



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Conservation@Home Cook County Residential Evaluation Criteria

Client Name: _____ Town: _____

Date: _____ Volunteer Name(s): _____

*** indicates criteria required for certification**

Notes:

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)	

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)	

Continue on back page

Water Management	Achieved?
*Minimal artificial irrigation	
Downspout directed into vegetation instead of lawn or bare soil	
Use of rain barrel, cistern, or other water storage	
Rain garden	
Permeable driveway/pathway/patio	
Shoreline vegetation (if applicable)	
Total Achieved (need 2/6 checkmarks; some criteria may be N/A)	

Notes:

General Management	Achieved?
*Natural lawn care (Note: Organic management, lawn alternatives, leave lawn clippings.)	
*Active management of native landscape beds with maintained design integrity (Note: Minimal weeds, keep natives from flopping onto walkways, monitor aggressive natives.)	
*Only targeted use of synthetic pesticides, opts for organics	
*Only targeted use of synthetic fertilizers, opts for organics	
Non-chemical control methods (Note: Cultural, physical, and biological control.)	
Use of a compost heap/bin/worm bin	
Minimal lawn and/or intentional lawn	
Total Achieved (need 4/7 checkmarks)	

Certification Granted? Yes _____ No _____ (explain):