.com



*Left: Collapsible Sampler
Right: Backsaver Sampler*



Staff Spotlight - Ty Swanson

Ty Swanson of Wood River was selected to intern with the NRD this summer. Swanson has an Associate degree in agriculture and will be attending Concordia University this fall to pursue his bachelor’s degree in agricultural sciences.

Swanson assisted in irrigation well sampling, project maintenance, grassland management and the Nebraska Children’s Groundwater Festival. He said he enjoyed working with NRD staff this summer and learning about all the things the NRD is responsible for.

Ty plans to use his education in farming when he graduates.

Considering Burning to Control Cedars?

Now is the time to begin prepping your fire breaks. Nelson Winkel, CPNRD’s new Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist, says you shouldn’t wait to begin your fire prep until it’s time to burn. Mowing fire breaks now can help the grass break down faster and pack over the winter months when baling is not an option.

NRCS guidelines require a 20’ minimum width fire break. A good rule of thumb is to mow the breaks wide enough to allow two pickups to drive next to each other comfortably. This will allow enough reaction time for the prescribed fire crew to spot and intercept a creeping fire before it gets outside your burn.

Mowing now will also give you time to reflect on additional prep you’ll need to do before spring. Getting trees cut around the burn unit will give them some time to dry out before spring. Pile or scatter them well inside of the unit to keep the embers from casting outside of the burn unit or place them next to trees you want to burn. Cut cedar trees can also be placed at the bottom of infested canyons to stimulate an intense uphill run.

The CPNRD offers landowners cost share assistance for fire through grazing deferment, site prep, and burning. We also offer site visits and can help discuss the process of using controlled fire on your land.

*To learn about options and payments available, contact Kelly Cole (308) 385-6282 or cole@cpnrd.org
To discuss planning a prescribed burn for your property, contact Nelson Winkel or Bill Hiatt (308) 385-6282.*



Soil Carbon Kick-Off Event

Partners for the Nebraska Soil Carbon Project visited Grand Island in August to learn more about the cost project. Representatives from The Nature Conservancy, Ecosystem Services Market Consortium, Cargill, Target, McDonald’s, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Central Platte NRD and Upper Big Blue NRD visited cooperaters who are enrolled in the new program.

The project provides greater financial incentives to producers to adopt soil health practices including cover crops, no-till and diverse crop rotations that store carbon in the soil. The stored carbon is utilized by private companies to help reach their goals to lower the carbon footprint of the beef they sell. Depending on the practices implemented, producers earn up to \$45/acre each year.

To learn about payments available, contact Courtney Widup (308) 385-6282 or widup@cpnrd.org