



The Nebraska Environmental Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

2019 Certificate of Award

The Nebraska Environmental Trust recognizes

**Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation
Grasslands at Chimney Rock Land Acquisition**

With a grant award of

\$278,650

To protect and preserve our natural resources for
the citizens of Nebraska

Rodney Christen

Board Chair

April 4, 2019

Mark A. Brohman

Executive Director

April 4, 2019



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Receives Grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust

Lincoln, NE – April 4, 2019 – Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation announced today that it will receive \$278,650 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the “Grasslands at Chimney Rock Land Acquisition” project. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on April 4, 2019 in Lincoln. The project is one of the 117 projects receiving \$19,501,444 in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust this year. Of these, 85 were new applications and 32 are carry-over projects.

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) in partnership with History Nebraska (formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society) requests support to purchase 360 acres of grazing land surrounding Chimney Rock National Historic Site. This parcel is an iconic piece of Nebraska geology and history.

History Nebraska and the state of Nebraska currently own 40 acres encompassing Chimney Rock itself, as well an additional 8.3 acres where a visitor center interprets Chimney Rock for 40,000 visitors a year. This purchase will connect the two properties while preserving both the grassland and the viewshed in perpetuity. The purchase will improve understanding of Chimney Rock and allow the visitor center to expand its interpretation to include more information and educational programming centered on native flora and fauna for Nebraskans and visitors from around the world.



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The Foundation requests \$278,650 which is the appraised value of the property. The Foundation will pay the premium and all taxes with private donations. The property owners have agreed to the purchase price via a Letter of Intent. Starting in 2010, the Nebraska Environmental Trust approved a total of \$500,000 for this purchase, but no agreement could be reached with the owners and the money was never used.

The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 1992. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided over \$305 million in grants to over 2,200 projects across the state. Anyone – citizens, organizations, communities, farmers and businesses – can apply for funding to protect habitat, improve water quality and establish recycling programs in Nebraska. The Nebraska Environmental Trust works to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources for future generations.