

AGENDA
February 11, 2025

1. Please silence all cell phones
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer
3. Roll call
4. Inform public of the posting of the open meeting laws
5. The meeting notice was published in the Columbus Telegram on February 4th, 2025 and the Humphrey Democrat on February 5th, 2025.
6. Approve the agenda as written
7. Approve the minutes for January 28th as written
8. **Discussion and possible action on the following:**
9. Platte County Extension Office - Sheila Hoppe
 - 9.a. Consideration of Nebraska 4-H Month Proclamation
 - 9.b. Presentation of Nebraska Extension 2024 annual report of accomplishments and impacts.
10. Columbus Area Convention & Visitors Bureau - Theresa Grape
 - 10.a. Consideration of Visitors Bureau Improvement Fund Requests for the Loup River Bridge Trail
11. Assessor - Kari Urkoski
 - 11.a. Consideration of acceptance and approval of Interlocal Agreements between the Village of Tarnov and Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District, as well as the Village of Cornlea and the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District.
12. Emergency Management & IT - Tim Hofbauer
 - 12.a. Consideration of approval of an MOU with Platte Valley Conservation Group and authorize the Platte County Board Chair to sign the agreement
 - 12.b. Consideration of approval of a quote from Applied Connective for fiber cable installation and network consolidation
13. Highway Department
 - 13.a. Consideration of approval for the County to enter into a program agreement with the Nebraska Department of Transportation for the BIP - Loup Canal Bridges Federal Grant

- 13.b. Consideration of sale of a portion of property at 350th St West of 325th Ave
- 13.c. Consideration of approval to accept bid for a Motor Grader purchase
- 13.d. Consideration of Utility Permits for Midstates Data - Fiber Optic - G 3231, MF 36 3/4, <M 61. MO 136, N 67, MO 127, MO 112, MO 1211, MO 211
- 13.e. Road report
14. Treasurer - Jenny Reppert
 - 14.a. Consideration of approval to correct receipt 25474
15. Consideration of payment for Granville Cemetery Mowing
16. Consideration of County Courthouse Basement Surplus
17. Consideration of Drug Court Computers
18. Committee Reports
19. Motion to accept, file, and credit the proper accounts on correspondence: Charter Communications - Channel Change Notice, State of NE, DEE-Notified County of Application Received - Modified Construction & Operating Permit for Lehr Inc. - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation, Loup Valley Pork GDU Animal Feeding Operation, Issued Permit Transfer - Phased Construction and Operating Permit for Loup Valley Pork GDU Animal Feeding Operations, Issued Permit - Modified Construction and Operating for Lyle Herchenbach Livestock Animal Feeding Operation, City of Columbus - Notices of Hearings for Redevelopment Project, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice - The Platte County Detention Center and Platte County Courthouse Jail were found to be in full compliance with the Nebraska Minimum Jail Standards at the time the annual inspection was conducted, Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District - Public Entity Funding, County Treasurer Receipts \$951,010.67
20. Motion to approve claims
21. Public Comments
22. Motion to Adjourn to February 25th at 9:10 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting subject to change, is kept continuously current and is available for

public inspection at the office of the County Clerk in the Platte County Courthouse, Columbus, Nebraska.

NEBRASKA 4-H MONTH Declaration

WHEREAS, 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, reaching 1 in 3 age-eligible youth across Nebraska in all 93 counties; and

WHEREAS, 4-H strives to empower young people with skills to lead for a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, 4-H experiences grow leaders with life skills including confidence, independence, resilience, and compassion;

WHEREAS, Nebraska 4-H reaches youth through club, camp, afterschool, school enrichment, and special interest programs; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska 4-H youth collaborate with over 12,000 caring adult mentors who lead hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and citizenship;

WHEREAS, **Nebraska 4-H Month** showcases the incredible ways that 4-H inspires kids to do and highlights the remarkable 4-H youth in **Nebraska, including Platte County**, who work each day to make a positive impact on those around them; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Kim Kwapnioski**, do hereby proclaim **the month of February** as **Nebraska 4-H Month** throughout **Platte County** and encourage all of our citizens to recognize 4-H professionals for the significant impact they have made and continue to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

Kim Kwapnioski, Chair
Platte County Board of Supervisors

Date



January 2025

Kim Kwapnioski, Chairperson
Platte County Board of Commissioners/Supervisors
2610 14th Street
Columbus, NE 68601

Dear Supervisor Kwapnioski:

Nebraska Extension is pleased to continue a strong tradition of making a difference in the lives of individuals, families, businesses and communities in Platte County! Our programs address issues that Nebraskans have identified as being important to them.

Enclosed you will find local Extension programming and financial summaries for 2024. Specific items include 1) Final of 2023-24 budget expenditures, 2) Current fiscal year 2024-25 budget, 3) County Impact Report, and 4) Yearly program summary for each local and regional educator and assistants/associates.

Thank you for continuing to invest in Nebraska Extension as a local collaborative partner. We strive to be great stewards of resources and work hard every day to demonstrate a strong return on your investment. As you know, Extension educators and assistants live, work and engage with people in your local and area communities. We look forward to making a difference in the lives of Nebraskans together with you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Christensen".

Brad Christensen
2024 President
Platte County Extension Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Feehan".

Kelly Feehan
Co-Lead Educator
Nebraska Extension in Platte County

Enclosure

Platte County Impact At-A-Glance



Platte.unl.edu



67% of local youth empowered and our community strengthened through 4-H programs.

Platte County 4-H reached 4,741 of 7028 age eligible youth through partnerships with 19 schools. Programs like school enrichment, clubs, workshops, and community events equip youth with critical life skills while fostering creativity and leadership. Rylee Seim, Regional Recruitment Coordinator at the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, shares: "Our partnership with Nebraska Extension provides local students with valuable opportunities for leadership, career readiness, and community involvement, building a stronger future for Platte County." Sheila Sloup, 3rd-grade teacher at Centennial Elementary, adds: "The 4-H programming gives our students a fun way to incorporate STEM activities into the science standards. The kids absolutely love it!" Thanks to volunteers and partners, Platte County 4-H empowers young people, ensuring a vibrant, connected community for years to come.

Programs At-A-Glance: Three growers participated in a new initiative where soil moisture sensors were installed in their field to support irrigation decisions. One grower stated "My NRD called and said among all my neighbors, I was the one who applied the least total irrigation amount and my yield was not affected"

288

Stakeholders certified at pesticide /chemigation training

916

NDE approved in-service hours were awarded to Platte County childcare providers

797

Consumers received information on sustainable greenspace management and pest control

Big 3 STRENGTHEN NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

INSPIRE NEBRASKANS & THEIR COMMUNITIES

ENHANCE THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF ALL NEBRASKANS

**Kelly Feehan****Communities Need Climate Resilient Trees**

Extension

Nebraska Extension-Engagement Zone 07

Issue

Community forests are at risk. Weather extremes, storms, and invasive pests have damaged or killed many trees. The cost to human life, property, liability, and loss of ecosystem services is high. While any tree can sustain storm damage, poor species selection along with incorrect planting and management increases a tree's failure potential. Poor practices are often used by tree owners and public entities due to a lack of knowledge. In the face of climate change, better practices are needed.

Public Value

Trees provide many environmental, economic and social benefits for communities. They mitigate heat islands, slow stormwater runoff, increase biodiversity, improve business economics, and provide nature connections to enhance mental well-being and human health. When sustainably selected, planted and managed, trees are community assets much less likely to become liabilities.

Action

I've held an annual 3-hour Tree Care Professionals Update focused on best practices and worker safety for over 20 years. For 39 years, a 6-hour ProHort Landscape Update has been held with tree care topics. For tree owners, "If Only Trees Could Talk, What Mistakes Would They Tell us we Make" is provided. Tree care is a staple topic taught at Extension Master Gardener training. I write numerous newspaper articles, radio PSAs, and social media posts to extend best tree care information, prompting requests for additional information. For youth education, Tree ID has been taught for 43 years.

Results/Outputs

The Columbus Tree Care Update is attended annually by an average of 26 greenspace professionals with 40 attending Columbus ProHort Update. ProHort is now held statewide in up to 7 locations. In 2024, I taught "If Only Trees Could Talk....." 3 times reaching 75. An average of 80 Master Gardeners participate in training zooms. In 2024, 172 youth learned how to identify trees with hands-on exploration.

Impact

On 2024 pro-update evaluations, 100% increased safety practices; 87% now use best tree care practices; 73% planted better adapted trees; 67% use mulch at correct depth; and 60% positively ID plant problems before spraying. When asked for examples of significant changes, responses were: Learning to trim trees (properly); Use IPM instead of just spraying; Plant natives; Care of ash trees infested with ash borer; and Properly use a tourniquet and pack a wound. After a "If only trees could talk...." program, one gentleman shared he screen shot slides to show his mayor who was requesting employees (unknowingly) to use poor

tree care practices. For tree owners, significant changes were not planting too deep, piling mulch against trunks, or over/underwatering trees.

IANR PILLARS

Grow and strengthen Nebraska agricultural and natural resources ecosystems.
Improve the health and well-being of all Nebraskans.
Promote progress and prosperity for all Nebraskans.

EXTENSION'S BIG 3

Enhance The Health & Wellbeing Of All Nebraskans
Inspire Nebraskans & Their Communities

IMPACT IN NEBRASKA

13

NEBRASKA COUNTIES IMPACTED

PLATTE, MADISON, BOONE, NANCE, COLFAX, POLK, BUTLER, MERRICK, PIERCE, KNOX, CEDAR,
ANTELOPE, HAMILTON

2024 Impacts and Accomplishments - Kelly Feehan, Extension Educator

My Focus: I assist consumers and greenspace professionals with wise plant selection and landscape/pest management decisions for sustainable green space benefiting people, communities and the environment. Accomplishments were made through two key HLES programs, Master Gardeners, and 4-H/youth education. During the year, I directly taught 695 adults and 1211 youth; provided science-based information one on one to over 724 consumers from 13 counties; indirectly reached 1000s of people through newspaper, radio, social media, water website articles, ProHort Update newsletter, You Tube programs and Backyard Farmer; and was co-lead educator for Platte County. I attended 19 hours of education for CEUs to maintain ISA Certified Arborist certification.

Key 2024 Impacts and Accomplishments:

Pro-Hort Team provides education for greenspace professionals. Accomplishments were six 6-hour ProHort Updates held statewide reaching 159; 12 on-line newsletters covering current issues and best management practices subscribed to by over 1100; and four Lunch and Learn zooms to discuss "What's Happening in Landscapes?" (14 per session). A number of commercial pesticide certification trainings provided across the state by our team. New this year were 5 focus groups to identify needs and a spring ProHort zoom (7). I was also asked to speak at the Parks and Recreation state conference and Mosquito and Vectors state conference held in Columbus. Organizer Tom Jonousek shared "Your presentation may have been "Best in Show" based on the # of people who said they learned a lot". One individual shared with me he took screen shots of slides to share with their Mayor to improve their communities tree care.

Impact: On ProHort evaluation, as a result of participation in this year's update (101 responses), planned changes were: 75% - use tree health and vigor as a guideline to determine suitability of injections as pest treatments; 75% - use mulch correctly; 74% - inform clients of mulch myths to improve use; 68% - utilize suggestions for plant selection for fire smart landscaping; 65% - make injections at best time of year to maximize effectiveness; and 62% - evaluate 3 zones of defensible space in client landscapes to determine need for fire smart changes.

Impact: On Pro-Hort evaluation, as a result of participation in past updates (57 responses), 67% changed a pruning practice; 56% increased use/sale of new plants for biodiversity; 56% positively identified plant problems before treating w/pesticides; 56% used a new practice to conserve soil or water; 54% used a new pest management practice; 47% changed a recommendation made to clients; 35% used a new practice to protect surface water. When asked about actual change made, examples were: *Identifying diseases; How I communicate with clients; Use proper fertilization timing; Learning how to trim trees; Using IPM more instead of just spraying; Developing new bed preparation practices; Planting more natives; Water conservation and timing of turf applications; Correct timing of pesticide applications.*

My main contributions were leading ProHort team involving 12 zoom meetings, organizational duties and more; created 'Pest ID' and "Beyond Mulch Basics" power points I taught at 5 updates; organizing and teaching at Columbus update (24 participants); co-writer of 12 ProHort newsletters; and setting up and facilitating 4 Lunch & Learns. I held 3 pesticide trainings in Columbus (73 certified); and organized my local Tree Care Update for 22 professionals to meet 3 hours of education required by City of Columbus. During the year, I assisted professionals who contacted me for information and diagnostic help 22 times; and emailed updates to area professionals to help in addressing landscape issues as they arose and to share Extension recommendations and resources available. I facilitated ProHort focus groups by arranging the facilitator, holding one in Columbus (8 people), and setting up a zoom focus group.

Urban Water Team provides education to conserve water and soil. My main accomplishments related to the "Water Dogs" program and focused on increasing understanding of efficient irrigation and soil management practices. I directly taught 133 people at six in-person programs and 101 during two webinars on Rainwater Harvesting. I provided irrigation kits to two homeowners to evaluate their

automatic systems efficiency. A Journal of Extension article I was co-author on was revised 3 times and accepted to be printed. I wrote 3 articles for water.unl.edu website/ newsletter with 1170 subscribers. Articles had 779 views. I wrote over 10 water/soil related newspaper articles and numerous radio PSAs. As co-leader for HLES for Husker Harvest Days, our booth provided greenspace water conservation resources. I also directly taught many youth about water conservation and protection practices as shown below.

Impact: On evaluation of Master Gardener water dogs, (39 responses) 74% said they used different practices in their lawn or landscape as a result of participating in Water Dog programs. Examples of what a number of people said they did differently were: *“Monitored turf water needs regularly and significantly decreased water to turf with ongoing increase in health and beauty of lawn; Used a screw driver to check moisture levels before additional watering; Adjusted watering (based on) need vs a (set) schedule; Measured my sprinkler output; We no longer use the sensor for watering. We use the screwdriver test and carefully monitor when water is needed. Through the program, we have also learned more about fertilizers, aeration, and how to have a healthy turf.”*

4-H/Youth: Connecting youth to plants and nature is a valued goal. Through 4-H School Enrichment and other outreach, I taught 775 students about urban stormwater runoff, nonpoint source pollution, and green infrastructure solutions; 155 youth about pollinator habitats; 91 youth in general horticulture topics; and led 190 students in exploring and comparing tree characteristics to identify trees.

Impact: Some written comments from watershed students were: *“I learned how important watersheds are and we should do good things to protect it”*; *“You teaching us the information was very helpful! I loved it so much, I even told my parents.”*; *“My favorite part was learning about the different ways people come up with to save water”*; *“Thanks for teaching us about water and how our actions affect the environment”*; *“Thanks for teaching us to help not pollute our water”*; *“I loved learning about the blue things on the sewers”* (stormwater drain “do not dump” markers); and *“My favorite part was finding the ecosystems”*.

Other 2024 Accomplishments:

Extension Master Gardeners: Teamed with peers to provide 9 hours of statewide advanced training via zoom (average live attendance was 60 with many viewing recorded programs). I taught one of these webinars attended by 62. I organized and/or taught 12 hours of face to face training in Columbus for 19 area volunteers. I was invited to teach volunteers in Hall and Madison county for 35 volunteers. I coordinated 19 area volunteers in outreach activities and assisted Northeast EMGs as co-coordinator. For the two programs, 1054 volunteer hours were reported for 2024 reaching 2558 adults and 356 youth. At the standard value of \$29.50 per hour for volunteers, that represents \$30,606. Key volunteer activities are collaboration with CCC-Columbus on Celebrate Spring Gardening event for 129 participants, Norfolk Plant Fair, seed libraries in Columbus and Norfolk (seed was taken 370 times during the year in Columbus), education via library program teaching 31, care of public garden sites, and outreach with 4-H/youth. Platte County EMGVs also designed and installed a pollinator memorial garden at the Platte County Visitor Bureau.

GRO Big Red: The HLES team continued the GRO Big Red gardening zoom series for homeowners to teach best management and integrated pest management practices. Eight one-hour webinars were offered. An average of 88 people attended each live webinar with an many viewing recorded programs. I taught “Rain – Use it! Don’t lose it!” for 92 participants with 51 later views.

Mass Media Outreach: I wrote 52 articles for 5 newspapers and recorded 260 PSAs for a radio station in my accountability area. These are shared with Extension staff in my AR and some are posted to social media for increased outreach. I was a Backyard Farmer panelist for 4 programs. To date, NebGuides I have been an author on have been downloaded 347 times in 41 different countries according to Dashboard. Publications most downloaded were on Stormwater Management to protect water resources.

**Bruno Patias Lena**

The use irrigation scheduling tool can reduce total irrigation water applied

Extension & Administration

Nebraska Extension-Engagement Zone 07

Issue

Irrigation is crucial to Nebraska's crop production systems, particularly during dry growing seasons when crop yields are at risk. Despite its importance, the adoption of irrigation scheduling tools remains low in Nebraska. Many growers are still unaware of the environmental and economic advantages of implementing best management practices for irrigation. This lack of adoption often leads to undocumented over- or under-irrigation, reducing water use efficiency and diminishing economic returns.

Public Value

Groundwater is one of Nebraska's most valuable natural resources, essential for both agriculture and the well-being of its residents. Implementing efficient irrigation management programs in crop production systems is critical to preserving groundwater availability for future generations. These programs can enhance water conservation and reduce the risk of nitrate leaching into groundwater.

Action

In 2024, four On-Farm Research trials were conducted in Platte and Butler Counties to compare a commercial irrigation scheduling tool with growers' traditional irrigation practices. These trials were carried out under a center pivot equipped with a variable rate irrigation system. At the end of the growing season, the total irrigation water applied and crop yields were evaluated for both irrigation scheduling methods to assess their performance. To avoid being influenced, growers were not informed about the irrigation water when using the irrigation scheduling tool recommendation.

Results/Outputs

The irrigation scheduling tool applied 0.88 inches less water than the growers' traditional methods in both soybean fields. In the two corn fields, the tool achieved a total water savings of approximately 1.5 inches. Despite the reduced irrigation, the difference in soybean and corn yields between the two irrigation scheduling methods was minimal, at only 0.5%.

Impact

The adoption of the irrigation scheduling tool demonstrated the potential for significant water savings without compromising crop yields, reducing water usage by 0.88 inches in soybeans and 1.5 inches in corn. This translates to improved water use efficiency and economic benefits for growers, showcasing a practical approach to sustainable irrigation management. The results offer growers more confidence in

adopting innovative tools, paving the way for higher adoption and long-term agricultural sustainability, ultimately preserving Nebraska's vital groundwater resources, mitigating depletion risks, and reducing environmental impacts such as nitrate leaching.

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Grow and strengthen Nebraska agricultural and natural resources ecosystems.
Promote progress and prosperity for all Nebraskans.

EXTENSION'S BIG 3

Strengthen Nebraska Agriculture & Food Systems

IMPACT IN NEBRASKA

2

PLATTE, BUTLER

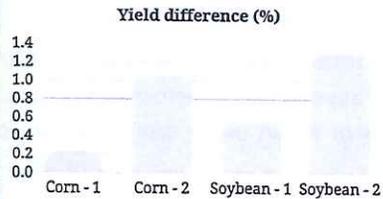
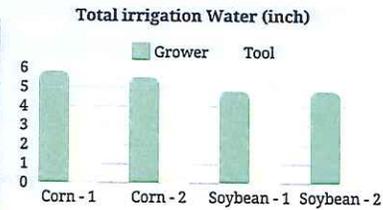
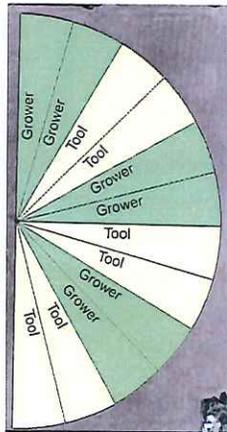
NEBRASKA COUNTIES IMPACTED

Using irrigation scheduling tool can promote water savings while sustaining crop yield

1.50 in
less irrigation water applied than the grower

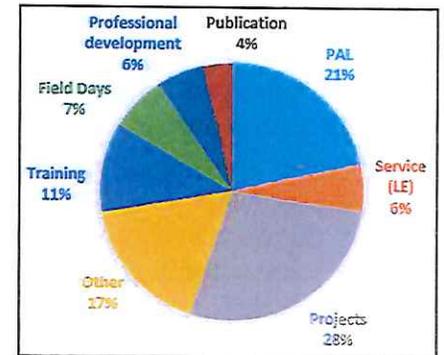


0.88 in
less irrigation water applied than the grower



Bruno Patias Lena 2024 Story: medium-term impact gaining momentum

The year 2024 marked significant strides towards medium-term impact. The initiatives envisioned when I began in 2022 were implemented in 2023 and 2024, and they started to pay dividend in 2024. I hosted/co-hosted 34 program activities (**Trainings and Field Days**) that reached **1404** stakeholders, primarily focused on stakeholders awareness increase of best management practices. Under the category **projects**, stakeholders demonstrated high engagement and an increased adoption of best management practices, with **14** growers being reached under medium-term outcomes. Below are some highlights of 2024 accomplishments:



Trainings (11% n=472) and Field Days (7% n= 871) – awareness increase:

I co-hosted 8 Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings within my accountability region plus Colfax, Butler, Polk, Dakota, Thursday, Burt, and Dodge Co. (n=259). I hosted 3 Chemigation Trainings within my accountability region plus Colfax Co (n=18). Collaborated with Lower Platte North NRD to facilitate/present 4 Nitrogen Certification Classes (n=120). During the Nitrogen Certification Classes, we used an innovative way to host the training by providing a table top activities combined with some slides. By asking participants whether or not they liked the training model, at least 85% said they preferred this model. It indicates a potential to increase the participation of attendees and influence them to take actions. Finally, I was invited to presented at 2 Water Quality Meeting hosted by Lower Platte North NRD (n=35) and 2 Bayer Hybrid Update meeting to local co-ops (n=31).

I presented at 3 locations at the 2024 Soybean Management Field Days (n=189). Presented at the 2023 Corn and Soybean Clinics at ENREEC (n=22). Also facilitated the 2023 Regional Youth Crop Scout Competition (n=30). I presented at the TAPs Crop Skill Challenge during all three Husker Harvest Days (n=564). My presentations were mainly focused on irrigation scheduling. I innovated the teaching method by delivering a dynamic, scenario-based activity. I noticed that many participants were fully engaged by asking great questions, and they gave positive feedback by verbally saying they liked the activities.

Project (28%) – reached 14 – adoption increase:

The most impactful work of 2024 involved direct engagement with growers. This encompasses every activity conducted with the growers at their farms. Working directly with growers is highly effective in the behavior change as they perceive the financial and environmental benefits of a tested method/technology. A lot of my time was spent under this category in 2024, but it resulted in some great impacts described below.

In 2024, a total of 26 On-Farm Research trials with multiples crop management was conducted; 15 more trials compared with 2023. They were: 6 highboy cover crop interseeded trials in the 2023/2024 cover crop season, another 4 highboy cover crop interseeded trials in the 2024/2025 cover crop season, 6 nitrogen + biological trials, 4 with irrigation scheduling tools, and 6 with crop protection, seeding rate, technology, and crop fertilization.

The most impactful example was the soybean population OFR trial with a grower in Boone County. In 2023, we compared his traditional 140,000 seeds/ac with a lower rate of 115,000 seeds/ac. Results showed identical yields but higher profitability at the lower rate. This motivated

the grower to adopt 120,000 seeds/acre in 2024, as stated *"I selected 120,000 seeds/ac at all my soybean fields in 2024 because I am confident it is a more profitable soybean population than my traditional rate"*. In 2024, he also conducted a trial to test soybean population from 60,000 to 120,000 seeds/ac because he is willing to find the most profitable soybean population in his operations. This example showcases the power of the OFR Network in promoting adoption of best management practices.

Since day one of starting this job, my ultimate goal has been to develop programs that increase growers' adoption of irrigation best management practices. After two years (2022 and 2023 growing season) of gaining knowledge and insights into how growers make irrigation decisions, I was ready to launch an irrigation working group (farmers focus group). In May/June 2024, I installed soil moisture sensors and a new telemetry system at three growers' field, and early July we met at Platte Co. Ext. Office. They were trained to use the data and given full online access to it. The commitment was that they would use the data to make informed irrigation decisions, and I would publish a weekly irrigation newsletter on the Crop Watch website

(<https://cropwatch.unl.edu/2024/weekly-irrigation-newsletter/>) to showcase their irrigation decisions across the state. The newsletter received almost 1000 views. At the end of growing season, one grower remarked, *"Yes, I see the benefit of using this technology, and I am confident I will adopt it in 2025"*. Another said *"Usually I would have applied earlier, but the technology helped me to save at least one full pass saving me 1 in of irrigation water"*. Another stated, *"The NRCS guy came through reading irrigation meters and asked if our yields were ok or what we did differently. This was because we used three inches give or take less water than anyone in the area yet maintained matching yields!"*.

In November 2023, I published the results from the uniformity of the water application project funded by the Nebraska Soybean Board at the crop watch website (<https://go.unl.edu/uwa>). In February 2024, I was interviewed by Tharran Gaines from the Successful Farming Magazine and an article was published later in 2024 in the Crop Conservation section (<https://www.agriculture.com/are-old-pivot-nozzles-costing-you-money-8737247>). I am proud to see the impact of Nebraska Extension work on local communities being highlighted at a National level Magazine.

Other + Publication (33%):

I received about 65 stakeholders' questions (phone or walk-in questions) and spent about 19 hours answering these questions.

Collecting data from research projects resulted in articles published. Articles were published at the crop watch website (4 + 7 irrigation newsletter), and at the Norfolk Daily Ag Column (2), and at the 2023 Nebraska Soybean Board Annual Report (2). Crop watch alone got 1808 views. I also published a monthly radio clip for KTIC Extension corner.

Collaboration with specialists and other extension educators, I helped secure \$1,329,000 (449,000/659,000/99,000/57,000/65,000) in grants as co-PI. To avoid overcommitment, I did not submit new proposals as lead PI.

Other contributions:

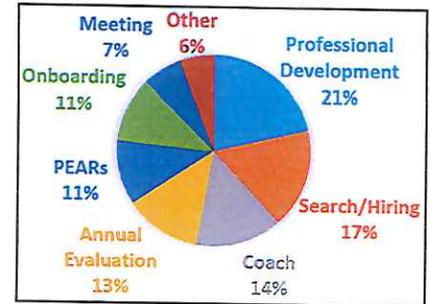
PAL roles (21%) – helping colleagues to reach excellence:

My first full year as Program Area Leader was quite challenging and my time was fairly equally divided among many activities. I had to quickly learn how to conduct Faculty Annual Evaluation (n=9) while providing support to new hires (n=7 between April 2023-January 2024) with onboarding and coaching to ensure they had a great start.

Attending Professional Development sessions was the most time-consuming activity. This was expected since Nebraska Extension Administration is requiring all faculty to deliver extraordinary impact to maintain (and perhaps increase) State support. We have been sharing these learnings with our colleagues through monthly online meetings and mid-year in-person gatherings, helping them to understand the new standards for Nebraska Extension.

Unfortunately, a total of **four** local based and **three** statewide Extension Educators left the system. This required significant time spent with search committees, including my participation in three of them. We onboarded two excellent professionals (Adam Leise - OFR; Nichole Luhr - Dixon) and one position is still in hiring process.

One of the highlights of my activities as PAL was developing a “Program Roadmap” infographic, which I shared with colleagues during an in-person meeting. The roadmap illustrates how to deliver a program based on emerging issues, enabling them to track the short-, medium-, and long-term impacts of their work. It was well received by our colleagues.



Professional Development

2024 Soil Health Conference, 2024 Nebraska Spray Drone Conference, 2024 Crimper Roller Workshop, 2024 Weed Management Field Day, 2024 Bayer Learning Center Field Day, 2024 WICS Conference, 2024 American Society of Agronomy, 2024 Roud Show Fall Conference, 2024 Program Area Leader Professional Development Series

Service (Lead Educator) (6%)

I attended 6 extension board meetings, and participated in Platte and Nance County Fairs.

Revenue Generation

- Accepted

Nebraska Extension On-Farm Research Initiative (co-PI) (\$67,874) NSB; A Comprehensive Plan for Soybean Cyst Nematode Education in Nebraska (co-PI) (\$65,337) NSB; Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS) (co-PI) (\$99,657) NCB; Climate-Smart Advances in Ag Performance (co-PI) (\$659,202) NRCS; Data-Advanced Research and Education (DARE) to improve weather intelligence, localized (co-PI) (\$449,212) University of Iowa.

- Submitted

Cover Crop and Nitrogen Application Technology Demonstration (co-PI) (\$74,339) NSB; A Comprehensive Plan for Soybean Cyst Nematode Education in Nebraska (co-PI) (\$66,906) NSB; Unlocking Data Use on Farms to educate and promote Adoption of Water Conservation Technologies and Practices (co-PI) (\$300,000) DA-NIFA



Sheila Hoppe
Building Bridges, Shaping Futures:
The Power of Partnerships

Extension

Nebraska Extension-Engagement Zone 07

Issue

Partnerships are vital to 4-H programming as they provide funding, expertise, and resources that expand opportunities for youth. Collaborations with businesses, schools, and organizations bring skilled volunteers, innovative ideas, and community support, enabling diverse, hands-on experiences. These connections strengthen local engagement, amplify program reach, and ensure sustainability, fostering life skills, leadership, and community pride that empower youth for future success.

Public Value

4-H programming empowers youth with life skills, leadership opportunities, and hands-on learning, creating capable future leaders. By connecting youth with local volunteers, it builds lasting relationships, fostering community pride and collaboration. This investment strengthens the workforce pipeline and supports long-term economic growth, ensuring a vibrant future for the county.

Action

To increase partnerships countywide, I collaborated with local leaders and the Chamber of Commerce Drive for Five committee, delivering community presentations to showcase the value of Extension and 4-H. I prioritized networking with individuals and businesses invested in youth and workforce development in Columbus. Our 4-H team built strong relationships with schools by offering impactful hands-on programs in STEM, healthy living, agriculture, leadership, and career readiness. Additionally, we enhanced marketing efforts to engage new families across the county.

Results/Outputs

Platte County 4-H raised \$51,223 through school enrichment, enrollment, workshops, sponsorships, donations, fair fees, and grants. Youth participation grew from 9,058 in 2023 to 12,255 in 2024, with volunteers increasing from 120 to 211. This growth expanded opportunities for youth and strengthened community connections and support for 4-H programs.

Impact

These efforts have created a profound impact on Platte County youth and the community. Youth engagement grew by 35% from 2023 to 2024, with 12,255 participants gaining life skills, leadership experience, and knowledge in STEM, healthy living, and career readiness. Volunteer numbers also rose, strengthening community ties and support. The \$51,223 raised enhanced programming, providing more opportunities for families and youth. This work has built lasting partnerships with key stakeholders such as NPPD, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Columbus Trackside District, and others, ensuring continued collaboration and community investment. These relationships and program successes inspire youth to contribute to a thriving local economy and community.

IANR PILLARS

Grow and strengthen Nebraska agricultural and natural resources ecosystems.

Improve the health and well-being of all Nebraskans.

Promote progress and prosperity for all Nebraskans.

EXTENSION'S BIG 3

Inspire Nebraskans & Their Communities

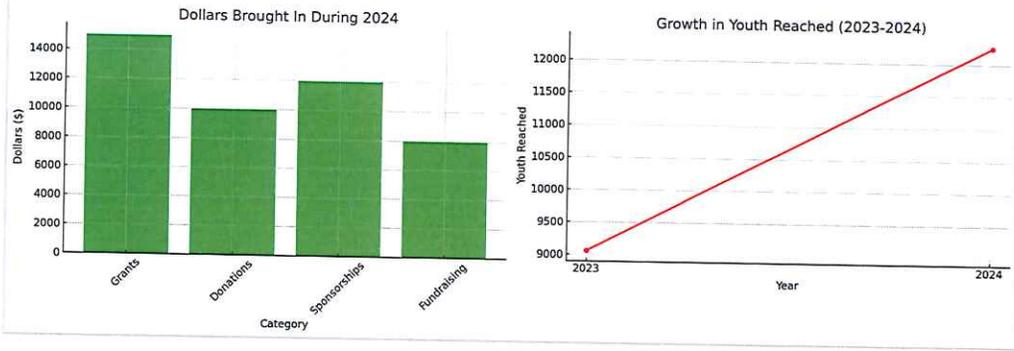
IMPACT IN NEBRASKA

1

PLATTE

NEBRASKA COUNTIES IMPACTED

2024 4-H Program Achievements: Financial Contributions and Youth Growth





Sheila Hoppe
4-H Extension Educator and Lead Educator - Platte County
2024 Summary of Goals and Accomplishments
Platte County Impact and Reach

Statement of Goals/Expected Outcomes and Descriptive Summary of Accomplishments

In 2024, I pursued a variety of goals aimed at enhancing 4-H programming, fostering leadership within the Platte County Extension Office, and strengthening community partnerships. These efforts reflect my commitment to providing impactful youth development opportunities and supporting my colleagues and stakeholders in meaningful ways.

As the 4-H Educator, I led the Platte County 4-H team to significant achievements in 2024. By fostering a collaborative and innovative team culture, we reached 12,255 youth, a significant increase from 9,058 in 2023, through school enrichment programs, special events, and traditional 4-H offerings. Strengthening relationships with volunteers ensured their active involvement in delivering impactful programming, while strategic fundraising, grants, and community sponsorships increased financial resources to enable program expansion and sustainability. These successes demonstrated the strength of our team's dedication to meeting community needs and the adaptability of 4-H programming.

STEM education remained a central focus of my efforts in 2024. The introduction of the A-Mazing Race Robotics STEM program featured tools such as Coding Mouse, Bee-Bots, Botley Robots, and Ozobots for 3rd and 4th graders, expanding STEM opportunities for youth. Participation in the annual STEM Field Day remained strong with nearly 1,500 students attending, showcasing its role in promoting STEM learning and career exploration. Additionally, I worked closely with the 4-H Robotics Club to rebuild and strengthen its foundation, engaging more youth and creating a sustainable structure that will serve the club well into the future. These initiatives cultivated critical thinking skills in youth, preparing them for future educational and career opportunities.

Statewide, I contributed to Nebraska 4-H STEM initiatives as a co-leader of the Nebraska 4-H STEM Focus Team. This role allowed me to support educators across the state with program implementation and in-person assistance, build partnerships with stakeholders to ensure long-term support for STEM initiatives, and foster team collaboration and consistency in delivering signature STEM programs. My efforts enhanced the quality and reach of STEM programming across Nebraska, ensuring alignment with statewide goals while addressing local needs.

As President of the Board of Directors for the Columbus Area Children's Museum, I played a pivotal role in its successful opening to members in January 2024 and to the public in February 2024. In addition to working one-on-one with the Executive Director, I collaborated with the active board and its committees to align efforts with community needs. My involvement included integrating 4-H programming into museum camps and special events, enhancing educational opportunities for youth, and supporting the museum's capital campaign to ensure its sustainability and growth. By serving on the personnel committee, I contributed to key hiring and organizational decisions that have positioned the museum as a vital resource for youth development and community engagement. This partnership with the museum has further extended the reach and impact of 4-H programming while solidifying the museum's role as a cornerstone of education in the region.

In 2024, I also focused on revitalizing the Platte County Jr. Leaders Club to provide teens with leadership development opportunities. Club activities emphasized self-development, helping members explore their leadership styles and strengths, while fostering community engagement



Sheila Hoppe
4-H Extension Educator and Lead Educator - Platte County
2024 Summary of Goals and Accomplishments

through local tours, service-learning projects, and entrepreneurship education. These efforts created opportunities for members to form lasting friendships and collaborative networks. Looking ahead, I aim to expand the club's membership and leadership opportunities in 2025, offering advanced programming and mentorship to support their growth as future leaders.

My work with the Drive for Five Economic Development Committee allowed me to collaborate on events such as Mock Interview Days, Vehicle Day, and Reality 101, which provided youth with valuable career and workforce readiness experiences. Additionally, securing volunteer support from Chamber staff and committee members for 4-H programming strengthened reciprocal relationships and increased program capacity. These collaborations underscored the importance of partnerships in expanding educational and career-focused opportunities for youth while fostering connections between the 4-H program and community stakeholders.

As a Co-Lead Educator for the Platte County Extension Office, I worked diligently to lead a cohesive team within our office. Serving as a confidant and advocate for staff, I fostered trust and open communication while supporting team members in their successes and addressing their needs. Although 2024 presented its share of challenges, I focused on building strong relationships and laying the groundwork for continued team growth and collaboration in 2025. My role also included coordinating professional development opportunities for staff and implementing structured communication processes that enhanced efficiency and morale.

Building on the successes of 2024, I aim to achieve several goals in 2025. As a Co-Lead Educator, I plan to prioritize team development by introducing team-building initiatives, providing professional development opportunities tailored to individual strengths, and fostering a culture of accountability and collaboration. These efforts will ensure that the Platte County Extension Office continues to function as a cohesive and effective unit capable of addressing the diverse needs of our community.

Expanding STEM programming remains a priority in 2025, with a focus on enhancing the impact of existing programs. For STEM Field Day, I aim to deepen its educational value by refining its curriculum and creating more meaningful hands-on learning experiences. Additionally, I plan to strengthen the 4-H Robotics Club by providing greater opportunities for mentorship and skill-building. These efforts will ensure that STEM programming continues to inspire and equip youth with the tools they need for future success.

Deepening community partnerships will also be a focus in 2025. I plan to expand collaborations with the Columbus Area Children's Museum to introduce new programming and support educational goals. Increased involvement with the Drive for Five Committee will allow me to focus on additional workforce readiness initiatives, such as job shadowing opportunities and career-focused workshops. Furthermore, I aim to grow the Jr. Leaders Club by increasing membership and providing additional leadership development opportunities, such as advanced tours and entrepreneurship education. These programs will empower youth to develop skills that will benefit them throughout their lives while strengthening connections between 4-H and the broader community.

To support these efforts, I will continue to secure funding through grants, sponsorships, and fundraising events, ensuring program expansion and sustainability. My commitment to advancing 4-H programming, strengthening community partnerships, and fostering leadership within my team and the broader community remains steadfast. Together, these goals position Platte County 4-H and Nebraska Extension for continued success in 2025 and beyond.



Sheila Hoppe
4-H Extension Educator and Lead Educator - Platte County
2024 Description of Other Contributions
Platte County Impact and Reach

Statement of Other Contributions

In 2024, I contributed to several collaborative initiatives that extended the impact of my role beyond direct programming. My involvement in the Nebraska 4-H STEM Focus Team highlights my commitment to fostering teamwork and advancing STEM education across the state. As a co-leader, I worked closely with team members to enhance program quality, develop consistent statewide implementation strategies, and establish partnerships with stakeholders to ensure long-term program sustainability. These efforts enhanced the collective impact of Nebraska Extension's STEM programs, benefiting youth and educators statewide.

Advancing inclusive excellence has been another priority. Through my leadership of Platte County's 4-H programs, I implemented initiatives that addressed the diverse needs of our community. For example, I revitalized the Jr. Leaders Club to ensure broader access to leadership development opportunities for teens, emphasizing inclusivity in recruitment and programming. Additionally, I collaborated with the Columbus Area Children's Museum to integrate 4-H programming into camps and events, creating environments where all youth could experience hands-on learning and develop essential life skills.

Mentorship has been a key focus of my contributions. As a Co-Lead Educator, I provided guidance and support to colleagues, fostering a culture of trust and collaboration within the Platte County Extension Office. This included facilitating professional development opportunities and introducing structured communication processes to enhance team effectiveness. My mentorship efforts have been instrumental in strengthening our team's ability to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Additionally, I took a lead role in organizing and presenting the impact of Nebraska Extension to local organizations and stakeholders. These presentations served to highlight the critical outcomes and benefits of Extension programs, fostering stronger relationships and deeper understanding of our collective efforts. By engaging with local leaders and groups, I was able to advocate for the relevance of Extension programming, aligning local resources and community priorities with our mission. These presentations not only amplified Nebraska Extension's visibility but also solidified support for future collaborative opportunities.

As a 4-H Focus Team leader, I had the opportunity to learn from our State 4-H Coordinators, other state 4-H staff, and author Stephanie Malia Krauss, with a focus on the curriculum created from Stephanie's two books. This experience provided valuable insights into how we need to lead our youth into the future, equipping them with the tools and mindset necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

Through these collaborative efforts, I have not only advanced the goals of Nebraska Extension but also contributed to building a more inclusive and impactful learning environment across Platte County and beyond.



Blake Wert Inspiring the Next Generation: Youth Achievement at the Premier Animal Science Event

Extension

Nebraska Extension-Engagement Zone 07

Issue

This initiative focused on educating youth in animal science through hands-on learning and mentorship over several months. The goal was to equip them with knowledge in animal care, management, and science-related topics, preparing them for the Premier Animal Science Event. The youth's success at the event, marked by multiple awards, demonstrated the impact of this program in fostering a deeper understanding and passion for animal science among the next generation of leaders.

Public Value

This event is vital as it nurtures the next generation of leaders in animal science, an industry essential for food production, sustainability, and innovation. By equipping youth with knowledge and hands-on experience, it supports the growth of the industry. Investing in their development ensures a skilled, confident workforce, vital for the future advancement and sustainability of animal science.

Action

To address the need for youth development in animal science, I provided comprehensive lessons and hands-on training over several months. Youth participated in weekly practices, collaborating and honing their skills in topic areas such as animal evaluation, animal care, equipment, food production, nutrition, and management. Their dedication and teamwork were key to their success. The preparation included practicing techniques, refining presentations, and ensuring they were fully prepared for the Premier Animal Science Event, where they earned multiple awards.

Results/Outputs

The youth's hard work and collaboration led to exceptional results at the Premier Animal Science Event, where they earned multiple awards. Their success reflected their dedication and enhanced understanding of animal science. As a result, they are now more knowledgeable, confident, and better prepared for future growth, with a solid foundation to contribute to the animal science industry.

Impact

The impact of this program went far beyond the success at the event. By participating, youth were pushed out of their comfort zones, gaining invaluable personal and professional growth. They developed critical skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication, and problem-solving, which will serve them well in future endeavors. Their involvement in the Premier Animal Science Event deepened their knowledge of animal science and built confidence and resilience. These experiences will shape them into stronger leaders, better communicators, and more well-rounded individuals, preparing them to contribute to the future of the animal science industry and beyond. This event laid a foundation for continued growth, helping them become more capable and determined in pursuing future goals.

IANR Pillars

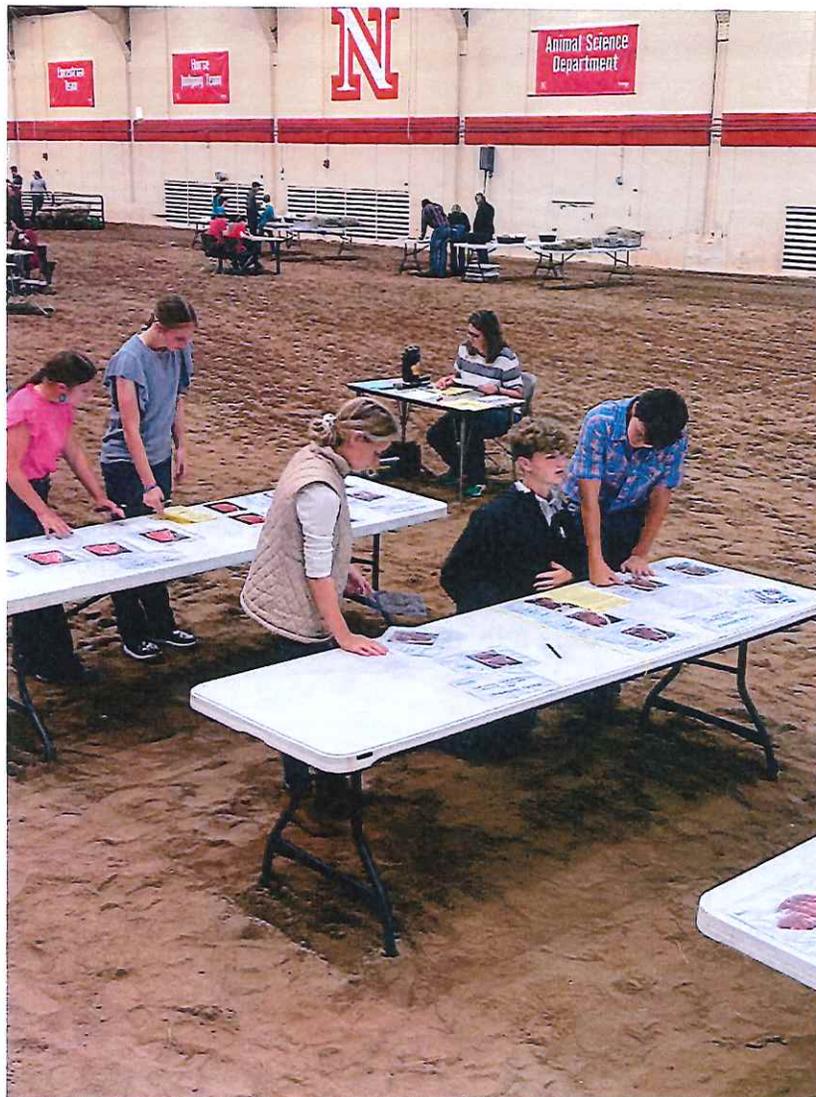
Grow and strengthen Nebraska agricultural and natural resources ecosystems.

Improve the health and well-being of all Nebraskans.

Promote progress and prosperity for all Nebraskans.

Extension's Big 3

Inspire Nebraskans & Their Communities





Blake Wert
4-H Livestock Assistant - Platte County
2024 Summary Statement
Goals and Accomplishments

to understand agriculture's impact, as it's a driving force behind so much of what we do and consume.

In addition to these efforts, I also gained valuable experience with the College and Career Success team, particularly with the Connecting the Dots program. This initiative aims to help youth make informed decisions about college and career opportunities while taking active steps toward their goals. I participated in monthly team meetings and collaborated with other team members to implement the program in surrounding counties. One additional highlight related to this team was being part of the College Day program at Columbus Middle School, where I individually reached 315 6th grade students. This event, in collaboration with local 4-H and Nebraska Extension staff, provided students with essential knowledge and insights to help them make informed decisions as they approach their future college and career paths.

These experiences were not only incredibly rewarding but also aligned with my goals of providing youth with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed in their future endeavors.

4-H Assistant (Livestock) Role Summary

In my role as the 4-H Livestock Assistant in Platte County, I oversee all livestock-related events and programming, ensuring that each activity is well-organized, educational, and runs smoothly. I work closely with 4-H families, guiding them through every step of the process – from selecting animals and caring for their animals to preparing for county fairs and other competitive events. My role involves providing support and resources to both youth and their families, helping them develop skills in animal husbandry, responsibility and teamwork.

In addition to my work with livestock, I also engage with youth through School Enrichment programming. This allows me to reach even more students, helping them understand the connections between agriculture, science, and everyday life. Whether it's through hands-on experiences or classrooms presentations, I strive to inspire youth to explore the world of agriculture and develop a deeper appreciation for the agriculture industry. I am committed to fostering an environment where youth can learn, grow, and develop new skills, ensuring that every experience is both valuable and engaging.

So what?

The work being done today will have a lasting ripple effect. By engaging youth in meaningful education experiences – whether through STEM, agriculture, or college readiness – we are not just preparing them for their next steps; we are inspiring them to pursue their passions, contribute to society, and make informed decisions for their futures. This is how we're making a real difference in the lives of young people, and how we continue to cultivate a stronger tomorrow for the years to come.



Blake Wert
4-H Livestock Assistant - Platte County
2024 Summary Statement
Goals and Accomplishments

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**Thays Silva****Combating Food Insecurity in Nebraska**

Extension & Service

Nebraska Extension-Engagement Zone 07

Issue

Food insecurity affects both urban and rural areas in Nebraska. Contributing factors include poverty, inadequate policies, and rural grocery store closures leading to food deserts—areas lacking access to fresh, healthy food. Feeding America reports 267,960 Nebraskans struggle to meet basic food needs. In 2023, Nebraska's food insecurity rate was 12.2%, above the national average of 11.2%.

Public Value

Foster a healthy, resilient, and equitable society by investing in well-being through access to nutritious food and educational programs. Promote collaboration and empower communities to enhance public health, address social disparities, and uphold dignity and equity for all, ensuring everyone has access to resources that support a thriving and united community.

Action

In 2024, the partnership with the Butler County Health Center to host the Growing Together Nebraska Donation Garden project was continued. They readily offered their resources and space to continue supporting the initiative. Additionally, Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) was made available at one grocery store in Butler County and in York County. These two programs aided in improving food access in the community and provided educational opportunities on nutrition. Overall, these initiatives helped increase the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables for the people in the area.

Results/Outputs

The Growing Together Nebraska Donation Garden in Butler County donated 528.7 pounds of produce for two sites in David City, aiding over 100 people. The Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) program saw \$109,284.04 in SNAP benefits and \$3,044.25 in DUFB incentives redeemed in Butler County and \$110,639.61 in SNAP benefits and \$1,379.32 in DUFB incentives in York County, with a financial impact of \$224,347.22

Impact

The GTN Donation Garden and DUFEB program significantly impacted food access for low-income families, strengthening local economies, promoting agricultural sustainability, and fostering greater community resilience and equity. The Donation Garden in Butler County provided 528.7 pounds of fresh, organic produce to two sites in David City, benefiting over 100 individuals with improved access to nutritious food and nutritional education. Across the state, participants reported improvements in skills after nutritional education in preparation (65%), cooking (65%), cleaning (41%), storing (31%), and selecting (26%) produce. Additionally, DUFEB empowered around 403 individuals to redeem benefits for fruits and vegetables, resulting in a financial boost of \$224,347.22 in Butler and York counties.

IANR PILLARS

Improve the health and well-being of all Nebraskans.

EXTENSION'S BIG 3

Strengthen Nebraska Agriculture & Food Systems

IMPACT IN NEBRASKA

2

NEBRASKA COUNTIES
IMPACTED

YORK, BUTLER



Thays Silva 2024 Story

In 2024, I focused on expanding existing projects, fostering new and existing partnerships, and participating in professional development and training to enhance the reach and impact of my programming.

Program Reach

In 2024, approximately 683 people participated in direct education provided through the Food Nutrition and Health (FNH) programming I taught. Additionally, indirect education reached an estimated 9,222 individuals, disseminating information about healthier lifestyles through food and nutrition topics. This approach also facilitated partnerships and promoted Nebraska Extension's initiatives. As a result, numerous stakeholders expressed interest in Extension's work, leading to new partnerships, contacts, and programming opportunities for 2025.

Food Security Initiatives

Continuing efforts begun in 2023 to address food insecurity in Nebraska, the Growing Together Nebraska Donation Garden project was sustained in Butler County. This initiative yielded 528.7 pounds of produce donated to two sites in David City, benefiting at least 100 individuals.

The Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) program also continued in 2024. In Butler County, customers utilized \$109,284.04 in SNAP benefits and \$3,044.25 in DUFb incentives to purchase fruits and vegetables from January to October. The program launched successfully in York County, with \$110,639.61 in SNAP benefits and \$1,379.32 in DUFb incentives redeemed from May to November. The combined financial impact of DUFb in these two counties totaled \$224,347.22.

Food Safety Education

In 2024, 64 individuals received training for managers and food handlers through ServSafe classes. The curriculum was also adapted for food safety workshops and community events for Polk and York County youth and senior centers in York County.

Sleepless in Nebraska

The Sleepless in Nebraska curriculum, which I was trained in 2024, had two classes taught to 112 participants. These sessions highlighted the importance of sleep for overall health and sparked ideas for people who did not know how much sleep can affect our daily lives. These classes also generated a lot of interest from other organizations that are looking to expand the program's presentations to high school audiences in 2025.

Diversity and Cultural Awareness

In 2024, I contributed to events for Extension professionals, 4H kids and, college students, presenting on cultural aspects of Brazil. These events fostered a broader understanding of cultural diversity and global perspectives.

- **Classes for diverse audiences**

In 2023 I taught cooking classes for a group of Hispanic women in Columbus. In 2024 I was called to return with another cooking class about meal planning and storage. Many of the participants came to me with great feedback about the recipes they learned in the previous year and how excited they were for the upcoming class. My favorite quotes were “I have your recipes stuck to my refrigerator door, I use them all the time” and “I have been eating a lot healthier after your class”. They already have contacted me for new classes in 2025.

Multicultural Toolkit Initiative

As a team member of the Multicultural Toolkit project within the FNH team, I focused on planning and securing funding for this initiative. The Toolkit aims to address the unique needs of Nebraska’s diverse and multicultural communities by providing culturally appropriate nutrition and health education materials. Nebraska’s multicultural landscape includes a substantial immigrant population, with Omaha and Lincoln serving as refugee resettlement hubs and over 100 languages spoken in public schools.

To support this effort, we conducted a survey among FNH educators and specialists to identify needs, followed by focus groups in Dodge, Lancaster, Hall, and Madison Counties. These activities can inform the development of culturally tailored resources and language accessibility strategies, including training for working with English Language Learners and developing translated materials.

We secured a \$5,000 grant from the CEHS Ignite Grant Budget and applied for a \$200,000 grant from the Centene Foundation. With the CEHS funding, we organized the focus groups and taste-tested meals from various cultures, sparking valuable discussions among FNH professionals. A participant’s feedback encapsulated the project’s impact: “I thought the meeting on Friday was wonderful! ... It was so well done and immediately applied to the work we all do. Any chance this could be a breakout session at the fall conference next year?”

Looking ahead, we plan to present this project as a workshop at the National Health Outreach and Engagement Conference (NHOC) in Omaha in 2025 and continue building on these efforts.



Conclusion

In 2024, my work centered on expanding programming, fostering partnerships, and addressing the needs of Nebraska’s diverse communities. The year’s achievements have set a strong foundation for continued growth and impact in 2025.



**Erin Kampbell, Early Childhood Educator
Madison, Stanton, Platte, Colfax Counties
2024 Impact Statement
Local Early Childhood Conferences**

Situation

Nebraska faces a shortage of skilled early childhood professionals. When communities lack quality childcare, it negatively affects children, families, and local communities. Ensuring access to professional development opportunities for early childhood teachers and providers to maintain licensure and improve quality is crucial. Extension has partnered with local organizations to host conferences in Columbus and Norfolk to address this issue and support workforce development.

Public Value

About 75% of Nebraska families with young children need quality childcare. Supporting early care and education through professional development, such as conferences, benefits children, families, and communities now and in the future. Investing in quality early care and education increases the likelihood of children graduating, living healthier lives, and becoming caring, productive, and responsible citizens.

Actions

As committee co-chair for the Norfolk Early Childhood Conference and committee member for the Columbus Early Childhood Conference, Extension Educator Erin Kampbell played a pivotal role in collaborating with partners to bring renowned national and regional speakers to rural early childhood professionals. These conferences provide essential professional development and foster meaningful connections among peers in the field. Many home-based providers emphasize that local conferences are their only opportunity to network with others in their profession, making the conferences an invaluable resource for both knowledge and community-building.

Results/Outputs

Both the Norfolk and Columbus conferences offered six hours of high-quality professional development, providing essential opportunities for early childhood professionals to meet the 12-hour annual licensure requirement. A total of 243 professionals attended (137 in Norfolk, 106 in Columbus), representing 24 counties across the region. In total, the conferences awarded 1,458 professional development hours (822 in Norfolk, 636 in Columbus), contributing significantly to the workforce's continued growth.

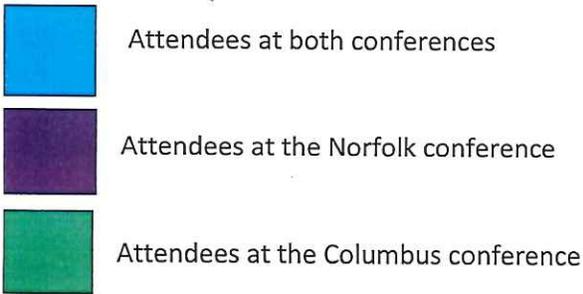
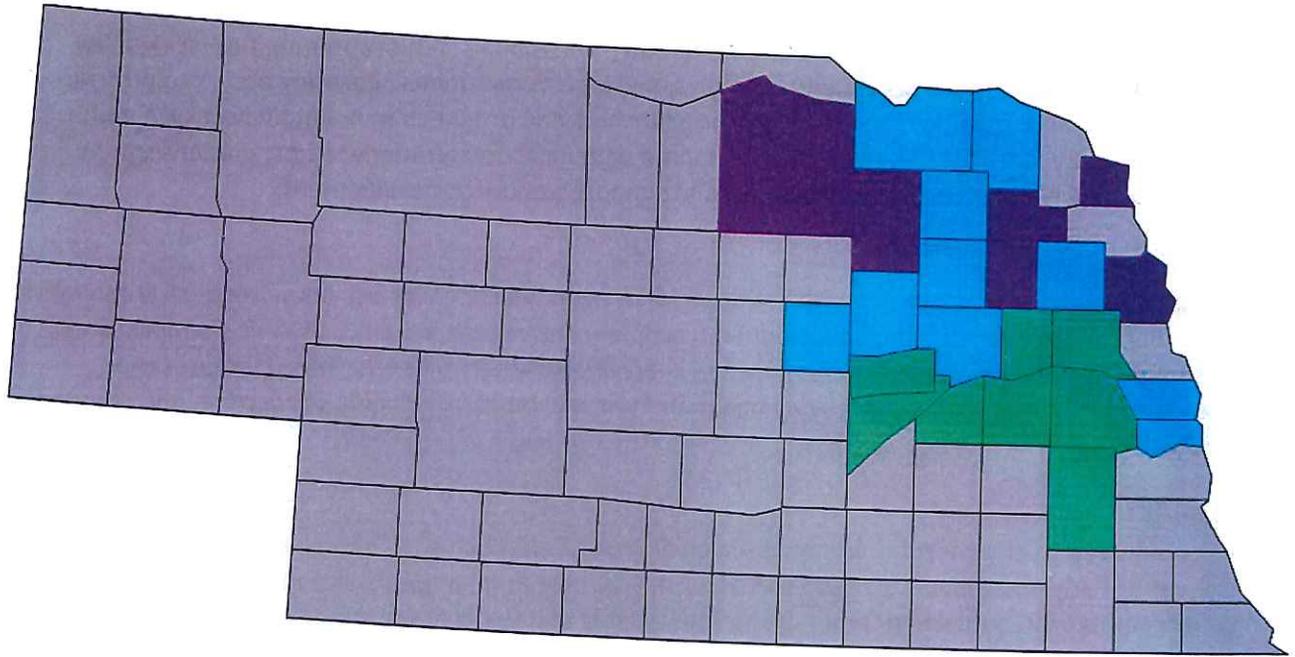
Impact

Participant responses showed notable increases in both knowledge and confidence regarding the topics discussed at the conferences. A Columbus attendee shared, "It was very eye-opening and in the future I will advocate for early childhood ... like sending letters to my senator about my perspective." In Norfolk, the percentage of attendees who reported being very or extremely knowledgeable about the content rose from 16% before the conference to 83% after. One Norfolk participant commented, "This program has me heading into the next week feeling more enthusiastic and in control." These reflections highlight the conferences' impact on participants' professional growth and advocacy efforts.

Extension Big 3: Enhance the wellbeing of all Nebraskans

IANR pillar: Improve health wellbeing of all Nebraskans

Norfolk and Columbus Early Childhood Conference reach



BETH NACKE, MS, RDN

Rural Health Extension Educator, Associate Rank

In 2024, my goal was to improve the quality of life for all Nebraskans, helping them reach their full potential for health and well-being. I pursued this goal by delivering evidence-based education and providing comprehensive environmental support across my accountability region. Over the past year, I directly engaged with 1,089 individuals (youth and adults) through 9 program activities, reached an additional 7,608 people through indirect educational efforts, and served in various leadership roles within Extension and with community partners. These efforts advanced organizational objectives while I transitioned into my new role as a statewide Rural Health Extension Educator.

Programs of Significant Impact

Monthly Meal Kits (MMK) is a nutrition security program, providing nutritious foods and comprehensive nutrition education to middle and high school-aged youth.

- Student reach: 333
 - 90.4% reported increased fruit/vegetable consumption
 - 78.2% reported increased lean meats/dairy consumption
- Household reach: 2,024
- 10 locally owned/operated grocery stores

Little Free Pantries (LFP) is a novel food distribution system for emergency food access shelf-stable ingredients, reducing hunger and easing financial barriers related to food access for low-resource Nebraskans.

- 13 counties installed pantries
- 5 PSE changes adopted
- Nebraska Extension **Excellence in Team Programming** - Winner

CATCH PE Nutrition lessons utilize the Coordinated Approach to Childhood Health curriculum to deliver an evidenced-based, comprehensive nutrition education series.

- Fremont Public Schools
 - Grades 4 & 6
 - 9 -lesson series

Growing Together Nebraska (GTN) is a multi-state effort addressing nutrition security by providing fresh, locally grown produce to low-resource individuals and families.

- **Dodge County**
 - Coordinated 3 garden locations.
 - 940 low-resource individuals served at 3 partner sites.
- **Colfax County**
 - Coordinated with community garden committee, 1 EMGV, and 22 community volunteers for 1 garden location.
 - 1,625 low-resource individuals served at 7 partner sites.
 - 25 youth grades 3-5 received nutrition and gardening education in Schuyler Community Schools Summer School.

Nebraska Extension Marathon Kids (NEMK) utilizes the national running program designed to encourage youth to increase minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity and motivate them to remain active through the joy of running.

- Leadership Team member
- Provide support and guidance for program sustainability, seeking out grant opportunities
- Present program impact and opportunity in local and national conferences

\$111,490

Monthly Meal Kits (MMK)

"The additional \$8,500 in revenue each month is huge for our store." – Store Manager, Plum Creek Market

3,225
Pounds of
Produce

Growing Together Nebraska (GTN)

22 volunteers, including 17 high school-aged youth, donated 500 hours, working together to grow, and distribute fresh produce to in Colfax County.

17
Pantries

Little Free Pantries (LFP)

"The Pantry is going great. It is getting lots of use and the community has been a great help keeping it stocked. We haven't had to add anything until just this past week."

1,165
Pounds of
Produce

Growing Together Nebraska (GTN)

17 community volunteers, including 3 EMGV's, worked together to grow and distribute fresh produce in Dodge County.

60,046
Miles

Nebraska Extension Marathon Kids (NEMK)

2,694 active NEMK runners, in 56 clubs across the state, logged miles to complete a combined 2,292 marathons

633
Youth

CATCH PE-Nutrition Education

10 schools in Fremont participated in a nutrition education series focused on improving dietary habits and increasing physical activity.

Rural Health



Enhancing the health and well-being of individuals in rural areas by tackling challenges such as limited access to healthcare services, higher prevalence of chronic diseases, healthcare workforce shortages, isolation, and economic inequities.

Chronic Disease Prevention

Address and reduce obesity and chronic disease rates in rural Nebraska by implementing evidence-based, multidisciplinary interventions grounded in a public health approach.

Nutrition Access & Food Security



- LFP Statewide Coordinator
 - Secured funding and continued technical support for 17 pantry sites
- MMK Statewide Coordinator
 - On-boarded new school site
 - Enroll students
 - Review bi-annual survey data
 - On-boarded new store location
 - Precept for Professional Student of Dietetics
 - Program evaluation and impact analysis
- Lead GTN Efforts
 - Dodge & Colfax Counties

Mental Health & Well-being



- North Central Region Youth & Rural Mental Health Task Force
 - Define a regional support model for rural and youth mental health
 - Document funding partners
- Rural Family Stress & Well-being Workgroup Co-Lead
 - Organized re-launch of workgroup
 - Established schedule and agenda for quarterly meetings
- Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition
 - Bi-monthly meetings
 - Shared opportunity for collaboration on CDC grant

Cancer Prevention & Risk Reduction



- Nebraska Extension & Nebraska Cancer Coalition (NC2) Partnership:
 - Cancer Prevention Campaign
 - Champion Team Co-Lead
 - Recruited county-based staff and educators to promote campaign
 - Coordinated with NC2 on co-branded educational materials
- Joined UNMC Cancer Survivorship partner group
- Coordinated inclusion of exposure cancer risk and prevention messaging in Pesticide Applicator trainings

Strategic Partnerships

Working collaboratively with strategic partners is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of disease prevention and rural health initiatives.

Academic

- Coordinating interdisciplinary Extension teams to incorporate public health measures into all programming.
 - Cancer screening and prevention
 - Immunizations and personal protection
- Collaborating with UNMC's Cancer Survivorship program
- Coordinate efforts between Suicide Prevention Coalition and Rural Family Stress & Well-being workgroup
 - Suicide awareness and prevention grant through CDC
- Began collaboration with UNMC/UNK Medical Nutrition Program to connect students with rural healthcare opportunities.
- Coordinating with IDEA-CTR to enhance program development and delivery through research and evaluation
- Began restructure of Rural Wellness website in partnership with historical members of leadership to ensure alignment with grant funding for programs

Agricultural

- Began coordination with AgriSafe Network to work strategically on shared issues.
 - Immunizations and current viral risks for rural families and workers
 - Efforts to improve mental healthcare access and reduce stigma in rural communities
- Multi-level partnership with Central States Center for Agricultural Safety & Health (CS-CASH) to address emerging issues and promote health and safety interventions.
 - Tractor safety training promotion within extension
 - Suicide prevention program in partnership with faith leaders
 - Sleep deprivation in farm workers; opportunities for research and outreach
 - Holistic approach to environmental exposures
 - Emerging issues; H5-N1 education and PPE promotion

Community

- Engaged public health partners, including the Department of Health & Human Services, Bryan Health, CHI, Community Health Departments, to develop multidisciplinary strategies to address issues in rural communities.
- Began collaboration with the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center to bring community focus groups together with



Josie Crouch **Preparing Producers for** **Successful Calving and Breeding**

Extension
Nebraska Extension-Engagement Zone 07

Issue

Ensuring reproductive success and maintaining proper nutrition are issues producers face when managing herd health and productivity. Cows in poor body condition may struggle breeding, leading to reproductive inefficiencies. Additionally, feed costs make up a large portion of production costs, and managing feed quality can be difficult. Without the knowledge to properly use body condition scoring as a tool and analyze forage quality, some producers may struggle to meet nutritional demands.

Public Value

As world populations continue to rise, the demand for high-quality protein also rises, making it crucial for cattle producers to sustainably and efficiently convert forage and feed into meat protein. By helping producers optimize reproduction and overall herd health, it encourages the production of healthy, high-quality beef, ultimately supporting local economies and providing a reliable product.

Action

In 2024, five "Cow Clinics" were held in Nebraska, focusing on body condition scoring of beef cows, forage sampling, and feed analysis. Each clinic combined classroom discussions with hands-on demonstrations, including live animal assessments and forage sampling techniques. Participants engaged actively in discussions that were supplemented with appropriate educational material, asking questions throughout. In collaboration with Cow/Calf Extension Specialist, Rick Rasby and Livestock Systems Educator, Brent Plugge, Crouch contributed to the delivery of one clinic location.

Results/Outputs

The results included increased knowledge and practical skills for producers in body condition scoring, cattle assessment, and forage quality. Participants gained hands-on experience with live demonstrations, improving their ability to apply body condition scores. They also learned how to collect and interpret forage samples, allowing them to analyze feed quality and adjust management practice

Impact

At the conclusion of the "Cow Clinics" series the impacts were as follows: • 74 producers, agency representatives and consultants attended one of the five "Cow Clinics" • 87% reported an increase in knowledge with 20% reporting a significant increase in knowledge after attending the clinic. • 66% reported likely or very likely to make management changes. • 91,037 acres and 15,048 cows were represented at the clinics. • Participants reported a \$20.27 per cow because of attending the clinic. • Approximately 68% of the attendees participated in a free forage analysis with the offer to help decipher the results and provide ration formulation advice. • After the clinics, many producers asked additional questions and established a resource for them to contact for other related questions.

IANR PILLARS

Grow and strengthen Nebraska agricultural and natural resources ecosystems.
Promote progress and prosperity for all Nebraskans.

EXTENSION'S BIG 3

Strengthen Nebraska Agriculture & Food Systems

IMPACT IN NEBRASKA

3

BOONE, NANCE, CLAY

NEBRASKA COUNTIES IMPACTED



PREPARE IN TRIPLICATE:
 1 COPY TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR
 1 COPY TO IANR FINANCE & PERSONNEL
 1 COPY TO COUNTY FILE

PLATTE COUNTY
 UNL EXTENSION
 FINANCIAL FORM 9

Jun-24

CODE NO	OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE	BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR	SPENT THIS MONTH	TOTAL SPENT TO DATE	UNSPENT BALANCE	PERCENT SPENT	JUNE
1 0305	CLERICAL, FULL TIME 2.0	\$86,691.00	\$6,806.40	\$86,128.40	\$562.60	99.35%	
1 0326	EXTEN. ASSIST. SALARIES 2.0	\$80,549.00	\$6,172.80	\$75,419.29	\$5,129.71	93.63%	\$6,806.40
1 0101	BOARD MEMBER BY DISTRICT M	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$495.00	\$205.00	70.71%	\$6,172.80
1 0405	CLERICAL, PART TIME 0.75	\$5,000.00	\$1,672.50	\$4,683.39	\$316.61	93.67%	
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICE		\$172,940.00	\$14,651.70	\$166,726.08	\$6,213.92	96.41%	\$1,672.50
<hr/>							
2 0100	POSTAL SERVICE	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,992.47	\$7.53	99.75%	
2-1101	COMPUTER EXPENSE - GENER/	\$3,000.00	\$898.00	\$3,143.71	(\$143.71)	104.79%	
2 1200	OFFICE EQUIP. REPAIR	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,058.98	\$941.02	68.63%	\$898.00
2 1601	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	#DIV/0!	
2 1701	MEALS	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$108.40	\$141.60	43.36%	
2 1702	LODGING	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,065.33	(\$65.33)	106.53%	
2 1704	MILEAGE ALLOWANCE	\$2,500.00	\$283.41	\$2,057.36	\$442.64	82.29%	
2 1708	BOARD MEMBER EXPENSE	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$326.83	\$173.17	65.37%	\$283.41
2 1801	DUES, SUBS REGS & TRAINING	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,243.95	(\$43.95)	103.66%	
2 9900	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$1,000.00	\$619.38	\$1,004.36	(\$4.36)	100.44%	\$619.38
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$15,450.00	\$1,800.79	\$14,001.39	\$1,448.61	90.62%	\$1,800.79
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3 0101	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,500.00	\$394.00	\$2,493.21	\$6.79	99.73%	\$394.00
3 0118	STATIONERY/ENVELOPES	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$6.99	\$393.01	1.75%	
3 0124	PROGRAM SUPPLIES	\$1,000.00	\$123.56	\$1,096.93	(\$96.93)	109.69%	\$123.56
3 0209	FUEL	\$1,000.00	\$74.00	\$757.73	\$242.27	75.77%	\$74.00
3 0210	GREASE/OIL	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$187.57	\$212.43	46.89%	
3 0211	TIRES/REPAIR	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$122.95	\$677.05	15.37%	
TOTAL SUPPLIES		\$6,100.00	\$591.56	\$4,665.38	\$1,434.62	76.48%	\$591.56
<hr/>							
4 0500	BUILDING RENTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
<hr/>							
5 0301	VEHICLE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
5 0500	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
<hr/>							
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$194,490.00	\$17,044.05	\$185,392.85	\$9,097.15	95.32%	\$17,044.05

Average: 100.00%
 Difference: 4.68%

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THESE ARE EXPENDITURES FOR PLATTE COUNTY EXTENSION FOR YEAR 2022-2023-24

DISBURSING OFFICER

EXTENSION EDUCATOR

PREPARE IN TRIPPLICATE:
 1 COPY TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR
 1 COPY TO IANR FINANCE & PERSONNEL
 1 COPY TO COUNTY FILE

PLATTE COUNTY
 UNL EXTENSION
 FINANCIAL FORM 9

Jul:24

CODE NO	OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE	BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR	SPENT THIS MONTH	TOTAL SPENT TO DATE	UNSPENT BALANCE	PERCENT SPENT	JULY
1 0305	CLERICAL, FULL TIME	\$90,227.00	\$10,209.60	\$10,209.60	\$80,017.40	11.32%	\$10,209.60
1 0326	EXTEN. ASSIST. SALARIES	\$81,824.00	\$9,259.20	\$9,259.20	\$72,564.80	11.32%	\$9,259.20
1 0101	BOARD MEMBER BY DISTRICT	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	0.00%	
1 0405	CLERICAL, PART TIME	\$5,080.00	\$3,030.00	\$3,030.00	\$2,050.00	59.65%	\$3,030.00
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICE		\$177,831.00	\$22,498.80	\$22,498.80	\$155,332.20	12.65%	\$22,498.80
2 0100	POSTAL SERVICE	\$2,500.00	\$585.44	\$585.44	\$1,914.56	23.42%	\$585.44
2-1101	COMPUTER EXPENSE - GENER	\$3,000.00	\$37.98	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%	\$37.98
2 1200	OFFICE EQUIP. REPAIR	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%	
2 1601	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	
2 1701	MEALS	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	#DIV/0!	
2 1702	LODGING	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%	
2 1704	MILEAGE ALLOWANCE	\$2,700.00	\$32.83	\$241.87	\$2,458.13	8.96%	\$241.87
2 1708	BOARD MEMBER EXPENSE	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	0.00%	
2 1801	DUES, SUBS REGS & TRAINING	\$1,600.00	\$179.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	0.00%	\$179.00
2 9900	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00%	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$15,450.00	\$835.25	\$827.31	\$14,622.69	5.35%	\$1,044.29
3 0101	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,500.00	\$50.46	\$81.86	\$2,418.14	3.27%	\$81.86
3 0118	STATIONERY/ENVELOPES	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	0.00%	
3 0124	PROGRAM SUPPLIES	\$1,000.00	\$269.15	\$326.72	\$673.28	32.67%	\$326.72
3 0209	FUEL	\$1,000.00	\$57.51	\$57.51	\$942.49	5.75%	\$57.51
3 0210	GREASE/OIL	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	0.00%	
3 0211	TIRES/REPAIR	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	0.00%	
TOTAL SUPPLIES		\$6,100.00	\$377.12	\$466.09	\$5,633.91	7.64%	\$466.09
4 0500	BUILDING RENTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
5 0301	VEHICLE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
5 0500	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$199,381.00	\$23,711.17	\$23,792.20	\$175,588.80	11.93%	\$24,009.18

Average: 8.33%
 Difference: -3.60%

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THESE ARE EXPENDITURES FOR PLATTE COUNTY EXTENSION FOR YEAR 20:2024-25

DISBURSING OFFICER

EXTENSION EDUCATOR

NEBRASKA



Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge connecting Iowa and Nebraska | Photo by Matthew Nissen

ROUTE

The Great American Rail-Trail crosses from Iowa into Nebraska on the iconic Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge. The route weaves through the urban areas of Omaha and Lincoln, connecting these population centers to the more rural western part of the state. The open sections of the Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail take trail users almost 40% of the way across the total planned mileage for Nebraska, with more miles set for construction in the near future.

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT
NEBRASKA

TABLE 18 GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL MILEAGE IN NEBRASKA

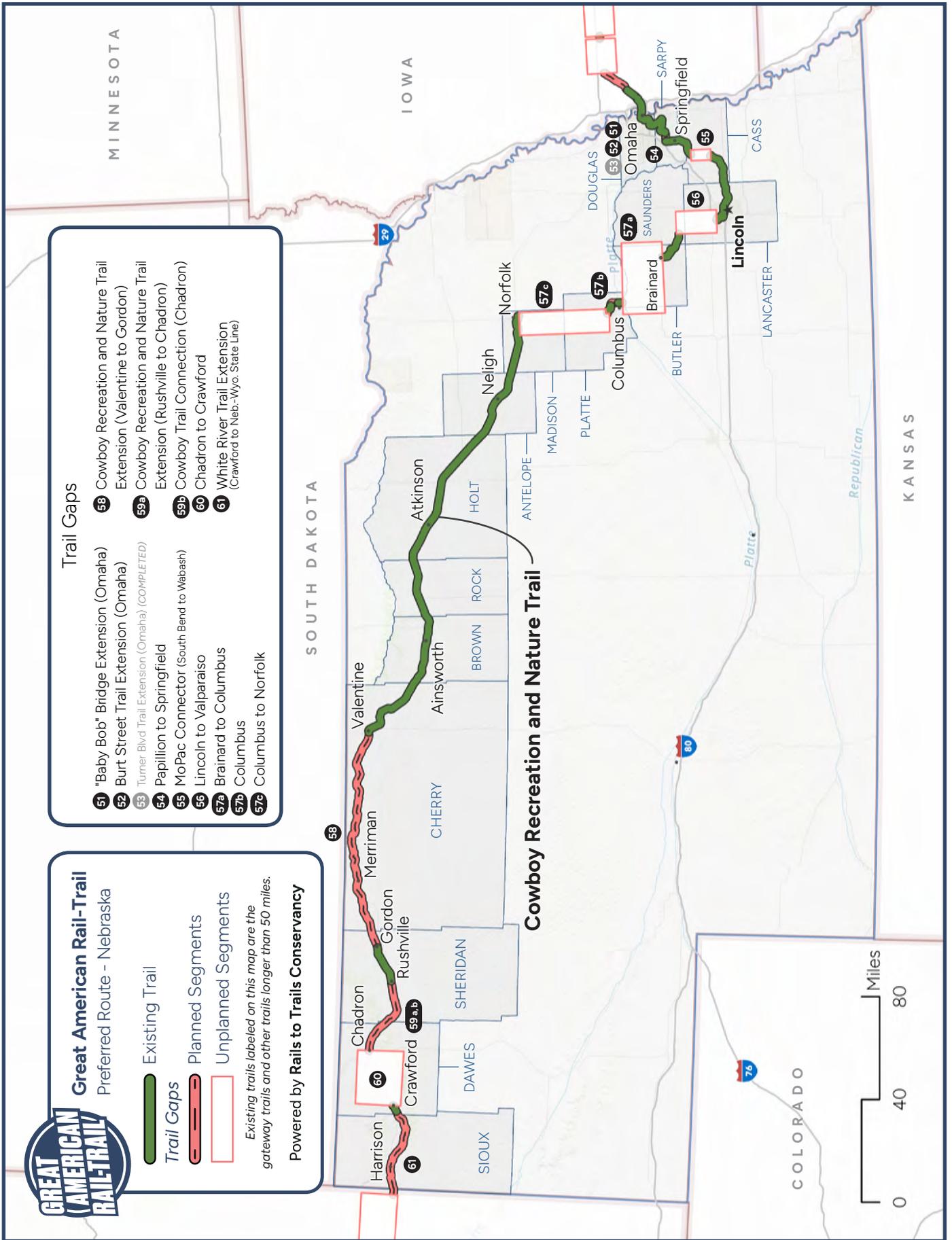
Total Great American Rail-Trail Existing Trail Miles in Neb. (% of Total State Mileage)	309.1 (52.1%)
Total Great American Rail-Trail Gap Miles in Neb. (% of Total State Mileage)	284.5 (47.9%)
Total Trail Gaps in Neb.	10
Total Great American Rail-Trail Miles in Neb.	593.6

TABLE 19 GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE THROUGH NEBRASKA

Existing Trail or Trail Gap Name	Length in Neb. Along Great American Rail-Trail (in Miles)	Existing Trail or Trail Gap Name	Length in Neb. Along Great American Rail-Trail (in Miles)
Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge	0.2	Oak Lake Connector Trail	0.8
TRAIL GAP 51 – “Baby Bob” Bridge Extension (Omaha)	0.1	North 1st Street Trail	1.5
TRAIL GAP 52 – Burt Street Trail Extension (Omaha)	0.9	Superior Street Trail	0.2
Burt Street Trail	0.8	Highlands Trail	1.3
Turner Boulevard Trail	2.1	TRAIL GAP 56 – Lincoln to Valparaiso	16.8
TRAIL GAP 53 – Turner Boulevard Trail Extension (Omaha) COMPLETED	-	Oak Creek Trail	13.0
Field Club Trail	1.4	TRAIL GAP 57a – Brainard to Columbus	25.7
South Omaha Trail	3.7	Third Avenue Viaduct Trail	0.8
Keystone Trail	5.6	TRAIL GAP 57b – Columbus	3.9
West Papio Trail	5.7	Robert White Trail	1.5
Walnut Creek Lake Trail	2.6	Bob Lake Trail	1.2
TRAIL GAP 54 – Papillion to Springfield	3.5	TRAIL GAP 57c – Columbus to Norfolk	44.4
MoPac Trail (Springfield)	13.2	Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail (Norfolk to Valentine)	203.7
Platte River Connection	1.5	TRAIL GAP 58 – Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail Extension (Valentine to Gordon)	90.2
TRAIL GAP 55 – MoPac Connector (South Bend to Wabash)	9.4	Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail (Gordon to Rushville)	16.6
MoPac Trail East	20.7	TRAIL GAP 59a – Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail Extension (Rushville to Chadron)	25.9
MoPac Trail West	6.2	TRAIL GAP 59b – Cowboy Trail Connection (Chadron)	5.8
Antelope Valley Trail	1.0	TRAIL GAP 60 – Chadron to Crawford	23.8
Salt Creek Levee Trail	1.0	White River Trail	2.8
		TRAIL GAP 61 – White River Trail Extension (Crawford to Neb.-Wyo. State Line)	34.1
		Total Miles	593.6
		Existing Trail Miles	309.1
		Trail Gap Miles	284.5

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT 2024

MAP 9: NEBRASKA



GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT NEBRASKA

BOB KERREY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Total Length (in Miles)	0.4
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	0.2
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Concrete
Trail Manager	Council Bluffs Parks & Recreation, Omaha Parks & Recreation, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · councilbluffs-ia.gov/2178/bob-kerrey-pedestrian-bridge · visitomaha.com/bob
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/bob-kerrey-pedestrian-bridge

The Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, discussed in more detail in the Iowa chapter of this report, has become a major community landmark, with a planned extension into Omaha in the works. The bridge is lit at night to provide a safe and attractive connection throughout the day and night. Visitors taking the bridge into Omaha can travel about a half-mile south along the Omaha Riverfront Trail to the Omaha Visitors Center to learn more about Omaha and what it has to offer. People continuing along the Great American Rail-Trail will head west into Omaha along the planned “Baby Bob” bridge extension, described below.

TRAIL GAP 51 – “BABY BOB” BRIDGE EXTENSION (OMAHA)

The Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge currently ends on the Omaha, Nebraska, side of the Missouri River at Lewis & Clark Landing, connecting trail users to the Omaha Riverfront Trail running along the Missouri River. The current configuration of roads and railroads just to the west of this landing makes it difficult for trail users to access the bridge from downtown Omaha.

The city of Omaha plans to extend the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge 0.1 mile over Riverfront Drive and the railroad tracks to a planned trail extension along Mike Fahey Street. The North Downtown Riverfront Pedestrian Connector Bridge (or “Baby Bob”) is listed in Omaha’s 2021–2026 Capital Improvement Program. The bridge extension is in the final design stages. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2024.

TRAIL GAP 52 – BURT STREET TRAIL EXTENSION (OMAHA)

The city of Omaha plans to extend the existing Burt Street Trail 0.9 mile from its current western terminus at North 20th Street eastward to connect to the “Baby Bob” bridge extension. The trail will follow Burt Street to CHI Health Center Omaha, where the “Baby Bob” bridge extension is to connect at the end of Mike Fahey Street. Bike Walk Nebraska is working locally to explore an on-street protected bike lane along Burt Street that could also help make this connection.

BURT STREET TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	0.8
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	0.8
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Concrete
Trail Manager	Omaha Parks & Recreation
Website	parks.cityofomaha.org/parks/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/burt-street-trail-

The existing Burt Street Trail runs 0.8 mile between North 20th and North 30th streets in Omaha. The trail is a shared-use path that parallels Burt Street on the south side of the road. It is largely wide enough to accommodate both bicycle and pedestrian traffic, though there are small sections that narrow to a normal sidewalk width. This pathway provides a connection on the north side of the Creighton University campus.

TURNER BOULEVARD TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	2.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	2.1
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete
Trail Manager	Omaha Parks & Recreation
Website	parks.cityofomaha.org/parks/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/turner-boulevard-trail

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT NEBRASKA



MoPac Trail East in Nebraska | Photo by TrailLink user dimitri.hunter

The Turner Boulevard Trail connects to the Burt Street Trail at North 30th Street in Omaha. The Turner Boulevard Trail currently travels 2.2 miles. The Turner Boulevard Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail for 2.1 miles, spanning the intersection of North 30th and Burt streets to Pacific Street at the Field Club of Omaha. The trail is a shared-use path that runs along the west side of North 30th Street and Turner Boulevard, winding past several parks and neighborhoods and ending at the Field Club of Omaha.

~~TRAIL GAP 53~~—TURNER BOULEVARD TRAIL EXTENSION (OMAHA) COMPLETED

A 0.3-mile extension of the Turner Boulevard Trail was completed in 2021 along Pacific Street to connect to the Field Club Trail.

FIELD CLUB TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	1.8
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	1.4
Trail Type	Greenway, rail-trail
Surface Type	Concrete
Trail Manager	Omaha Parks & Recreation
Website	parks.cityofomaha.org/parks/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/field-club-trail

The Field Club Trail travels 1.8 miles from the intersection of South 39th and Leavenworth streets south to the northern terminus of the South Omaha Trail at Vinton Street. Of this trail, 1.4 miles beginning at the end of the Turner Boulevard Trail Extension will provide a connection through Omaha and the Hanscom Park neighborhood for the Great American Rail-Trail. The Field Club Trail occupies an old railroad bed that runs for 2 miles and lies 30 feet below grade.

SOUTH OMAHA TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	3.7
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	3.7
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Concrete
Trail Manager	Omaha Parks & Recreation
Website	pacionrd.org/recreation-wildlife/parks-and-trails/metro-omaha-trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/south-omaha-trail

The South Omaha Trail connects the Field Club Trail to the Keystone Trail at its crossing of Little Papillion Creek. The South Omaha Trail is built on a former Chicago and North Western Transportation Company corridor with an old trestle crossing South 60th Street. The city of Omaha installed a pedestrian hybrid beacon signal at the busy at-grade crossing of South 50th Street to allow for safer crossing.

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT NEBRASKA

KEYSTONE TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	15.0
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	5.6
Trail Type	Greenway, rail-trail
Surface Type	Concrete
Trail Manager	Bellevue Parks Department, Omaha Parks & Recreation, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Website	papionrd.org/recreation-wildlife/parks-and-trails/metro-omaha-trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/keystone-trail

The South Omaha Trail connects to the Keystone Trail at its crossing of Little Papillion Creek, though the Keystone Trail continues several miles north through much of western Omaha. The Keystone Trail partially follows the banks of Papillion Creek atop the flood control levees, while the remaining 2.3 miles are along an old rail corridor. The Great American Rail-Trail will turn west once the Keystone Trail intersects the West Papio Trail near South 36th Street at its crossing of Big Papillion Creek in Bellevue, though the Keystone Trail itself continues south to the Bellevue Loop Trail.

WEST PAPIO TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	22.9
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	5.7
Trail Type	Greenway, rail-trail
Surface Type	Concrete
Trail Manager	Omaha Parks & Recreation, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Website	papionrd.org/recreation-wildlife/parks-and-trails/metro-omaha-trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/west-papio-trail

The West Papio Trail connects at its eastern end to the Keystone Trail and continues west toward the city of Elkhorn through the city of Papillion, following West Papillion Creek. At the western edge of Papillion, the Great American Rail-Trail will head south along South 96th Street toward the Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation Area to eventually connect to the MoPac Trail. The Great American Rail-Trail will make a brief on-street jog westward along Santa Fe Circle to access a trail underpass to safely cross underneath the busy state Route 370. The West Papio Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail for 5.7 miles between the Keystone Trail and Papillion.

WALNUT CREEK LAKE TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	3.3
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	2.6
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Boardwalk, concrete
Trail Manager	City of Papillion, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Website	papillion.org/facilities/facility/details/walnut-creekrecreationarea-14
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/walnut-creek-lake-trail

The West Papio Trail connects to a trail system at Walnut Creek Lake, a 105-acre reservoir and mixed-use recreation area in Papillion. The lake and recreation area are under the management of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District. The paved loop around Walnut Creek Lake is 3.3 miles and is complete with amenities including a campground, restrooms, water fountains and an equestrian trail.

TRAIL GAP 54 – PAPILLION TO SPRINGFIELD

The Omaha metropolitan area has long been interested in completing a trail connection between the Walnut Creek Lake Trail and the MoPac Trail. A distinct trail corridor has not yet been identified. In the meantime, people who would like to travel between the trails can use Schram Road. This approximately 3.5-mile connection passes through farmland along an unpaved, low-volume county road. Gravel roads such as this can provide a low-stress bicycling experience and require the same equipment that would be needed on an unpaved rail-trail, such as many of those included in the Great American Rail-Trail route. When a trail connection to fill this gap is identified, the route of the Great American Rail-Trail will be adjusted to use that corridor. In the meantime, Schram Road can provide an appropriate interim on-road connector.

MoPAC TRAIL (SPRINGFIELD)

Total Length (in Miles)	13.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	13.2
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Crushed stone
Trail Manager	Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Website	papionrd.org/recreation-wildlife/parks-and-trails/metro-omaha-trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/mopac-trail-(springfield)

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT NEBRASKA

The MoPac Trail exists in three segments, starting just north of Springfield to the north and ending in Lincoln to the south and west. Nearly the entire route rests on an abandoned Missouri Pacific Railroad corridor (the MoPac).

Segment 1 – MoPac Trail (Springfield): Beginning at Schram Road in Omaha, the MoPac Trail heads south along state Route 50 through the town of Springfield, where a former gap in the route between Platteview Road and Main Street was recently completed slightly away from the former MoPac rail line, allowing for uninterrupted off-road travel through Springfield. The MoPac Trail continues along the old rail corridor south of the Platte River, just north of the city of Louisville, where the trail heads west to parallel state Route 31. Once the trail reaches the Platte River at South Bend, there is a trailhead with parking as the trail continues to cross the Platte River over the Lied Platte River Bridge.

Segment 2 – MoPac Trail East (discussed below).

Segment 3 – MoPac Trail West (discussed below).

PLATTE RIVER CONNECTION

Total Length (in Miles)	1.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	1.5
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Concrete, crushed stone
Trail Manager	Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · lpsnrd.org/ried-bridge-platte-river-connection · papiornrd.org/recreation-wildlife/parks-and-trails/platteriverbridgetrail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/platte-river-connection

A connection across the Platte River at the village of South Bend, Nebraska, was completed in 2002, using an abandoned Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad bridge. The bridge across the river is now known as the Lied Platte River Bridge, named after the Lied Foundation, a major contributor to the project. The bridge was heavily damaged by flooding in March 2019. Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District collaborated to repair and reopen the bridge to the public in July 2021.

TRAIL GAP 55 – MoPAC CONNECTOR (SOUTH BEND TO WABASH)

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District identifies an interim on-road connector between the Platte River Connection and the MoPac Trail East. Bike Walk Nebraska, the Nebraska Trails Foundation and the

Great Plains Trail Network—collectively, the “MoPac Alliance”—recently announced a partnership to close this 9.4-mile gap and make a multiuse trail between Omaha and Lincoln closer to reality. The MoPac Alliance received a huge boost to its momentum in 2022 with the inclusion of \$8.3 million in funding in the 2022 Nebraska Legislature budget. Advocates are currently working with Cass County and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District to identify the preferred alignment and move the project toward design and construction. A feasibility study for the project is underway and is slated for completion in 2024.

MoPAC TRAIL EAST

Total Length (in Miles)	20.7
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	20.7
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Crushed stone
Trail Manager	Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Website	lpsnrd.org/mopac-east-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/mopac-trail-east

The second segment of the MoPac Trail, following the old corridor of the Missouri Pacific Railroad’s Omaha Belt Line, travels 20.7 miles between Wabash and Lincoln. This eastern segment of the MoPac Trail is very rural and travels on a crushed stone path through prairie, woodland and farmland. A separate equestrian trail, the Charles L. Warner Equestrian Trail, is provided along the majority of the trail. Here, the MoPac Trail East connects to the MoPac Trail West to make the rest of the voyage into Lincoln.

MoPAC TRAIL WEST

Total Length (in Miles)	6.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	6.2
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Concrete, crushed stone
Trail Manager	Lincoln Parks & Recreation
Website	lincoln.ne.gov/city/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-facilities/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/mopac-trail-west

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT NEBRASKA

The third segment of the MoPac Trail starts at South 84th Street, east of Lincoln, and travels 6.2 miles into downtown Lincoln. The MoPac Trail West travels through many neighborhoods in Lincoln and helps connect the two campuses of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. The Great American Rail-Trail will head north at North Antelope Valley Parkway—the westernmost terminus of the MoPac Trail—onto the Antelope Valley Trail.

ANTELOPE VALLEY TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	2.1
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	1.0
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Concrete, crushed stone
Trail Manager	Lincoln Parks & Recreation
Website	lincoln.ne.gov/city/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-facilities/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/antelope-valley-trail

The Antelope Valley Trail runs roughly south to north through downtown Lincoln, with Lincoln High School to the south and Salt Creek to the north. The trail passes Trago Park, Union Park Plaza and the Bob Devaney Center. The Antelope Valley Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail for 1 mile, connecting the MoPac Trail West to the Salt Creek Levee Trail.

SALT CREEK LEVEE TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	4.0
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	1.0
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Crushed stone
Trail Manager	Lincoln Parks & Recreation
Website	lincoln.ne.gov/city/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-facilities/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/salt-creek-levee-trail

The Salt Creek Levee Trail connects a trail along the levee of Salt Creek from its confluence with Oak Creek down to the Jamaica North Trail. The Great American Rail-Trail will utilize the northern mile of the Salt Creek Levee Trail connecting the Antelope Valley Trail to the Oak Lake Connector Trail at a bridge crossing Salt Creek.

OAK LAKE CONNECTOR TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	1.4
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	0.8
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Lincoln Parks & Recreation
Website	lincoln.ne.gov/city/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-facilities/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/oak-lake-connector-trail

The Oak Lake Connector Trail travels around Oak Lake Park along Charleston and North 1st streets in Lincoln, connecting to a shared-use path along North 1st Street at U.S. 6/Cornhusker Highway. Oak Lake Park provides two parking lots and a restroom facility, as well as walking trails along Oak Lake.

NORTH 1ST STREET TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	1.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	1.5
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Concrete
Trail Manager	Lincoln Parks & Recreation
Website	lincoln.ne.gov/city/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-facilities/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/north-1st-street-trail

A shared-use path runs along the length of North 1st Street from U.S. 6/Cornhusker Highway northwest to Superior Street. The trail is made of concrete and is approximately 10 feet wide, running along the northbound lane of North 1st Street.

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT NEBRASKA

SUPERIOR STREET TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	4.4
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	0.2
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Lincoln Parks & Recreation
Website	lincoln.ne.gov/city/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-facilities/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/superior-street-trail

A 0.2-mile section of the Superior Street Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail between North 1st Street and a connection to the Highlands Trail at Technology Drive in Lincoln. The Superior Street Trail is primarily a commuter route following its namesake thoroughfare from U.S. 6/Cornhusker Highway to the Highlands neighborhood at the western edge of the city.

HIGHLANDS TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	2.6
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	1.3
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Lincoln Parks & Recreation
Website	lincoln.ne.gov/city/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-facilities/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/highlands-trail-(ne)

The Highlands Trail offers a pleasant, 2.6-mile loop through Lincoln's Highlands neighborhood, providing the western link of the series of trails that travels through Lincoln. Those following the Great American Rail-Trail can follow the trail 1.3 miles along West Highland Boulevard and connect north along NW 12th Street to the Highlands Trail's terminus near NW 10th Street.

TRAIL GAP 56 – LINCOLN TO VALPARAISO

There are no known corridors that could help complete the 16.8-mile gap between the Highlands Trail in Lincoln and the Oak Creek Trail in Valparaiso. There is an active Union Pacific Railroad corridor connecting Lincoln north to Valparaiso with a low traffic density, according to data from the Federal Railroad Administration in 2014.

While a feasible, off-road multiuse trail option between these two trails continues to be explored, a temporary on-road interim connection can be made using various low-volume county roads in Lancaster and Saunders counties. A new group with representatives from local and statewide organizations has recently formed and is considering opportunities to complete this gap.

OAK CREEK TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	13.0
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	13.0
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Crushed stone
Trail Manager	Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Website	lpsnrd.org/oak-creek-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/oak-creek-trail

The Oak Creek Trail occupies a former Union Pacific Railroad corridor between the Nebraska villages of Valparaiso and Brainard. The trail travels 13 miles through Saunders and Butler counties. Across the county line is the tiny community of Loma, where restrooms are located just off the trail near the St. Luke Czech Catholic Shrine in the center of town. An equestrian trail runs adjacent to the Oak Creek Trail for its entire route, and horse trailer parking can be found at the trailheads in Valparaiso and Loma.

TRAIL GAP 57a – BRAINARD TO COLUMBUS

A 25.7-mile gap exists between Brainard and Columbus. The rail line on which the Oak Creek Trail was constructed between Valparaiso and Brainard extends northwest for an additional 10.5 miles to David City. The rail line is not officially abandoned and is currently under Nebraska Central Railroad Company ownership, though Federal Railroad Administration data from 2014 shows no rail traffic along this corridor. If this section is ever officially abandoned, Butler County and the local natural resource districts should seek to extend the Oak Creek Trail northwest to David City. As the rail line to David City crosses through the jurisdiction of three natural resource districts (Lower Platte South, Upper Big Blue and Lower Platte North, respectively), a partnership on trail development and management could be pursued.

From David City, an active BNSF Railway line continues north through Columbus, Nebraska, and has a traffic density of two out of five, according to 2014 Federal Railroad Administration data. The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District recently approved a letter of support for considering a rail-with-trail opportunity on this section of active rail line between David City and Columbus.

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT NEBRASKA

THIRD AVENUE VIADUCT TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	0.8
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	0.8
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Concrete
Trail Manager	City of Columbus
Website	columbusnetrails.com
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/third-avenue-viaduct-trail-

The 3rd Avenue viaduct was an infrastructure project decades in the making. Prior to its completion, travelers heading north or south along 3rd Avenue between 8th Street and U.S. 30 were forced to cross a tangle of Union Pacific Railroad tracks at street level. The finished viaduct, which opened in August 2018, includes a concrete path between 8th and 19th streets (just south of U.S. 30), ensuring safe passage over the tracks for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. The trail is part of a trail network in Columbus known as CART (Columbus Area Recreational Trails).

TRAIL GAP 57b – COLUMBUS

The city of Columbus and CART are working together to complete a network of trails through Columbus, including an approximately 3.9-mile connection between the Third Avenue Viaduct Trail and the Robert White Trail. The new connection would follow 3rd Avenue north and the existing canal northwest before intersecting with the Robert White Trail at the Lake Babcock Reservoir.

ROBERT WHITE TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	1.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	1.5
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Crushed stone
Trail Manager	City of Columbus
Website	columbusnetrails.com
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/robert-white-trail

In Columbus, the Robert White Trail runs 1.5 miles between 18th Avenue/ Monastery Road and the start of the Bob Lake Trail at the intersection of 65th and 68th streets. The trail follows the southern shore of Lake Babcock for its duration.

BOB LAKE TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	1.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	1.2
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Crushed stone
Trail Manager	City of Columbus
Website	columbusnetrails.com
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/bob-lake-trail

The Bob Lake Trail runs 1.2 miles between the northern terminus of the Robert White Trail at 65th and 68th streets, south of 83rd Street. The trail follows the southwestern shore of Lake Babcock for part of its route.

TRAIL GAP 57c – COLUMBUS TO NORFOLK

The city of Columbus plans to construct a trail extending from the Bob Lake Trail westward along the canal to at least 63rd Avenue. From 63rd Avenue, the trail would continue north toward Norfolk. 2014 data from the Federal Railroad Administration lists a local Nebraska Central Railroad Company rail line to Norfolk as active, but shows no rail traffic along the corridor. If this section is ever officially abandoned, local natural resource districts should seek to transform it into a trail as well. Alternative options, including low-volume county roads, should be explored in the meantime to make this 44.4-mile connection in the interim.

COWBOY RECREATION AND NATURE TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	220.3
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	220.3
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Concrete, crushed stone
Trail Manager	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Website	· bikecowboytrail.com · outdoornebraska.gov/cowboytrail
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/cowboy-recreation-and-nature-trail

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT NEBRASKA

The Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail (“Cowboy Trail”) is one of the country’s longest rail-trails. The Cowboy Trail was designated as a National Recreational Trail as part of the National Park Service’s National Trails System in 2001. When it is fully complete, the trail will extend more than 300 miles between the cities of Norfolk and Chadron. Two segments of the Cowboy Trail are currently complete:

Segment 1 – 203.7 miles between Norfolk and Valentine.

Segment 2 – 16.6 miles between Gordon and Rushville.

The Cowboy Trail was created when a major corridor of the Chicago and North Western Transportation Company (originally part of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad) was abandoned in 1992. RTC purchased the railroad right-of-way and donated it to the state of Nebraska. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission now owns the entire corridor between Norfolk and mile marker 400, about 5 miles east of downtown Chadron.

Maintenance of the Cowboy Trail has historically been underfunded at the state level. This situation leaves parts of the Cowboy Trail in rough but passable shape, particularly as the trail passes through the more remote sections of completed trail on the western end.⁵ The trail has not been entirely resurfaced since it was first completed in the late 1990s, and short sections could be rough from washboarding. LB981 was introduced to the Nebraska Legislature in January 2022. It would provide a dedicated maintenance fund of \$15 million for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to support ongoing maintenance of the Cowboy Trail and other trails within the commission’s purview outside of specific state parks. LB981 was unsuccessful in the Nebraska Legislature, and efforts are underway to secure the necessary maintenance funding in other ways.

Flooding in the spring of 2019 severely damaged portions of the Cowboy Trail, with repair costs estimated to top \$7.7 million. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is currently completing those repairs using funding from the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

TRAIL GAP 58 – COWBOY RECREATION AND NATURE TRAIL EXTENSION (VALENTINE TO GORDON)

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission owns a former rail corridor between the existing trailheads in Valentine and Gordon that was never officially surfaced as part of the Cowboy Trail. The commission has been hesitant to complete construction on this 90-mile section of trail until dedicated and stable funding is made available by the Nebraska Legislature for ongoing operations and maintenance of the entire Cowboy Trail.

Between Valentine and Merriman (approximately 61 miles), the bridges are decked and the remaining activities to open the trail include mowing, grading and surfacing with crushed stone. Ballast and railroad ties are still present on the remaining 30 miles between Merriman and Gordon, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is preparing to remove the ballast when resources allow. The bridges along the section between Merriman and Gordon still need to be decked as well. Completing the entire Cowboy Trail will go a long way toward making the Great American Rail-Trail a reality and providing economic development assistance to the small towns that settled along the former rail corridor.

TRAIL GAP 59a – COWBOY RECREATION AND NATURE TRAIL EXTENSION (RUSHVILLE TO CHADRON)

Cowboy Trail West Inc. is working to complete the western 25.9 miles of the Cowboy Trail from Rushville to mile marker 400, east of Chadron. Cowboy Trail West completed and maintains the existing western section of the Cowboy Trail between Gordon and Rushville in Sheridan County. In September 2018, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission offered Cowboy Trail West \$350,000 in Recreational Trails Program funds for trail development. In partnership with the commission, Cowboy Trail West will use the funds to upgrade the surfacing of the existing trail section and extend it westward toward Hay Springs.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will complete rehabilitation of the bridges along the Cowboy Trail between Rushville and mile marker 400 in 2024. The commission also obtained a Transportation Alternatives grant to complete surfacing of this section, which is likely to be completed in 2026 or 2027.

TRAIL GAP 59b – COWBOY TRAIL CONNECTION (CHADRON)

The Northwest Nebraska Trails Association (NNTA) is working closely with the city of Chadron and Nebraska Northwestern Railroad to complete roughly 5.8 miles of trail to connect the end of the Cowboy Trail at mile marker 400 into downtown Chadron. Nebraska Northwestern Railroad has issued an easement for a rail-with-trail along the active rail line to complete this gap, and NNTA and the city of Chadron have entered into a memorandum of understanding agreement for the eventual completion and management of the trail. Engineering documents were completed in 2021, and NNTA and the city of Chadron are currently raising funds for trail construction. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has awarded NNTA \$528,540 in Recreational Trails Program grants for development of this trail gap.

⁵ Cowboy Trail West Inc. provides the labor to maintain the section between Gordon and Rushville, using materials provided by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. RTC provided a Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund grant in 2017 to Cowboy Trail West Inc. for trail surfacing in this western section of the trail.

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT NEBRASKA



Cowboy Trail in Nebraska | Photo by Alex Duryea, courtesy Nebraska Tourism Commission

TRAIL GAP 60 – CHADRON TO CRAWFORD

An active Canadian Pacific Railway corridor runs between the cities of Chadron and Crawford. The line has a low traffic density, according to data from the Federal Railroad Administration in 2014. There is no abandoned rail option to complete an off-road trail between Chadron and the existing White River Trail in Crawford. While a feasible off-road multiuse trail option connecting this 23.8-mile gap continues to be explored, a temporary interim on-road connector can be made using various low-volume county roads in Dawes County.

WHITE RIVER TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	2.8
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Neb. (in Miles)	2.8
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Ballast
Trail Manager	City of Crawford, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Website	outdoornebraska.gov/fortrobinson
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/white-river-trail

The White River Trail runs along a former Chicago and North Western Transportation Company corridor for 2.8 miles, starting in Crawford and ending at Fort Robinson State Park. Fort Robinson encompasses the fort and military camp that was home to the Red Cloud Agency in the 1870s. The agency served as an issuing point for supplies to the Oglala Lakota tribe of the Great Sioux Nation, as well as the Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, authorized in exchange for land ceded to the United States in 1868.

Fort Robinson is also the site of Crazy Horse’s surrender and death in 1877, and visitors can find a historical plaque that marks the location. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission handles the ongoing operations and maintenance of the White River Trail, while the city of Crawford maintains the portion of the trail outside of Fort Robinson State Park.

TRAIL GAP 61 – WHITE RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION (CRAWFORD TO NEBRASKA- WYOMING STATE LINE)

The former Chicago and North Western Transportation Company corridor that traveled along the White River in Nebraska and Niobrara River in Wyoming was severely damaged in a flood in 1991. Twenty miles of track and 45 bridges were destroyed along the corridor, and rail service never recovered after the storm. Local rail advocates were insistent upon the railbed being turned into a trail once it was no longer viable for rail traffic.

The existing 3 miles of the White River Trail are the result of those efforts. The remainder of the rail corridor between Fort Robinson State Park and Van Tassell, Wyoming, is under the ownership of the Friends of the White River Trail, which includes 34 miles in Nebraska. The friends group intends to hold on to the ownership of the rail corridor until resources become available to complete construction of the trail and keep it maintained. Chief Dull Knife College is currently working with the Northern Cheyenne tribe to develop a 3-mile trail from the Cheyenne Breakout barracks at Fort Robinson to the monument created to commemorate the Cheyenne Breakout of January 1879. It will be called the Healing Trail and will incorporate about 2 to 2.5 miles of the railbed west of Fort Robinson. In 2021, the Northern Cheyenne Breakout Committee received a \$149,500 grant from the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program to support the development of the Northern Cheyenne Healing Trail.

Any future trail connecting the 34.1-mile gap from Crawford to the Nebraska–Wyoming border needs to connect to a trail on the Wyoming side. Potential trail connections in Wyoming are discussed in Trail Gap 62a in the Wyoming chapter of this report.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

**VILLAGE OF TARNOV, NEBRASKA AND
HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

THIS AGREEMENT is made this 9 day of Dec, 2024, between the **Village of Tarnov, Platte County, Nebraska, a municipality of the State of Nebraska**, hereinafter referred to as "Village", and the **Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska**, hereinafter referred to as "District".

WHEREAS, the parties are political subdivisions formed under the laws of the State of Nebraska;

WHEREAS, Village and District believe it is in the best interests of both to have the territory within the incorporated area of Village included within the territory of District;

WHEREAS, Village and District enter into this Agreement in contemplation of both parties passing Joint Resolutions and the Platte County Board of Commissioners approving the actions of the parties to have the territory within the incorporated area of Village included within the territory of District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, NEB. REV. STAT. §13-801, *et seq.*, the parties desire to allow both parties to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with each other on a basis of mutual advantage, and thereby, to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the needs and the development of local communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES, pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §13-807, as follows:

1. **CONDITIONAL AGREEMENT.** This Agreement is conditioned upon the parties and the Platte County Board of Commissioners approving that the territory within the incorporated area of Village be included within the territory of District, and if this fails to occur, this Agreement shall be null and void.
2. **VILLAGE FIRE STATION.** Village does not own a Fire Station.
3. **FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS AND FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT/APPLIANCES OF VILLAGE.** For purposes of this Agreement, "firefighting apparatus" shall mean all fire trucks, including pumpers, grass rigs and tankers, and equipment attached thereto or presently being stored thereon. For purposes of this Agreement, all references to "firefighting equipment/appliances" shall mean all other firefighting equipment and appliances, including but not limited to bunker gear, self-contained breathing apparatus, helmets, hose, nozzles, pagers, radios, etc. All firefighting apparatus and all firefighting equipment/appliances owned by Village or its Volunteer Fire Department shall be transferred and conveyed to District. Village shall take all action necessary, as reasonably requested by District, to transfer ownership of the

firefighting apparatus and firefighting equipment/appliances to District. Once conveyed to District, the firefighting apparatus and firefighting equipment/appliances shall be maintained by District and replaced as deemed appropriate and necessary by District.

4. USE OF FIRE STATION. None.

5. VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF VILLAGE. Current Village Volunteer Fire Department members may submit applications for membership to the District's Volunteer Fire Department, which applications shall be voted upon by the current membership of the District's Volunteer Fire Department. Once accepted on the roster of the District's Volunteer Fire Department, such volunteer firefighters shall have the same privileges, obligations, and benefits of the District's Volunteer Fire Department members.

6. PRIOR AGREEMENTS. This Agreement hereby supersedes and makes void any and all prior agreements, supplements, or other agreements between the parties, both verbal and written.

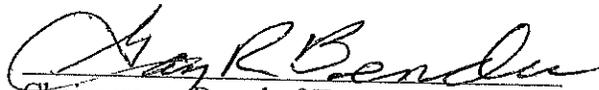
7. MODIFICATIONS TO AGREEMENT. This Agreement may be modified or amended by the parties only upon their written agreement.

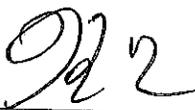
8. BINDING AGREEMENT. This Agreement shall be binding upon the successors or assigns of the parties.

EXECUTED on the dates below indicated by each party.

VILLAGE OF CORNLEA NEBRASKA

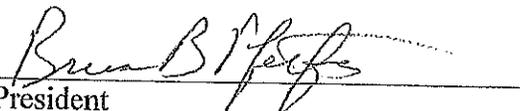
Oct 7, 2024
Date


Chairperson, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: 
Village Clerk

HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

12-4-, 2024
Date


President

ATTEST: 
Secretary

RESOLUTION NO: 1

A RESOLUTION OF THE HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO APPROVE, RATIFY AND ACCEPT THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND THE VILLAGE OF CORNLEA NEBRASKA; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXECUTION THEREOF.

WHEREAS, the Village of Cornlea, Platte County, Nebraska and the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District are contemplating merging their Fire Protection; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of said merger, the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District determines it to be in the best interests of the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the Village of Cornlea, Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District:

Section 1. The Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District hereby approves the Interlocal Agreement with the Village of Cornlea, Nebraska.

Section 2. The President of the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District Board is hereby authorized to execute said Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District, and to further execute all documents to carry out the intent of the Interlocal Agreement.

Introduced and passed this 4 day of December , 2024.

HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT

 Bruce B Pfeifer
President

ATTEST:

 Jeffrey E. Bunch
Secretary

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

VILLAGE OF CORNLEA NEBRASKA AND HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

THIS AGREEMENT is made this 7 day of Oct, 2024, between the Village of Cornlea, Platte County, Nebraska, a municipality of the State of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as "Village", and the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as "District".

WHEREAS, the parties are political subdivisions formed under the laws of the State of Nebraska;

WHEREAS, Village and District believe it is in the best interests of both to have the territory within the incorporated area of Village included within the territory of District;

WHEREAS, Village and District enter into this Agreement in contemplation of both parties passing Joint Resolutions and the Platte County Board of Commissioners approving the actions of the parties to have the territory within the incorporated area of Village included within the territory of District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, NEB. REV. STAT. §13-801, *et seq.*, the parties desire to allow both parties to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with each other on a basis of mutual advantage, and thereby, to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the needs and the development of local communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES, pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §13-807, as follows:

1. **CONDITIONAL AGREEMENT.** This Agreement is conditioned upon the parties and the Platte County Board of Commissioners approving that the territory within the incorporated area of Village be included within the territory of District, and if this fails to occur, this Agreement shall be null and void.
2. **VILLAGE FIRE STATION.** Village does not own a Fire Station.
3. **FIREFIGHTING APPARATUS AND FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT/ APPLIANCES OF VILLAGE.** For purposes of this Agreement, "firefighting apparatus" shall mean all fire trucks, including pumpers, grass rigs and tankers, and equipment attached thereto or presently being stored thereon. For purposes of this Agreement, all references to "firefighting equipment/appliances" shall mean all other firefighting equipment and appliances, including but not limited to bunker gear, self-contained breathing apparatus, helmets, hose, nozzles, pagers, radios, etc. All firefighting apparatus and all firefighting equipment/appliances owned by Village or its Volunteer Fire Department shall be transferred and conveyed to District. Village shall take all action necessary, as reasonably requested by District, to transfer ownership of the

RESOLUTION NO: 1

A RESOLUTION OF THE HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO APPROVE, RATIFY AND ACCEPT THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND THE VILLAGE OF TARNOV NEBRASKA; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXECUTION THEREOF.

WHEREAS, the Village of Tarnov, Platte County, Nebraska and the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District are contemplating merging their Fire Protection; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of said merger, the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District determines it to be in the best interests of the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the Village of Tarnov, Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District:

Section 1. The Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District hereby approves the Interlocal Agreement with the Village of Tarnov, Nebraska.

Section 2. The President of the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District Board is hereby authorized to execute said Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the Humphrey Rural Fire Protection District, and to further execute all documents to carry out the intent of the Interlocal Agreement.

Introduced and passed this 4 day of December, 2024.

HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT

Bruce B Pfeiffer
President

ATTEST:

Jeffrey S Bender
Secretary

firefighting apparatus and firefighting equipment/appliances to District. Once conveyed to District, the firefighting apparatus and firefighting equipment/appliances shall be maintained by District and replaced as deemed appropriate and necessary by District.

4. USE OF FIRE STATION. None.

5. VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF VILLAGE. Current Village Volunteer Fire Department members may submit applications for membership to the District's Volunteer Fire Department, which applications shall be voted upon by the current membership of the District's Volunteer Fire Department. Once accepted on the roster of the District's Volunteer Fire Department, such volunteer firefighters shall have the same privileges, obligations, and benefits of the District's Volunteer Fire Department members.

6. PRIOR AGREEMENTS. This Agreement hereby supersedes and makes void any and all prior agreements, supplements, or other agreements between the parties, both verbal and written.

7. MODIFICATIONS TO AGREEMENT. This Agreement may be modified or amended by the parties only upon their written agreement.

8. BINDING AGREEMENT. This Agreement shall be binding upon the successors or assigns of the parties.

EXECUTED on the dates below indicated by each party.

VILLAGE OF TARNOV NEBRASKA

9 Dec, 2024
Date

[Signature]
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

ATTEST: [Signature]
Village Clerk

HUMPHREY RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

12/11, 2024
Date

[Signature]
President

ATTEST: [Signature]
Secretary

CERTIFICATION OF TAXABLE VALUE AND VALUE ATTRIBUTABLE TO GROWTH

{format for all political subdivisions other than (a) sanitary improvement districts in existence five years or less, (b) counties, (c) cities, (d) school districts, and (e) community colleges.}

TAX YEAR 2024

{certification required on or before August 20th, of each year}

HUMPHREY FIRE DISTRICT
 JEFF BENDER
 22492 HWY 91
 HUMPHREY NE 68642

TO:

TAXABLE VALUE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF: PLATTE

Name of Political Subdivision	Subdivision Type (e.g. fire, NRD, ESU)	Value Attributable to Growth	Total Taxable Value
HUMPHREY RFD	Fire-District	3,906,300	615,982,014

**Value attributable to growth is determined pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-518 which includes real and personal property and annexation, if applicable.*

I, KARI URKOSKI

PLATTE

County Assessor hereby certify that the valuation listed herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the true and accurate taxable valuation for the current year, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-509 and 13-518.

Kari S. Urkoski
(signature of county assessor)

8-14-24
(date)

CC: County Clerk, PLATTE County
 CC: County Clerk where district is headquarter, if different county, _____ County

Note to political subdivision: A copy of the Certification of Value must be attached to the budget document.



Platte County Court House
2610 14th Street
Columbus, Nebraska 68601
thofbauer@plattecounty.ne.gov

Tim Hofbauer
402-564-1206 Office
402-910-8898 Cell
402-564-8330 Fax

MEMO: MOU with Platte Valley Conservation Group

DATE: February 4, 2025

TO: Platte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Hofbauer

As many of you may know, the county purchased two properties a couple of years ago. The plan for the property is to be transferred to an organization that promotes wildlife conservation and youth hunting and training. The Platte Valley Conservation Group is affiliated with the local chapter of Pheasants Forever and consists of local members carrying out the Pheasants Forever mission. I have been working with them to develop a memorandum of understanding to allow them to continue to rehabilitate the property and make some improvements. This also removes the county from liability on the property. The County Attorney has also reviewed the MOU and approves it.

I am asking for a resolution allowing the chair of the county board to sign the attached MOU.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PLATTE COUNTY AND PLATTE VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into this ___ day of _____, 25, by and between Platte County, hereinafter referred to as "County," and the Platte Valley Conservation Group, hereinafter referred to as "PVCG."

1. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a partnership between Platte County and PVCG to conduct conservation and habitat restoration activities on County property, which shall include the removal of invasive trees, revitalization of the pond by dredging sediment deposited by flooding, removal of invasive algae, debris cleanup from the flood, spraying of invasive weeds, and planting of a pollinator/Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) mix using a no-till drill.

2. Responsibilities of Platte Valley Conservation Group

PVCG agrees to:

- Identify and remove invasive tree species from the designated project area.
- Excavate sediment deposited by the flood to improve pond health and remove invasive algae.
- Remove flood debris from the property in a responsible manner.
- Apply appropriate herbicide treatments to control invasive weeds.
- Plant a pollinator/CRP mix using a no-till drill to promote habitat restoration.
- Ensure all activities are conducted in compliance with applicable environmental regulations and best management practices.
- Provide all necessary labor, materials, and equipment for the project.
- Notify the County of scheduled work activities and provide periodic progress updates.

3. Responsibilities of Platte County

Platte County agrees to:

- Permit PVCG to access and conduct conservation activities on designated County property.
- Provide coordination assistance as needed for project implementation.
- Facilitate communication between PVCG and other relevant stakeholders regarding the project.

4. Liability and Indemnification

PVCG shall conduct all activities at its own risk and expense. Platte County shall not be liable for any injury, loss, or damage arising from PVCG's activities under this MOU. PVCG agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Platte County, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, damages, costs, and expenses, including attorney fees, arising out of or connected with PVCG's activities under this agreement.

5. Term and Termination

This MOU shall become effective upon signature by both parties and shall remain in effect until property is transferred to PVCG or terminated earlier by mutual agreement or by either party providing thirty (30) days' written notice to the other party.

6. Amendments

This MOU may be amended in writing by mutual consent of both parties.

7. Signatures

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the date first written above.

Platte County

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Platte Valley Conservation Group

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

A large, stylized white logo consisting of several overlapping, curved, leaf-like shapes that form a triangular shape at the top and a curved shape at the bottom. The logo is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the building and the sky.

Applied Connective

WWW.APPLIEDCONNECTIVE.COM

**Platte County Courthouse
V2 Fiber Optic Backbone - Single Mode**

Chad Hissong
chissong@plattecounty.ne.gov

Justin Niewohner

jniewohner@appliedconnective.com
402-395-6924

Executive Summary - V2 Fiber Optic Backbone - Single Mode

About Us

For nearly 20 years, Applied Connective Technologies, LLC, (Albion, Norfolk, Columbus) has been helping partners leverage technology to achieve maximum security, efficiency, and profitability. With 45+ highly skilled full-time staff, we provide our partners unrivaled service and support and cutting-edge solutions in managed IT (MSP) services, commercial telephone systems, security, surveillance, fiber optic, low voltage cabling, and professional audio video. Applied Connective is a one touch point vendor for all of your technology needs.

Down Payment

Please note, orders of substantial hardware, software or licensing cost could require a down payment before hardware is ordered and prior to scheduling of project. Should these costs exceed \$5,000 a down payment invoice of 35% of the total project will be sent. Once ordered and estimated lead time known, a project manager will contact you to coordinate scheduling details.

Hardware

Description	Price	Qty	Ext. Price
12 Strand Single Mode Fiber, MDF to Sheriff Office IDF	\$1,050.00	1	\$1,050.00
12 Strand Single Mode Fiber, MDF to District Court IDF	\$1,050.00	1	\$1,050.00
12 Strand Single Mode Fiber, MDF to Public Defender IDF	\$1,010.00	1	\$1,010.00
12 Strand Single Mode Fiber, MDF to 3rd Floor IDF	\$985.00	1	\$985.00
12 Strand Single Mode Fiber, MDF to Tim's Closet IDF	\$965.00	1	\$965.00
Innerduct Corrugated Plenum 1", Orange	\$2.85	1000	\$2,850.00
CommScope Fiber Patch Panel, Accepts 6 Panels 2U	\$552.50	1	\$552.50
CommScope Fiber Patch Panel, Accepts 3 Panels 1U	\$406.80	5	\$2,034.00
Commscope Adapter Pack with TeraSPEED® 12 fiber, SM LC	\$73.25	10	\$732.50
Commscope TeraSPEED LC to LC, Fiber Patch Cord, 1.6 mm Duplex, 12 FT	\$58.90	10	\$589.00
Caddy J-Hook Wall 2"	\$4.84	75	\$363.00
Caddy J-Hook w/ Cable Clip 2"	\$4.20	75	\$315.00
CommScope CAT6 Plenum Cable, Blue	\$0.36	4000	\$1,440.00
ICC RJ45 Keystone Jack for HD Style, CAT6 Blue	\$5.85	56	\$327.60
ICC Faceplate, 6-Port, White	\$3.98	4	\$15.92
ICC Faceplate, 2-Port, White	\$1.80	2	\$3.60
ICC CAT6 Patch Cord, 10' Blue	\$5.98	28	\$167.44

Hardware

Description	Price	Qty	Ext. Price
ICC CAT6 Patch Cord, 3' Blue	\$2.56	28	\$71.68
ICC Patch Panel, 48-Port HD Style 2U	\$43.80	1	\$43.80
Miscellaneous J-hooks, Cable Management, Wire Etc	\$525.80	1	\$525.80
		Subtotal:	\$15,091.84

Professional Services

Description	Price	Qty	Ext. Price
Accomodations and Per Diem per Bid	\$850.00	1	\$850.00
Installation Services Structured Cabling	\$14,000.00	1	\$14,000.00
		Subtotal:	\$14,850.00

V2 Fiber Optic Backbone - Single Mode



Prepared by:

Albion
Justin Niewohner
402-395-6924
jniewohner@appliedconnective.com

Prepared for:

Platte County Courthouse
Platte County Clerk
2610 14th St.
Columbus, NE 68601
Chad Hissong
(402) 563-8090
chissong@plattecounty.ne.gov

Quote Information:

Quote #: 016419

Version: 1
Delivery Date: 11/04/2024
Expiration Date: 12/04/2024

One-Time Products and Services Summary

Description	Amount
Hardware	\$15,091.84
Professional Services	\$14,850.00
Subtotal:	\$29,941.84
Shipping:	\$118.60
Total:	\$30,060.44

Acceptance and Incorporation by Reference

This Order together with the Master Services Agreement and Service Attachments and other terms and conditions identified on Exhibit A, all of which are incorporated herein by reference (collectively, the "Agreement") is between Applied Connective Technologies (sometimes referred to as "we," "us," "our," or "Provider"), and the customer found on the signature block at the end of this Order (sometimes referred to as "you," "your," or "Client"). This Agreement is effective as of the date both parties have signed below (the "Effective Date."). Both Provider and Client are sometimes referred to individually as a "Party", or together as the "Parties". Any capitalized terms in this Order not directly defined are referred to in the applicable document identified on Exhibit A of this Order. If there is a conflict between this Order, the Master Services Agreement, any Service Attachment, or Exhibit, this Order will control.

The parties hereby agree that electronic signatures to this Order shall be relied upon and will bind them to the obligations stated herein. Each party hereby warrants and represents that it has the express authority to execute this Agreement(s). This Order supersedes all prior negotiations, proposals, orders, agreements and communications between the parties regarding Provider's Services.

The terms and conditions identified on Exhibit A are subject to change at Provider's discretion. You should review these documents periodically and prior to entering into a new Order. Client may access the current version of the terms and conditions at any time by visiting <http://appliedconnective.com/legal>.

The parties, acting through their authorized officers, hereby execute this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Order Form is agreed to by the parties below and entered into as of the Order Effective Date.

By signing below, Client acknowledges, represents, and warrants that it has read and agree to the terms and conditions in the following documents, which are incorporated herein by reference and can be found at Exhibit A.

Albion

Signature: *Justin Niewohner* 

Name: Justin Niewohner

Title: AVS Project Manager

Date: 11/04/2024

Platte County Courthouse

Signature: _____

Name: Chad Hissong

Date: _____

Exhibit A

Agreement	Description
All Legal Terms and Conditions	All Legal Terms and Conditions
Master Services Agreement	General terms and conditions applicable to all Provider products and services.
Service Attachment for Managed Services	Core managed services including monitoring, remote management, and help-desk.
Service Attachment for Managed Security Services	Advanced cyber-security services including SOC, EDR and SIEM.
Service Attachment for Backup and Disaster Recovery Services	Managed backup and disaster recovery services including local, cloud, and third-party backups.
Service Attachment for Cloud Services	Cloud and hosting services including Microsoft 365.
Service Attachment for Voice-Over Internet Protocol	Managed unified communication services including voice over IP.
Service Attachment for Managed Surveillance Services	Video surveillance services including installation and monitoring of cameras.
Schedule of Third-Party Services	Notice of third-party service providers and waiver of claims.
Data Processing Agreement	Data security and privacy agreement including statutorily required terms.
Service Level Objectives	Targeted response times by tier of severity.

E COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MOTOR GRADER BIDS

Date: February 6, 2025

	Nebraska Machinery	Murphy Equipment		
Make	Caterpillar	John Deere		
Model	140 AWD	772G/GP		
Year	2025	2025		
Purchase Price	\$408,600.00	\$400,837.00		
Less-Trade In:2016 Caterpillar 12M3	\$106,500.00	\$78,000.00		
Net Difference	\$302,100.00	\$322,817.00		
WARRANTY	5 years/7500 Hours	5 years/7500 Hours		
DELIVERY DATE	90 Days	90 Days		
Other Options, comments				
Exceptions	No electric rear window defroster			

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

(To be completed by requesting Department)

Forward all requests to jbrown@plattecounty.ne.gov

DEADLINE SUBMITTAL IS 12:00 P.M. TUESDAY 1 WEEK BEFORE THE BOARD MEETING

Agenda Item: Correct receipt between Juv and Victim Assistance

(i.e., Consent/Recognition-Proclamation/Presentation/Public Hearing/Committee, etc.)

Date to be on the agenda: 02-11-25

Exact wording to be used for the agenda:

Discussion and possible action consideration of approval to correct receipt 25474 in the amount of \$26,217.66 to
Victim Assistance from Comp Juvenile

Action Requested Correct receipt 25474 Funding Code 2512 and 676

IS this item in current fiscal year budget? Yes No

Does this item commit funds for future years? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

If an agreement or contract*, has the County Attorney reviewed and approved?

*Provide County Clerk with contact info for outside organizations Yes No

Previous action taken on this item if any? _____

Recommendations and rationale or action: Treasurer fix receipt 25474 in the amount of \$26,217.66 to
be in Victim Asst and not Comp Juvenile

Will anyone speak on behalf of this item, if so who? Jenny

If this is a rush agenda item, please explain why: _____

Submitted by (Name & Department) Jenny Treasurer Ext. 330

Date Submitted: 1-24-25

List of attachments: Copy of Receipt

(Attach resolution and all pertinent documentation, i.e., contract, agreement, memorandums, etc.)

Completed by Receiving office.
Received in Clerk's Office: Date _____ Time _____ Initials _____

**MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPT
COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE
PLATTE COUNTY NEBRASKA**

ID: 25474

RECEIVED ON: 10/31/2024
 RECEIVED FOR: ACH Crime Commission Juv 1372024VA1003Jul-Sep24
 RECEIVED FROM: State of Nebraska

COMP JUVENILE SERV 0676 530 301 CRIME COMMISSION 26,217.66

Customer: 578217-PLATTE COUNTY - COUNTY
 Number: TREASURER
 Total Amount: 26217.66

Invoice Number	Remark	Amount
1372024VA1003 JUL-SEP24	CRIME COMMISSION 402,471.3413	26217.66

Receipt Total - 26,217.66

Payment by Direct Deposit aczarnick

PLATTE COUNTY TREASURER

Grandville Cemetery Mowing 2024

05-01-2024	Craig Baxa	Mowed \$65.00 Trim \$20.00 Mileage \$21.44
	32 Miles @ .67 round trip (per S. Renken)	
05-19-2024	Craig Baxa	Moved \$65.00 Mileage \$21.44
06-06-2024	Craig Baxa	Mowed \$65.00 Trim \$20.00 Mileage \$21.44
07-01-2024	Craig Baxa	Mowed \$65.00 Mileage \$21.44
07-19-2024	Craig Baxa	Mowed \$65.00 Trim \$20.00 Mileage \$21.44
07-29-2024	Craig Baxa	Mowed \$65.00 Mileage \$21.44
08-12-2024	Craig Baxa	Mowed \$65.00 Trim \$20.00 Mileage \$21.44
09-04-2024	Craig Baxa	Mowed \$65.00 Mileage \$21.44
10-15-2024	Craig Baxa	Mowed \$65.00 Trim \$20.00 Mileage \$21.44

Total For The Year 2024

Please send check to Grandville Cemetery Treasurer

Stan Renken 30175 355th Ave. Monroe NE 68647

\$877.96

-96.48 1/2 mileage

781.48

2023 Granville Cemetery

FILE COPY

05-24-2023

Craig Baxa mileage 21.5 miles at .655/miles \$14.08

Craig Baxa mowed \$65.00

Craig Baxa trimmed \$20.00

06-30-2023

Craig Baxa mileage 21.5 miles at .655/mile \$14.08

Craig Baxa mowed \$65.00

Craig Baxa trimmed \$20.00

07-28-2023

Craig Baxa mileage 21.5 miles at .655/mile \$14.08

Craig Baxa mowed \$65.00

Craig Baxa trimmed \$20.00

08-11-2023

Craig Baxa mileage 21.5 miles at .655/mile \$14.08

Craig Baxa mowed \$65.00

Craig Baxa trimmed \$20.00

08-30-2023 mileage 21.5 miles at .655/mile \$14.08

Craig Baxa mowed \$65.00

09-26-2023

Craig Baxa mileage 21.5 miles at /655/mile \$14.08

Craig Baxa mowed \$65.00

Craig Baxa trimmed \$20.00

TOTAL \$574.48

2013 POLICY FOR ABANDONED/NEGLECTED CEMETERIES

The Platte County Board of Supervisors will entertain and evaluate cemetery maintenance requests for only abandoned or neglected cemeteries as defined by state statute, and may provide such maintenance utilizing a claim/reimbursement method, cash advance method or in kind services method (or any combination of such methods) as determined by the County Board on a case by case basis.

“Maintenance claims/reimbursements are restricted by the following: (1) no more than five mowings per year; (2) mowing services (labor, incidental costs & trimming) are to be reimbursed at a rate not to exceed \$32.50 per one half acre; (3) mileage is to be reimbursed for one way only at the government rate (i.e., 56.5 cents per mile); (4) watering of seedlings or other plants (i.e., during drought) should not exceed one per month and six per year; (5) the County Highway Department will refrain from mowing a particular cemetery for which a claim has been submitted and/or paid during a calendar year; (6) claimants should obtain advanced approval from the County Board before engaging in extraordinary cleanup activity following extreme weather conditions in order to submit a claim for approval.

1-9-20

Motion, Supervisor Lloyd, seconded Supervisor Scow, to increase the mowings for abandoned/neglected cemeteries from eight to up to ten mowings per year, and vote was as follows:

Voting Ayes: Supervisors Lloyd, Scow, Liss, Micek, Kwapnioski and Chairman Engdahl

Voting Nays: Supervisor Pfeifer

Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion carried.