

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		Specifically near the student garden area.
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, cistern or other water storage		
Raingarden		Use of appropriate native plants
Permeable driveway/parking lot		
General Management (need 3/7 checkmarks)		
*Minimize lawn and hardscapes by replacing with gardens		
*Manages garden spaces during summer		
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 to ensure this happens. Specifically near the student garden area.
Educational Component (need 3/5 checkmarks)		
*Incorporates native plants/wildlife and ecology lessons into curriculum		Teachers will submit example lesson(s) during application process
*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.
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.
Provides outdoor natural area for breaks/recess/SEL		

***Must achieve a check mark to certify**

1-2021 - School