

## Patterson Farm becomes a protected oasis of rolling farmland and forest in our fastest growing county



In September, the Nebraska Land Trust (NLT) completed the final conservation easement of four that were needed to protect the 693-acre Patterson Farm in western Sarpy County, near Schramm State Park. This final easement makes Patterson Farm the second largest protected property (after Fontenelle Forest) in our state's smallest and fastest growing county.

More important than the acres protected are the resources on those acres, which are emblematic of the NLT's mission to preserve agricultural, historical, and natural values. These values include terraced croplands with prime soils that produce excellent yields without irrigation; Native American sites that tell us about the people who lived in these bluffs before the pioneers; spring-fed streams that flow over rocky beds under a gallery of mature oak/hickory woodlands; and scenic views along a mile of Highway 31 as it winds down into the Platte Valley.

The effort to preserve these resources started in 2008, with a “handshake agreement” between Ron and Carol Patterson and the NLT. They agreed to try and protect all four parcels that comprised the farm, even though two were owned by other family members at the time. The NLT agreed to try and raise the funds that were needed, which were largely provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Nebraska Environmental Trust. There were no guarantees and it was a long road, but the Pattersons and NLT ultimately reached a shared destination; a protected oasis of rolling farmland and forest in our state’s most populous region.

To see the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal-Star articles about this project, please click on the links below:

[Omaha World-Herald](#)

[Lincoln Journal Star](#)

