



Restoring power after the storm

When tornadoes struck eastern Nebraska and caused widespread outages in April, OPPD jumped into action.

The outages affected 10,204 customers in OPPD's service territory. But with help from every department and mutual aid assistance, OPPD restored power to 95% of customers within 48 hours. The remaining customers who were still able to receive electricity were back in service shortly after.

Other groups played pivotal roles outside of OPPD, including the Na-

tional Weather Service in Valley, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Douglas County, the City of Omaha, nonprofits, churches, businesses and citizen volunteers. The storm destroyed 171 homes in Douglas County, caused major damage to 229 homes and left minor damage at 157. Our hearts go out to everyone who had property damage.

The tornado that hit Elkhorn, Bennington and Blair cut a 31-mile path through eastern Nebraska, with winds up to 165ph. The National Weather Service in Valley tallied 19

tornado tracks in its coverage area that traveled a combined 201.7 miles.



AUGUST BOARD MEETINGS

(Note: no July board meetings.) **All-committee meeting:** Tuesday, Aug. 13 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Aug. 15, 5 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.

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OPPD
 Omaha Public Power District

6 Things To Do at the OPPD Arboretum



The OPPD Arboretum at 108th and Blondo Streets in Omaha provides a great place for nature lovers and home gardeners who want to see a variety of trees and shrubs.

The Arboretum was created help educate the public about the best trees to select and the best places to plant, especially around power lines. Here are six things you can do at the Arboretum:

1. Enjoy the trees. Takes in the sights and smells. Study each tree.
2. Look for color hues. The Arboretum offers a full spectrum of colors: green leaves, yellow Forsythia blooms, pink and white Magnolia flowers, even brown and white bark.

3. Search for shapes. Find something round, like a berry or a bush. Or a cone shape. Or a square. There are plenty at the Arboretum.
4. Examine the textures of different barks, grasses and pine needles.
5. Walk the winding trails. The arboretum offers two miles of walking trails with benches and a variety of views.
6. Watch for wildlife. You might see deer, squirrels, rabbits or birds, to name a few.

TREEmendous

OPPD joined in a special celebration recently at Omaha's Lauritzen Gardens to teach our youngest generation how to ensure we get the most benefit from trees.

The TREEmendous Arbor Day celebration was held April 23, drawing about 2,000 local students. Arbor Day was born in Nebraska in 1872, when lawmakers adopted J. Sterling

Morton's resolution to set aside one day a year to encourage tree planting.

OPPD foresters and other staff hosted a booth providing education about our trees and our environment, and helped children create pinecone birdfeeders to take home. They also enlisted the help of sixth graders from Fort Calhoun Elementary School to plant a tree in Lauritzen's festival garden.

OPPD staff explained how improv-



erly planted trees can interfere with power lines, potentially knocking out electrical service.

A key backup system is about to get a lot smarter

Automatic Throwover Switches (ATOs) connect major electricity users to one of two neighboring OPPD distribution circuits. When one circuit experiences an outage, the switch "throws over" from the faulted circuit to a live one with little, if any, interruption. If the system is working properly,

customers should never notice.

Now, OPPD is preparing to add new technology that will share critical ATO data immediately. Designed by OPPD engineers, new ATO boxes will help the utility diagnose issues more quickly and minimize any impacts on customers.

The project builds on technology that already exists in OPPD's reclosers, which act as a kind of circuit breaker for power lines and can automatically restore power.

It's a new way to better serve customers and catch small problems before they become big events.



Volunteers during the 35th annual **Brush Up** event will apply fresh exterior paint to the homes of older adults on **August 17**. Each paint stroke makes a lasting impact, transforming lives.

Learn more about volunteering or sponsorships at projecthouseworks.org/brush-up.

Project Houseworks is a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing lives and strengthening communities by preserving quality affordable housing. **Find out more at projecthouseworks.org.**

Eligible homeowners, 60 years old or above, residing in Douglas or Sarpy Counties, can apply by contacting Project Houseworks at brushup@projecthouseworks.org or (402) 965-9201.

7"x 2.5" AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2024 Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email gpschulte@oppd.com.

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