

Conservation@Home Cook County Community Evaluation Criteria

Facility Name: _____

Date: _____

Town: _____

Volunteer Name(s): _____

Criterion	Achieved?	Notes
On-Site Vegetation (need 3/5 checkmarks) Total Achieved:		
*Native herbaceous perennials/grasses/ephemerals (Min. 10 species; <i>Note: Promote straight species; educate about cultivars.</i>)		
*Native trees/shrubs (Min. 3 species)		
Diversity of plants (Min. 20 species)		
Non-natives beneficial to wildlife		
*Removal/control of invasives		
Wildlife Management (need 3/5 checkmarks) Total Achieved:		
*Provides habitat (decaying wood, thickets, 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) Total Achieved:		
*Minimal artificial irrigation (<i>Note: Responsible watering: following municipal restrictions, avoiding watering during peak heat of day.</i>)		
Downspout directed into vegetation instead of lawn or bare soil		
Use of rain barrel, cistern, or other water storage		
Rain garden (<i>Note: Use of appropriate native plants</i>)		
Permeable driveway/parking lot		
General Management (need 3/8 checkmarks) Total Achieved:		
*Minimizes lawn and hardscapes by replacing with gardens		
*Active management of native landscape beds (<i>I.e. Keeps up with weeding and clean up so garden does not become unsightly</i>)		
Natural lawn care		
Minimal bare soil		
Maintains organic vegetable garden (<i>Note: Develops management plan for food grown</i>)		
Use of compost heap/bin/worm bin (<i>Note: Or at least educate about benefits of composting</i>)		
Compost application/leaves kept on site		
Minimal use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides (<i>Note: Makes an effort to work with property owner to ensure this happens</i>)		
Community Outreach/Engagement (need 2/4 checkmarks) Total Achieved:		
Utilizes informal/formal educational tools (<i>Note: Actively engages members and community in information sharing i.e. garden signage, handouts, work-days, programs, etc.</i>)		
Actively engages members in garden design process, plant selection, and layout (<i>I.e. community activities/events, garden expansions, etc.</i>)		
Practices conservation within building(s)/site (<i>I.e. recycling program, solar panels, reduced plastic use, turning off lights, low-flow toilets, etc.</i>)		
Space provided for members to utilize the garden (<i>I.e. resting area under trees, play area, benches, gathering area, etc.</i>)		
Certification Granted? Yes ___ No (explain):		

*Criterion required for certification.