

Conservation@Home Cook County School Evaluation Criteria

School 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 (<i>Note: Specifically near student garden area</i>)		
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 3/7 checkmarks) Total Achieved:		
*Minimizes lawn and hardscapes by replacing with gardens		
*Manages garden spaces during summer		
Maintains organic vegetable garden (<i>Note: Develops management plan for food grown</i>)		
Minimal bare soil		
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 landscape company to ensure this happens, specifically near student garden area</i>)		
Educational Component (need 3/5 checkmarks) Total Achieved:		
*Incorporates native plants/wildlife and ecology lessons into curriculum (<i>Note: Teachers will submit example lesson(s) with application</i>)		
*Actively engages students to provide environmental stewardship education or outreach (<i>I.e. garden tours, oral presentations, community events, service learning hours for neighborhood greening projects, etc.</i>)		
Utilizes informal/formal educational tools (<i>I.e. plant labels, rain gauge, weather station, compost bin, etc.</i>)		
Practices conservation within building(s) (<i>I.e. recycling program, use of non-disposable cafeteria materials, turning off lights, conscious water use, etc.</i>)		
Provides outdoor natural area for breaks/recess/SEL		
Certification Granted? Yes ___ No (explain):		

*Criterion required for certification.