



## Conservation@Home Cook County Community Evaluation Criteria

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Criterion (* criteria required for certification)	Achieved?	Notes
<b>On Site Vegetation (3/5 Checkmarks Needed)   Total Achieved:</b>		
*Min 10 species of native herbaceous perennials/grasses/ephemerals		
*Min 3 species of native trees/shrubs/vines		
*Effective removal/control of invasives and/or plans to remove invasive landscape plants		
Diversity of plants (min. 20 species)		
Variety of blooms for each of the three growing seasons		
<b>Wildlife Management (need 3/5 checkmarks)   Total Achieved:</b>		
*Provides habitat (decaying wood, thickets, shelter)		
Vegetation left to stand throughout the year with minimal and variable removal		
Leaves kept on site		
Exposed soil for ground nesting species		
Properly maintained water source (puddling dishes, ponds, bubbler fountain, etc.)		
<b>Water Management (need 2/5 checkmarks; some criteria may be N/A)   Total Achieved:</b>		
*Minimal artificial irrigation (note: responsible watering: following municipal restrictions, avoiding watering during peak heat day.)		
Downspout directed into vegetation instead of lawn or bare soil		
Use of rain barrel, cistern, or other water storage		
Rain garden (note: use of appropriate native plants)		
Permeable driveway/pathway/patio		
<b>General Management (Need 3/6 checkmarks)   Total Achieved:</b>		
*Minimizes lawn and hardscapes by replacing with gardens		
*Active management of native landscape beds (i.e. keeps up with weeding and clean up so garden does not become unsightly)		
*Minimal use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides (note: makes an effort to work with property owner to ensure this happens)		
Natural Lawn Care		
Maintains organic vegetable garden (note: develop management plan for food grown)		
Use of a compost heap/worm bin (note: or at least educate about benefits of composting)		
<b>Community Outreach/Engagement (need 2/4 checkmarks)   Total Achieved:</b>		
Utilizes informal/formal educational tools (i.e. garden signage, handouts, work-days, programs, etc.)		
*Actively engages members (i.e. community activities/events, garden expansions, etc.)		
Practices conservation within building(s) (i.e. recycling program, solar panels, reduced plastic use, turning off lights, low-flow toilets, etc.)		
Space provided for members to utilize the garden (i.e. resting area under trees, play area, benches, gathering area, etc.)		
<b>Certification Granted? Yes _____ No (explain):</b>		