

NEBRASKA DISTRICT FORESTERS



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Where Can I Get More Information?

Information and assistance is available from the following cooperating agencies/organizations.

- **Nebraska Forest Service**
nfs.unl.edu
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**
nrcs.usda.gov
- **USDA Farm Service Agency**
fsa.usda.gov
- **Nebraska Natural Resources Districts**
nrdnet.org
- **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission**
outdoornebraska.ne.gov
- **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension**
extension.unl.edu
- **USDA Forest Service**
fs.fed.us
- **The Nature Conservancy**
nature.org
- **Private forestry consultants**
nfs.unl.edu/rural-forestry
- **Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources**
dnr.ne.gov



Nebraska Forest Service



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Become a Nebraska Stewardship Forest

What is a Stewardship Forest?

Forests are more than just trees—they are a vital resource in Nebraska. Forests provide homes for deer, squirrels, birds and a multitude of other animals. Forests clean air, purify water and protect valuable topsoil. Forests provide wind protection and conserve energy. Forests are a place to hike, picnic and camp. Forests grow wood for fuel, posts and lumber to build homes, furniture, toys and tools. Forests offer solace and beauty.

A Stewardship Forest is a parcel of well-managed forest, or associated land, whose owner is publicly recognized for being a good steward of the land. Your land can become a Stewardship Forest with your participation in the Nebraska Forest Stewardship Program.

How Can the Forest Stewardship Program Help Me?

The Nebraska Forest Stewardship Program is a multi-agency effort designed to help private landowners plant, protect and enhance their forest and related resources. Direct benefits include:

Forestry Assistance. Landowners who participate in the Forest Stewardship Program will have a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Management Plan prepared for their property. The plan will be tailored to help reach specific management goals.

Financial Assistance. Cost-share assistance may be available to help landowners plant and improve their forest and related resources to maximize multiple forest benefits.

Income. Good management improves productivity, which enhances income opportunities from future harvests of wood products.

Public Recognition. Stewardship Forest owners will join a distinguished cadre of Nebraska landowners who display the Stewardship Forest sign—publically identifying them as good stewards of the land.

Satisfaction. Often the greatest reward in owning a Stewardship Forest is personal—the satisfaction and enjoyment in knowing that you are managing your land in the best way possible.

Do I Qualify?

Basic requirements to participate in the Forest Stewardship Program are simple.

- You must be a private, non-industrial landowner.
- Your property must be rural, either forestland or land suitable for growing trees.

When Will My Land Become a Stewardship Forest?

Active management is the key to Stewardship Forest status. When significant progress has been made following the recommendations in the Forest

Stewardship management Plan, a Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) forester can submit a Stewardship Forest nomination. Upon approval by the Nebraska State Forester, the land will become a Stewardship Forest and you will be presented the Stewardship Forest sign to recognize a commitment to caring for the land, both now and for future generations.

How Do I Get Started?

The first step is to request assistance from the nearest district forester (see map on reverse side), or contact the Nebraska Forest Service at 402.472.6600.

An NFS forester will arrange an onsite visit to confirm eligibility, discuss management options and initiate the planning process with you. Depending on your objectives, one or more resource specialists may help develop your Forest Stewardship Management Plan.

Is Financial Assistance Available?

Landowners with an approved Forest Stewardship Management Plan may be eligible for cost-share assistance to help plant trees and/or improve existing forestland. A Nebraska Forest Service forester will explain available cost-share programs that apply to your specific situation and goals.