



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Conservation@Home Cook County School 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 (note: specifically, near student garden area)	
Diversity of plants (min. 20 species)	
Variety of blooms for each of the three growing seasons	
Total Achieved (3/5 checkmarks needed)	

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 (note: specifically near student garden area)	
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	
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	
Total Achieved (need 2/5 checkmarks; some criteria may be N/A)	

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General Management	Achieved?
*Natural lawn care (Note: Organic management, lawn alternatives, leave lawn clippings)	
*Manages garden spaces during summer	
*Minimal use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides (note: makes an effort to work with landscape company to ensure this happens, specifically near student garden area)	
Maintains organic vegetable garden (note: development management plan for food grown)	
Use of a compost heap/bin/worm bin (note: or at least educate about benefits of composting)	
Total Achieved (need 3/5 checkmarks)	

Notes:

Educational Component	Achieved?
*Incorporates native plants/wildlife and ecology lessons into curriculum (Note: Teachers will submit example lesson(s) with application)	
*Actively engages students to provide environmental stewardship education or outreach (i.e. garden tours, oral presentations, community events, service learning hours for neighborhood greening projects, etc.)	
Utilizes informal/formal educational tools (i.e. plant labels, rain gauge, weather station, compost bin, etc.)	
Practices conservation within building(s) (i.e. recycling program, use of non-disposable cafeteria materials, turning off lights, conscious water use, etc.)	
Provides outdoor natural area for breaks/recess/SEL	
Total Achieved (need 3/5 checkmarks)	

Certification Granted?

Yes____ **No** ____ **(explain):**