

Project 10-163 NE Statewide Arboretum Waterwise Project

Project Legend:

The Waterwise Landscape Initiative was a multi-partner, statewide initiative that made Nebraska's green spaces more sustainable through water-wise stewardship practices. This program advanced NET's priority of Surface and Groundwater by demonstrating and promoting horticultural practices that conserve water, reduce stormwater runoff and keep lawn and landscape pollutants out of local water supplies. The initiative also advanced NET's priority of Habitat by greatly expanding the use of native and ecologically appropriate plantings that provide food and shelter for community wildlife.

Proposal Context: Statewide

Duration: The grant was awarded in 2010 and work began in June 2010. The grant ended December 31, 2014.

Cost: Total Project Value: \$931,506.39 (Includes NET funds and in-kind match. \$400,000 went to communities to implement demonstration projects. NSA assisted with project development, design, plant procurement, education, and installation. Projects were required to have a 1:1 match, cash and in-kind.

NET Funding Objective: Surface and Groundwater

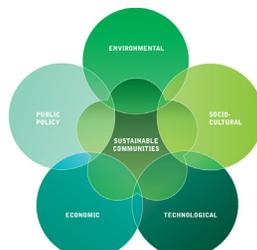
Process:

Over 30 Sustainable Landscape Workshops, webinars and presentations were held across the state during the last four years including:

- Sustainable Landscape Maintenance Workshop held in Lincoln (2012).
- Post-Construction Storm water Conferences—A collaboration between NSA, City of Lincoln, UNL extension, Lower Platte South NRD and Nebraska Floodplain Managers Association. Over 70 participants in the storm water design professions and municipalities met for a one-day intensive conference to share projects, ideas, and research to make healthier communities. These event happened on UNL's campus in 2012 and 2013.
- Green Infrastructure Tour—Waterwise Projects were featured on UNL's Omaha and Lincoln Green Infrastructure tours 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. This was an opportunity to share lessons learned with colleagues.
- Planting Parties—Many waterwise projects were installed by volunteers. This gave community ownership and provided public outreach and education. Examples include: Scottsbluff projects, Grand Island Bioretention Garden, Pioneers Park Rain Garden, MCC Bio Retention Garden, North Platte Waterwise Projects and UNL Rain Chain. Communities reached out to local media. Over 500 people participated in these plantings.
- Rain Garden Workshops—Several hands-on workshops that featured indoor and outdoor components in how to plan and construct a rain garden were given across the state.

Domains: This project well represents the Environmental domain because of the conservation aspects of its goals. This project falls under the Technological domain because of the series of workshops and online webinars and presentations developed. The Socio-Cultural domain is also represented because of the water-wise stewardship practices and social/ community workshops and events that are the focus of this project.

Transferability: This project has already been implemented in many communities throughout Nebraska and could potentially be implemented across the country.



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