

“Green” Tour, July 18, 2018



Registration Fee: \$30

Register online at <https://www.nefsma.com/>

**Pickup and Dropoff – Fairfield Inn and Suites,
Main Entrance Parking Lot (north side)**

12:45 pm – Begin check-in

1:00 pm - Leave for the tour

5:00 pm- Arrive back at Hotel Area

NeFSMA will be sponsoring a tour of three green infrastructure sites in Kearney Nebraska the day before the Annual Conference. The tour will not only highlight green infrastructure projects but show how green infrastructure can be incorporated into educational and sustainability programs. Transportation will be provided as well as refreshments and snacks.

Site 1 – City of Kearney Public Works Facility Site Tour

The tour will include a rain garden constructed in 2011 and a tour of a public works facility which includes several onsite water quality improvement measures.

Rain Garden. In September 2011, UNL Extension held a Rain Garden Workshop installation event in Kearney. From the event flier, “The trainers will provide step by step instructions on creating the perfect rain garden—prepare to get your hands dirty!” Information on the original installation, including pictures, will be distributed as well as a discussion on the maintenance of the site. Attendees will see how the site has weathered over the last seven years.

Public Works Facility Site Tour. It was the intent during the design phase to address the rainfall collected by the impervious areas at the public works facility. This was done by elevating the facility and grading any impervious area not holding polluted materials away from the collection structure. Additionally, the sand/gravel and oil separation trap was included for further separation prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer. Although this project has gained the nickname ‘Truck Washout’ the real intent for it is to store and dewater materials from our street sweepers and storm sewer vacuum truck. Simply put, this is a storage and separation area for materials that should not be allowed into the storm sewer.



Site Host:

Dan Lillis, City of Kearney, Engineering Assistant, Stormwater Manager, Public Works Department

Site 2 – Central Community College (CCC) – Building and Site Tour

The tour begins in a CCC classroom in the building to hear from our hosts about the site. After the presentations, attendees will do a walking tour of the building and the grounds. The tour includes five bioretention gardens around the perimeter of the building that help capture and treat storm water runoff before being released into on-site detention basins. The Kearney Center will increase the mosaic of ecosystem benefits of Central Nebraska’s pollinators and plant habitats, which have become fragmented due to large scale agricultural land use. There are large swaths of low to mid-height native grass areas



throughout the site to help absorb storm water runoff which lowers the energy and labor inputs required for maintenance. The Nebraska regionally hardy native plant palette are low-maintenance, able to endure cold and windy winters as well as hot and humid summers and bloom throughout three seasons to attract pollinator insects. There is a total of 11 species of native grasses and canopy and understory trees of the native ecosystem.

In addition to the outdoor green infrastructure, the building was built to LEED silver standards, even though LEED certification was not pursued. These standards will be highlighted as part of the tour and presentation. Attendees will also learn more about the CCC e-Badge award in Environmental Stewardship. An e-badge is an award that demonstrates the holder's knowledge and skills in environmental stewardship for either their field of study or personal application.

Site Hosts:

Ben Newton, Environmental Sustainability Director, Central Community College
Olivia Whittaker, Environmental Sustainability Manager, Central Community College
Ryan Bentley, Big Muddy Workshop, Landscape Site Design
Brian Grope, Olsson and Associates, Stormwater Site Design

Site 3 – Kearney High School Outdoor Learning Area (KOLA) Site Tour

The tour will begin at the CCC as our hosts discuss the design and educational opportunity of the site. We will then proceed to the site for a walking tour. The project is a partnership between the Kearney Public Schools and Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary. The site includes restored native grasslands, enhanced wetlands and outdoor education facility for KHS science curriculum. Two major grants were awarded to Rowe



Sanctuary for the project to restore native grasslands, enhance wetlands and incorporate outdoor education into existing KHS science curriculum. Grants were from the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant for construction and Environmental Protection Agency grant for curriculum development. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided site development expertise and there also has been input from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The partners worked with

Prairie Plains Resource Institute in Aurora on the seed mix to restore high-diversity native plant species at the 16-acre site. The site goal is filtering water from the High School before it reaches the river including water from the high school's geothermal heating and cooling systems that flows into one of the wetlands before entering the creek. The other goal of the site is teaching how important wetlands are as a filtering system for rivers like the Platte. (Background information from an online article by Lori Potter, Kearney Hub Staff Writer Sep 30, 2017):

Site Hosts:

Cody Wagner, Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary
Alison Buescher, Kearney Public Schools, High School Teacher