

**Nebraska Master Naturalist Program:
Volunteers In Action
Grant #:17-152 Summary Report**



Impacts by The Numbers: During this grant period of July 2017-December 2019, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **contributed 31,739** hours of volunteering, valued at **\$807,122**. In their efforts, Nebraska Master Naturalists have **connected** with **224,905** Nebraskans through their volunteer service and have directly **impacted 41,278 acres** across the state in resource management projects, many projects dealing with state listed at risk species and water quality. Since Master Naturalist volunteering efforts began in 2010, Nebraska Master Naturalists have contributed a total of **84,131** volunteer service hours statewide. This is valued at **\$2,139,451** in salary savings to our partners and Nebraskans by utilizing Nebraska Master Naturalists for volunteer support.

Putting Master Naturalists to Work: Our goals in this granting period was to increase number of new certified master naturalists by 90; support the established Master Naturalist Community through continuing education on advanced topics; empower local, coalesced workforces to conserve Nebraska's natural resources by providing at least 7,500 hours of volunteer service that support at least 20 conservation organizations or agencies; and reach over 15,000 individuals by informing and educating citizens about natural resource conservation; and increase program sustainability. As a result, we trained an additional 95 naturalists, held monthly and 3 annual training and programming events statewide. We worked with, over 30 partnering organizations to facilitate volunteer projects, and to host training opportunities. Our naturalists connected with 224,905 individuals during their volunteer experiences. Additionally, in an effort to build a more financially sustainable future, program members and outside partners worked hand in hand to establish the Nebraska Master Naturalist Foundation. This organizations mission is to support and enhance the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program.

Special Projects: Throughout this grant period our naturalist members, were fortunate to put their time and talents to work in a variety of ways. For example, master naturalists were trained to monitor and conserve bumble bee habitat through the Xerces Society's Nebraska Bumble Bee Atlas program. Naturalist members were the workforce behind a UNL & NGPC led Spotted Skunk Survey, utilizing remote trail cameras in an effort to positively identify a state critically imperiled species. Additionally, Master Naturalists have been involved in water quality sampling on the Elkhorn and Platte rivers, as well as ground water sampling through a UNL citizen science program. Naturalists took part in training opportunities led by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to survey statewide habitat of the Regal Fritillary and Monarch butterfly species. The North American Bat Monitoring Program has trained a dozen naturalists to take part in surveying and mapping bat species in select areas around the state. Naturalists have also been trained and take part in National Audubon's Climate Watch citizen science program. This is in effort to survey for a long term climate change study, and track the movements of a select set of grassland bird species. One of the longest running volunteer projects that naturalists have been fortunate to assist with has been the reintroduction and captive rearing of the endangered Salt Creek Tiger Beetle, that is only found in the Eastern saline wetlands in Lancaster county. There are many more projects that could be listed, we are grateful for the support that has been provided by The Nebraska Environmental Trust, and our many partners. We look forward to many more opportunities to serve fellow Nebraskans and serve our natural areas, by providing conservation volunteers that are dedicated to enhancing Nebraska's natural environments for the next generation.

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Developed and Edited by Matt Jones, Nebraska Master Naturalist State Program Director 02/04/2020

| | Total Hours Volunteered | Number of People Made Contact With | Number of Acres Impacted |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total Volunteer Hours 2010-2019: | 84,131 | 794,444 | 97,971 |
| July 2017-December 2019 Totals | | | |
| Total Administrative Efforts | 4,609 | 21,650 | 6,597 |
| Total Interpretation & Outreach: | 13,322 | 117,063 | 4,480 |
| Total Natural Resource MGMT: | 5,308 | 46,888 | 22,637 |
| Total Citizen Science: | 6,636 | 21,695 | 7,002 |
| Total Outdoor Skills: | 1,861 | 17,609 | 560 |
| Total Volunteer Hours: | 31,738 | 224,905 | 41,278 |
| Value of Volunteer time: \$25.43 | | | |
| Total Value of Volunteer time: July 17-December 19 | 807,122 | | |
| Total Volunteer Time Value | 2,139,451 | | |
| | Total Continuing Education Hours | | |
| Total CE Hours 2010-2019: | 19,587 | | |
| Total CE Hours: July 17-December 19 | 6,565 | | |