

# Trailblazer RC&D

**Community Tree Improvement Program:** Due to an ice storm in 2006 there were many trees damaged in the communities in the Trailblazer RC&D area. This project was adopted, with the help of the Nebraska Forest Service, to replant shade trees on public areas of the community. There was a tree inventory completed by the Nebraska Forest Service of all communities in the area. This will be used to determine which species of trees would be best suited for the area.

There were fifteen communities that came forward to participate in the program. The Trailblazer RC&D submitted a grant to the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum to use the Trees for Nebraska Towns program to assist in offsetting some of the cost of replacing the damaged and declining trees in these communities. Several meetings were held with the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum in the participating communities. To date twelve communities in the Trailblazer RC&D area have planted 270 trees on public areas, i.e. such as parks, ballfields, or schools. The trees have had excellent survival rates and improved community beautification.

