



Contact Us  
mburke@west-central-nebraska.com  
308.284.6077



July 2017

## Scrap Tire Amnesty Grant Opportunities

The Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program is accepting applications for the 2018 cycle. This program provides funds to support programs to reduce litter, provide education, and promote recycling throughout Nebraska. Both public and private entities are eligible to apply for this grant which has \$1.5 million dollars available for distribution annually. This grant program presents a wide variety of acceptable activities that encourage recycling efforts and contribute to the overall reduction of litter.

WCNDD has had a lot of success when applying for Scrap Tire Amnesty funding for county wide events, as well as for individual communities. This grant gives communities and counties the opportunity to host a Scrap Tire Event that gives their residents a chance to remove old worn out tires at no cost to them. The application process for such an event is a simple one, with a September 13th, 2017 deadline for applying. Anyone interested should contact CJ Poltack and plan to place it on their August meeting agenda for application approval.

For more information, <http://deq.ne.gov/ndeqprog.nsf/onweb/lrrgp>

## PATH OF TOTAL ECLIPSE Aug. 21, 2017



## Total Solar Eclipse in Nebraska

On August 21, 2017 many communities across Nebraska will be celebrating the Total Solar Eclipse. The Moon, directly between the Sun and Earth, casts a shadow on our planet (the umbra) creating what is known as a total solar eclipse. If your community lies near the path of the eclipse consider hosting special watch parties and other events for a chance to draw additional revenue into your community. Everyone in the Continental U.S. will see at least a partial eclipse.

“Eclipse mania and the broad swath of darkness are expected to attract upward of 466,000 visitors to Nebraska to witness the rare celestial event.” The last time the United

States observed an eclipse of this magnitude and coverage was 99 years ago, so get out there and experience it first hand. For more information about the eclipse and events across the state, <http://neclipse17.com/>

## Cyberattacks Cost Small Businesses

Is your business taking safety measures to prevent cyberattacks. With the increasing reliance on technology, business owners are more likely than ever to have their information targeted by cyber crooks.

When crooks gain access to company inventory and online data records it can have a detrimental affect on any small business. The amount of damage a scam or malicious malware can have on a business is enough in some cases to force the business to close their doors for good. “Of course, money is at stake in any cyberattack—but businesses, especially small ones, often lose much more than that. Security breaches can affect all aspects of a targeted company, from its operations and finance to its brand reputation and customer loyalty.”

Putting preventative measures into place is crucial to protect your business from cyberattacks. Important aspects to consider are advanced security systems/virus protection on all computers, continual backup of company data, and computer downloading/browsing restrictions for employees. All of these measures will help make your business less susceptible to cyberattacks.

For more information, <https://www.score.org/blog/cyberattacks-cost-small-businesses-more-money>





# #whatshappeningWCNDD

What are you doing this year? Send us your pictures to [mburke@west-central-nebraska.com](mailto:mburke@west-central-nebraska.com) with the hashtag #whatshappeningWCNDD and we will share them on our Facebook page. Meanwhile, see if you can guess where this is ...

## Outdoor Recreation Funding Available

The Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) stateside assistance grant program has provided funding for community outdoor recreation projects across Nebraska for nearly 40 years. Eligible applicants may include a city, village, county, natural resource district or other political subdivision. Examples of eligible projects include: playgrounds, picnic facilities, trails, ballfields, soccer fields, shelter houses, tennis courts, multi-purpose courts and modest related support facilities. Acquisition of land for a new park or for land that is adjacent to an existing park is eligible for Fund assistance. Land to be donated by a private individual or a corporation after federal project approval is also eligible for Fund assistance. Professional consultant services to prepare the application or provide cost estimates are eligible for Fund assistance.

All proposed projects must meet priority outdoor recreation needs as identified in the current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): A Guide to an Active Nebraska (2016 – 2020) to be eligible for grant assistance. Priorities can be found in Chapter Six: Action Plan for Nebraska.

The LWCF is a reimbursable grant, meaning the project sponsor must finance 100 percent of project costs as they are incurred. The sponsor may then request reimbursement for half of all eligible expenses up to the amount of the approved grant. To be eligible for reimbursement, all costs must be incurred and paid by the project sponsor during the project period as identified on the grant agreement. Project sponsors may not take title to land or begin development until after the project is approved by the National Park Service. Expenses for planning and engineering which are necessary to prepare the proposal for submission are eligible project costs if they are documented as pre-agreement costs in the application. These are the only eligible pre-agreement costs. If any other work is performed or title to land is accepted prior to federal approval of the project, the expenses incurred are ineligible for reimbursement or match.

If this is of interest to your community, contact CJ Poltack today to discuss potential projects your community may have in mind. In order to be eligible, your City Council/Village Board will be required to pass a resolution at a public meeting to participate in the LWCF program, complete an application form by October 13, 2017, and supply all requested supplemental information as required by staff.

[http://outdoornebraska.gov/wp-content/uploads/formidable/LWCF-Application-FY2017\\_Fillable.pdf](http://outdoornebraska.gov/wp-content/uploads/formidable/LWCF-Application-FY2017_Fillable.pdf)

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## Important Deadlines:

Scrap Tire Application

September 13, 2017

Land and Water Conservation Fund Application

October 13, 2017

CDBG Water & Waste Water

Open Cycle

2018 Nebraska Passport Application

December 2017