



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Conservation@Home Cook County Community Evaluation Criteria

Client Name: _____ Town: _____

Date: _____ Volunteer Name(s): _____

*** indicates criteria required for certification**

On-Site Vegetation	Achieved?
*Min 10 species of native herbaceous perennials/grasses/ephemerals	
*Min 3 species of native trees/shrubs/vines	
*Effective removal/control of invasives and/or plans to remove invasive landscape plants	
Diversity of plants (min. 20 species)	
Variety of blooms for each of the three growing seasons	
Total Achieved (need 3/5 checkmarks)	

Notes:

Wildlife Management	Achieved?
*Provides habitat (decaying wood, thickets, shelter)	
Vegetation left to stand throughout the year with minimal and variable removal	
Leaves kept on site	
Exposed soil for ground nesting species	
Properly maintained water source (puddling dishes, ponds, bubbler fountain, etc.)	
Total Achieved (need 3/5 checkmarks)	

Water Management	Achieved?
*Minimal artificial irrigation (note: responsible watering: following municipal restrictions, avoiding watering during peak heat day.)	
Downspout directed into vegetation instead of lawn or bare soil	
Use of rain barrel, cistern, or other water storage	

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Water Management (continued)	Achieved?
Rain garden (note: use of appropriate native plants)	
Permeable driveway/pathway/patio	
Total Achieved (need 2/5 checkmarks; some criteria may be N/A)	

Notes:

General Management	Achieved?
*Minimizes lawn and hardscapes by replacing with gardens	
*Active management of native landscape beds (i.e. keeps up with weeding and clean up so garden does not become unsightly)	
*Minimal use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides (note: makes an effort to work with property owner to ensure this happens)	
Natural Lawn Care	
Maintains organic vegetable garden (note: develop management plan for food grown)	
Use of a compost heap/bin/worm bin (note: or at least educate about benefits of composting)	
Minimal lawn and/or intentional lawn	
Total Achieved (need 3/6 checkmarks)	

Community Outreach/Engagement	Achieved?
Utilizes informal/formal educational tools (i.e. garden signage, handouts, work-days, programs, etc.)	
*Actively engages members (i.e. community activities/events, garden expansions, etc.)	
Practices conservation within building(s) (i.e. recycling program, solar panels, reduced plastic use, turning off lights, low-flow toilets, etc.)	
Space provided for members to utilize the garden (i.e. resting area under trees, play area, benches, gathering area, etc.)	
Total Achieved (need 2/4 checkmarks)	

Certification Granted?

Yes_____ No _____ (explain):