

Conservation@Home - Cook County SCHOOL Criteria



School Name: _____

Date: _____

Town: _____

Volunteer Name(s): _____

Vegetation on Site (need 3/5 checkmarks)	Achieved	Notes
*Native herbaceous perennials/grasses/ephemerals (10 sp.)		Promote straight species; educate about cultivars.
*Native trees/shrubs (3 sp.)		
Diversity of plants (20+ sp.)		
Non-natives beneficial to wildlife		
*Removal/Control of invasives		
Wildlife Management (need 3/5 checkmarks)		
*Vegetation left to stand over fall/winter		
Provides habitat (decaying wood, leaf piles, shelter)		
Provides bird feeders (seed/nectar/fruit)		
Bee/insect hotel, bird/bat house		
Bird bath/water feature		
Water Management (need 2/5 checkmarks)		Some criteria may be N/A
*Minimal artificial irrigation		Responsible watering: water the roots, following municipal restrictions, avoiding watering during peak heat of day.
Direct run off into vegetation (not lawn/bare soil)		
Use of rain barrel, cistern or other water storage		
Raingarden		Use of appropriate native plants
Permeable driveway/parking lot		
Educational Component (need 4/6 checkmarks)		
*Incorporates native plants/wildlife and ecology lessons into curriculum		<i>Teachers will submit example lesson(s) during application process</i>
*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.
Actively engages students in garden design process, plant selection and layout		
Utilize informal/formal educational tools		i.e., plant labels, rulers, rain gauge, weather station, compost bin
Practices conservation within building		i.e. utilizes recycling program, uses non-disposable cafeteria materials, turning of lights, don't leave water running, etc.
School employees and students utilize natural areas for outdoor classroom/breaks/recess/lunch		
General Management (need 3/7 checkmarks)		
*Minimize lawn and hardscapes by replacing with gardens		
*Develops a plan for summer so gardens do not become unsightly		
Maintains organic vegetable garden		Develops management plan for food grown
Minimal bare soil		
Use of a compost heap/bin/worm bin		Or at least educate about benefits of composting
Compost applied/leaves kept on site		
Minimal use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides		Makes an effort to work with landscape company ensure this happens. Specifically near the student garden area.
*Must achieve a check mark to certify		

12-2020 - School