CONSERVATION@HOME SURVEY

If you can answer Yes! to any of these questions you may be eligible for Conservation@Home certification:

- Do you have natural areas on your property? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have you planted native plants in your yard? ☐ Yes ☐ A Few ☐ No

- Do you manage your yard for the benefit of wildlife? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do you live near a creek, river or natural area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Conservation@Home is designed to encourage landowners to become actively involved in the conservation effort. We can all contribute to environmental improvement - one yard at a time.

Partial funding for implementing this program in Boone, Stephenson, Winnebago and portions of Ogle and northern DeKalb counties is provided by Grand Victoria Foundation.

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When you plant deep-rooted native wildflowers, trees and shrubs, create rain and butterfly gardens, install rain barrels and/or remove exotic plant species from your property, you are contributing to the health of our bird, insect and wildlife populations, and our water supply, and you should be recognized for your efforts!

Conservation@Home gives you helpful tips and resources along the way, and when you’re ready, we’ll certify your yard as an environmentally-friendly property.

Contact NLI Staff with questions and to schedule your site visit!

815-964-6666
info@naturalland.org

All property owners who are Conservation@Home certified will receive this sign to post in their yard.
PROGRAM GOALS

• Encourage the use of native plants in residential yards and gardens.
• Protect and restore natural areas.
• Promote good water resource practices (rain barrels and rain gardens that reduce runoff and filter and conserve rainwater).
• Reward landowners that practice good conservation measures.
• Educate landowners about how they can improve habitats.
• Provide a visible sign of good residential conservation design and implementation.

In-depth information on the following subjects is available on our website:

* Invasive Species *
* Backyard Wetlands and Rain Gardens *
* Composting * Advantages of Mulch *
* Ponds * Wildlife Habitat Improvements *
  * Native Plantings in Your Community *

For more information visit: www.naturalland.org/conservationatprograms

Partner: www.wildonesrrvc.org

BENEFITS OF A NATURE-FRIENDLY YARD

• Native plantings support a large variety of beneficial wildlife. The habitat you create will attract wildlife such as songbirds and butterflies!
• The deep roots of native plants reduce erosion and require less water than a traditional turf grass lawn.
• Perennial flowering plants will increase the beauty and value of your property!
• Gardening practices that reduce the use of chemicals will improve water, air and soil quality.

CONSERVATION@HOME

RECOGNITION CRITERIA

• Property must have some native plant components, for the benefit of water conservation and/or wildlife.
• There should be clear evidence of stewardship of natural land (invasive species control, and other management issues.)
• Property along creeks, rivers or a pond should be managed to reduce erosion and pollutants.
• Protection of existing natural areas as well as creation of new areas is highly encouraged!

If your land management style meets the basic criteria above, call Natural Land Institute to join the Conservation@Home program.

For a one-time $50 fee, certified landowners will receive a Conservation@Home sign to post proudly in their yard, a one-year Partner membership to Natural Land Institute and a yard assessment, which includes ideas to further improve the environmental friendliness of their property. Current members of Natural Land Institute can become certified for $25.

Short roots of turf grass

Deep roots of native plants

Queen of the Prairie  Bloodroot  Purple Coneflower/Monarch  Butterfly Weed  Purple Prairie Clover  Prairie Dropseed/Black-Eyed Susan  Red Trillium  Spiderwort