

Conservation@Home - Cook County COMMUNITY Criteria



Facility 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)		
*Provides habitat (decaying wood, leaf piles, shelter)		
Vegetation left to stand over fall/winter		
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		
Raingarden		Use of appropriate native plants
Permeable driveway/parking lot		
General Management (need 3/8 checkmarks)		
*Minimize lawn and hardscapes by replacing with gardens		
*Active management native landscape beds		i.e. keeps up with weeding and clean-up so garden does not become unsightly
Natural lawn care		
Minimal bare soil		
Maintains organic vegetable garden		Develops management plan for food grown
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 property owner to ensure this happens.
Community Outreach/Engagement (need 2/4 checkmarks)		
*Utilize informal/formal educational tools		Actively engages members and community in information sharing. i.e. garden signage, handouts, workdays, programs
Actively engages members in garden design process, plant selection and layout		community activity or event, garden expansions, etc.
Practices conservation within buildings/site		i.e. has recycling program, solar panel, reduces use of plastics, turning of lights, low-flow toilets, etc.
Space provided for members to utilize the garden		i.e. has resting area under a tree, play area, benches, picnic
*Must achieve a check mark to certify		

1-2021 - Community