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(Neb.)-Greener Nebraska Towns Event Taking Place Wednesday  [Listen](#)

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/24/2013 03:23 PM



Photo: Chadron State College's Flag Plaza and the Deans Green. The health of the ailing Champion Blue Spruce on the right side of the photo will be assessed around 11:00 a.m. (Photo courtesy of Lucinda Mays)

(CHADRON)-Greener Nebraska Towns, a Greener Nebraska Towns & ReTree Nebraska event, is taking place on Wednesday, September 25th, starting with registration at 8:00 a.m. and running until about 4:00 p.m. The event will be especially pertinent to anyone who cares for community landscapes--elected officials, volunteers, city managers, utility professionals, groundskeepers, economic development officials, park professionals, or the any of the public at large who are interested in trees and beautification.

After registration at the Chadron State College Sandoz Center, participants will be bussed to the Kenwood School for a tree planting ceremony with Nebraska's First Lady Sally Ganem at 8:30 a.m. Members of the public can also bring themselves to the ceremony if they'd like to watch. Chadron parks superintendent Scott Schremmer says the morning will also include tree and landscape tours and the opportunity to watch tree specialists inspect the state champion tree.

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At noon at the Sandoz Center, there will also be a keynote presentation by Nebraska's First Lady on the value of greener communities along with a free lunch.

And in the afternoon, Schremmer says there will be presentations on improving community forests, plantings, and the Greener Nebraska Towns initiative.

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All of the day's events are free, but pre-registration is requested for lunch and afternoon sessions if at all possible. Register with Lucinda Mays by calling 308-430-4186 or by e-mailing lmays@csc.edu. An e-mail confirmation, map and agenda will be sent upon registration.

The First Lady also joined officials at Western Nebraska Community College on Tuesday to plant a tree and mark support for the initiative.

Organized by ReTree Nebraska and tree advocates across the state, ReTree Week, which is held September 22-28, is a celebration of fall tree-planting in Nebraska. The organization's 10-year cooperative initiative promotes the proper planting and care of 1 million trees in communities across Nebraska by 2017.

Collectively, Nebraska's community forests contain almost 13.3 million trees that provide \$9.7 billion in environmental, social and economic benefits to Nebraskans. However, many older and weaker trees have been lost to disease and pests.

"In the last 30 years, we've lost nearly half our state's community forest resources," said Jessica Kelling, ReTree Nebraska coordinator. "The simple act of planting trees allows us to do something great for future generations."

Kelling said that fall is a great time to plant trees in Nebraska because there are fewer demands on the roots, allowing trees to establish their root systems and get a jump-start on spring growth.

ReTree Nebraska organizers work closely with a volunteer network of more than 300 ReTree ambassadors in 112 communities across Nebraska, including Scottsbluff. These ambassadors lend local energy to the initiative by organizing and promoting tree-planting and tree-related educational activities within their communities.

To learn more about ReTree Nebraska, report a tree planting or find out more about tree selection, planting and care, visit www.retreenebraska.org or email retreenebraska@unl.edu.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail news@chadrad.com.)

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