

Item #5:
Village President Underwood
Conserve Lake County Certified Properties Funding



Our Story

People and nature. That's what Conserve Lake County has always been about.

Since 1995, we have served people like you who care about nature and want to protect and restore the land and water around us. Today, we help people preserve Lake County's precious landscapes. We help people improve the health of the land with land stewardship projects that bring vitality back to prairies, wetlands, and woodlands. We inspire people to care about conservation and are involved in planning and advocacy for nature. And because farming practices affect the health of our ecosystems, we are involved in collaborative efforts to increase local food production and expand sustainable agriculture.



We are strategic, collaborative, service-oriented, and have a can-do spirit. We are also committed to making it possible for as many people as possible to be engaged in land conservation. This has led us to launch the Conservation@Home* program in 2011 to help and encourage Lake County residents to bring nature home to their own landscapes. As people apply more eco-friendly landscaping practices on their own private lawns and gardens, the collective result will be cleaner water, richer soils, and more resilient ecosystems.

Lake County is our home. Like you, we believe that keeping nature healthy is essential to keeping it a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family. A place for people and wildlife. Working together, we can make a difference.

History

We were established in 1995 as the Liberty Prairie Conservancy by citizens concerned about development pressures that threatened a unique public/private conservation effort known as the Liberty Prairie Reserve. Early on we focused on land use planning and ecological restoration within the 5,800 acre reserve where today, more than 3,300 acres have been protected from further development hundreds of acres of habitat are being restored. [Read More](#)

"The mission of Conserve Lake County is to preserve open land, restore natural areas, and inspire a commitment to land conservation for the benefit of people and wildlife in Lake County."

In 2004 we expanded into a countywide land conservation organization—an organization that can directly preserve open space from development through land purchases, land donations, and the acceptance of conservation easements.

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Members Matter! Read how your donation makes a difference



DONATE

Since 2004, Conserve Lake County has preserved over 300 acres, through land acquisitions, easements, land donations, and landowner negotiations. We were also instrumental in creating a countywide [Open Space Vision](#) in partnership with 17 private and public conservation organizations. The vision sets an ambitious but achievable goal of preserving 20% of Lake County by 2030.



In 2007 we purchased the historic Casey Farm just north of Libertyville, saving the woods, pastures, and farmland from development. The purchase was made possible by two substantial donor gifts as well as partnerships with the Lake County Forest Preserve District and Libertyville Township which subsequently purchased portions of the farm from us. This important purchase made possible the linkage of two important Lake County trail systems. The section of trail linking the two trail networks is scheduled to open in 2013.

In 2011, we launched the [Conservation@Home](#) program to improve the health of the land and water of Lake County by helping residents take care of nature in their own backyards.

In 2011, we also became part of a collaborative effort designed to bring more local food production and sustainable agriculture to Lake County. Read about the [Local Food Initiative](#).

You can help! And in the process you'll meet great people and reconnect with nature in ways that are richly satisfying. Please explore more of our website. Please feel free to contact us with questions and ideas. Please help Conserve Lake County today.

**Conservation@Home is a program of The Conservation Foundation and is offered in Lake County by Conserve Lake County through funding from the Grand Victoria Foundation and others.*

Conservation@Home is also funded in part through a grant program supported by the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry in support of the oak assessment and recovery plan for the Northeast Illinois Region's tree canopy. USFS grants of federal monies are administered by the Chicago Wilderness Trust.

[Home](#) [Who We Are](#) [What We Do](#) [Conservation@Home](#) [Ways To Help](#) [Contact Us](#) [Board Login/Logout](#)

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Get certified with Lake County Conservation@Home

The biggest reward for using eco-friendly practices on your property is knowing you are contributing to clean water, rich soil, and resilient ecosystems that support people and wildlife. You can also become a certified Conservation@Home property and receive our garden sign to display. [Sign-up for a property visit](#)



For certification criteria for properties up to one acre [click here](#).

For certification criteria for properties over one acre (including homes, businesses, schools, etc.) [click here](#).

If your property is over one acre you can apply the one acre criteria to the acre surrounding your main building or you can choose to use the criteria for over one acre.

[Welcome to Eco-Friendly Landscaping](#)

[Let's Get Started](#)

[Eco-Friendly Lawns](#)

[How to Attract Songbirds and Butterflies](#)

[Rainwater Projects](#)

[Certify Your Property](#)

[Schedule a Property Visit](#)

[Local Vendors](#)

[Classes and Workshops](#)

[Native Plant Finder](#)

[Invasive Species](#)

[Plant an Oak Tree](#)

[More Resources](#)



DONATE



Schedule a property visit

If you're looking for easy tips to get started on eco-friendly landscaping, we can help. Schedule a visit from us to your property. We'll keep your goals and resources in mind – both time and money – as we assess your property and offer information and ideas. If you're just getting started you'll find that in many cases, simple modifications can go a long way. Lake County properties only.

\$99 Limited Time Offer! Save 45% off our regular non-member rate during our Summer Special! Offer good for property visits through September 30, 2014. Enter code I CARE at the bottom of the form below.

Our visits focus on native plants, rainwater, lawns and invasive species, and take up to 75 minutes (properties over one acre may take longer).

We will let you know we've arrived and will use several minutes to walk your property on our own to get a quick overview of the site.

We will then invite you to show us around. Let us know if you have a particular issue of concern or an upcoming project of note. Also let us know if you're hoping to check out for a [property certification](#).

We will help you identify any ecological treasures you might have and also look at areas for consideration.

After our visit, you will receive a follow-up email with key recommendations or resources. You will also begin to receive occasional tips and notices of events where you can connect with kindred spirits, such as our festive annual meeting which attracts hundreds each spring.

Property visits are \$99 for members and \$179 for nonmembers. [Join Now](#)

SAVE! Sign up with your neighbors and receive a discount. Please [contact us](#) to arrange these plans.

- Get 1 neighbor to sign up for a visit the same day and save \$10 each
- Get 2 neighbors and save \$20 each
- Get 3 neighbors and save \$30 each

* required field

Contact Information

First Name *

Last Name *

Address 1 *

Address 2

[Welcome to Eco-Friendly Landscaping](#)

[Let's Get Started](#)

[Eco-Friendly Lawns](#)

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Certify your yard with Conservation@Home

Click here to see how you can earn points toward Conservation@Home certification

City *

State *

Zip *

Your Email *

Phone Number *(for making scheduling arrangements)* *

We are generally available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with limited availability for additional days

If there is a specific topic or project you need help with, please describe it.

Which of the following best describes your needs?

- I am ready to certify my property.
- I am looking for information and advice.

How large is your property?

- Less than one acre
- Between one and five acres
- Over five acres

Please feel free to provide information on your interests or concerns.

Join Conserve Lake County and save on your property visit!

Membership Status *

Property Visit *

ENTER PROMO CODE

Total

99.00 USD

To complete your request for a property visit, press the "Send" button below and you will be transferred to the secure Paypal site for payment.

Conservation@Home

Certification Criteria

www.ConserveLakeCounty.org

100 points earns certification – Many options to choose from!

Certification is free and includes a yard sign. Those new to Conserve Lake County (formerly Liberty Prairie Conservancy) also receive a free one-year membership. A free property visit from our staff to verify that certification requirements have been met is required. Because we are non-profit, tax-deductible donations to support our work are always welcome.

For properties up to 1 acre. If your property is *over* one acre you can apply this criteria to the acre surrounding your main building, or use our larger-parcel criteria – your choice. We can even help you with a hybrid of the two.

Earn 50 points with these 5 required items:

One shrub or tree native to northeastern Illinois	5	_____
A simple map of the property has been sketched showing the path of rain water flow. (It's easy - we can help!)	10	_____
Lawn chemicals are minimal or nonexistent	10	_____
The invasive species listed at the end of this sheet collectively cover less than 5% of the property (We can help with identification and control tips!)	10	_____
Plants native to northeastern Illinois make up at least 5% of the landscape	15	_____

Choose from the following for your remaining 50 points:

NATIVE PLANTS

Each native shrub beyond original	2	_____
Each native tree beyond original	5	_____
Landscape supports at least 15 species of native perennials, shrubs and/or trees	10	_____
Landscape supports at least 30 species of native perennials, shrubs and/or trees (yes, you still get 10 points for above item!)	10	_____
Each additional 10% of the landscape in native plants, beyond the required 5%	20	_____

LAWN CARE

Watering is only for new plantings that are being established or from collected rainwater	5	_____
Lawn is mowed three inches tall and grass clippings are left in place	5	_____
Electric, propane or reel mower is used	10	_____
Lawn has been aerated and top-dressed with compost or compost tea	15	_____
Lawn contains buffalo grass or other low-mow species	15	_____
Lawn takes up less than 50% of the available landscaping	15	_____

Turn the page for many more choices...

SOIL*In addition to above items, the following practices support soil health*

A soil test has been conducted	5	_____
Composting takes place	10	_____
Autumn leaves remain on the property; are not burned or bagged	10	_____
Plantings protect lake, pond or stream shoreline	10	_____
A soil erosion problem has been greatly reduced or eliminated	15	_____

RAIN WATER*In addition to above items, the following practices support clean water*

Each rain barrel	5	_____
Each rain garden	10	_____
Each bio-swale	10	_____
Rain-permeable walkway	10	_____
Other than buildings, less than 10% of property is paved with asphalt, concrete or other impermeable materials	10	_____
Roof downspouts are directed to a garden or flat portion of lawn	15	_____
Rain-permeable driveway	20	_____
Green roof	20	_____

WILDLIFE*In addition to above items, the following practices support wildlife habitat*

One or more wildlife houses	5	_____
Pond, maintained birdbath or other water feature	5	_____
Brush pile or large dead tree (safe locations only, as ordinances allow)	5	_____
Native plants include at least 10 from the butterfly-friendly plant list (coming soon)	15	_____
Native plants include at least 10 from the bird-friendly plant list (coming soon)	15	_____

FAMILY

Created a family-friendly environment that encourages nature observation	15	_____
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INVASIVE PLANTS

A large patch of invasive species has been removed	20	_____
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LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Vegetable or fruit garden	10	_____
Honeybees or chickens	10	_____

Turn the page for even more choices...

NATURE CHAMPION

- You have recruited two or more neighbors for Conservation@Home property consultations 10 _____
- You have mentored two or more neighbors on sustainable landscaping practices 10 _____
- You have hosted or are scheduled to host a group tour of your property's eco-features, or helped facilitate a Conservation@Home presentation 10 _____

LET'S TALK

We recognize that each property is unique. Tell us about a distinctive practice or feature you feel is noteworthy. Or if you've invested a significant amount of resources into a worthwhile project, please let us know. Varies _____

TOTAL _____

Property owner name _____

Address _____

Date Certified _____ Staff Signature _____

Certification is valid for five years and renewable through a return visit to verify that conservation practices have been maintained.

Invasive Plant Species - Lake County's worst of the worst

Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Burning bush	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Common & glossy buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica & Frangula alnus</i>	Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Asian bush honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera maackii,</i> <i>L. morrowii,</i> <i>L. tatarica, & L. x bella</i>
Common & cut-leaved teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum & D. laciniatus</i>		
Crown vetch	<i>Securigera varia</i>		
Field & Japanese hedge parsley	<i>Torilis arvensis & T. japonica</i>		
Flowering rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>		
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	<u>Aquatic Invasives</u>	
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Brazilian elodea	<i>Egeria densa</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Curly-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>
Narrow-leaved & hybrid cattail	<i>Typha angustifolia & T. x glauca</i>	Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
Moneywort	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>
White/yellow sweetclover	<i>Melilotus alba & M. officinalis</i>	Water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>

Conservation@Home is a program of The Conservation Foundation and is offered in Lake County by Conserve Lake County through funding from the Grand Victoria Foundation and others.



Formerly Liberty Prairie Conservancy
 32400 N Harris Road, Grayslake, IL 60030
 847.548.5989 ConserveLakeCounty.org





Partnership Programs

Note: Programs are subject to change. Funding is limited. Please call to confirm the availability of funds.

- Aquatic Center
- Community Directory
- Community Notification System
- ComEd Information
- Construction Updates
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Garbage & Recycling Services
- Grayslake Heritage Center and History Museum
- Manage Your Utility Bill Online
- Mosquito Abatement
- New Residents
- Partnership Programs
- Pay Your Utility Bill
- Property Taxes
- Resident Talent Bank Form
- Request for Service
- Senior Center
- Shop Grayslake Mobile Phone App
- Skate Park
- Water & Sewer Services
- Weather

50 / 50 Rain Barrel / Compost Bin Reimbursement Program

This program encourages residents to purchase a rain barrel or compost bin for water conservation (rain barrels) and improve soils and plant life (compost bins). Download more information about the [50 / 50 Rain Barrel Reimbursement / Compost Bin Program](#).

Tree Replacement Program

This program gives residents an incentive to plant new trees on their property. The planting of new trees improves air quality, enhances the visual aesthetics of the community, and betters the quality of life for every resident. Download more information about the [Tree Replacement Program](#) and [Native Tree List](#).

50 / 50 Sidewalk Replacement Program

The 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program is a cost-sharing program between the Village and property owners. Those property owners who wish to make aesthetic improvements to the sidewalk adjacent to their property can do so while sharing the cost with the Village. Download more information about the [50 / 50 Sidewalk Replacement Program](#).

Neighborhood Partnership Program

The Neighborhood Partnership Program is designed to support neighborhood beautification by supporting citizen volunteer efforts to upgrade landscaping in public (non-park / school) areas. Download more information about the [Neighborhood Partnership Program](#), [Neighbor Consent Form](#), [Maintenance Agreement](#).

Lawn Mower Replacement Rebate Program

This program encourages residents to properly dispose of their gasoline-powered lawn mowers and to replace them with either electric, battery, or manual (reel) powered mowers. Download more information about the [Lawn Mower Rebate Program](#).

Parkway Restoration

This program gives residents the necessary materials to make landscaping improvements to the parkway areas adjacent to their homes. Download more information about the [Parkway Restoration Partnership Program](#).

- Request 4 Service
- Online Payments
- eNews Sign-Up
- Community Notification Sign-Up
- Local Business Websites
- Community Directory
- Follow Us On Facebook



Tree Replacement Program

The Tree Replacement Program is a cost-sharing program encouraging property owners to plant new trees on their property. The planting of new trees improves air quality, enhances the visual aesthetic of the community, and better the quality of life for residents.

The following parameters pertain to participation in the Tree Replacement Program:

1. Residents are reimbursed 25% of the cost of a single new non -"native" tree and 75% for a "native" tree planted on their property, excluding sales tax, delivery, and installation up to \$200.
2. Program dollars are disbursed as reimbursement after the purchase of a new tree.
3. Each household may participate in this program once every year.

Residents wishing to participate in this partnership program must submit a paid receipt itemizing the cost of the tree. Receipts can be mailed or dropped off at:

Grayslake Village Hall
10 South Seymour Avenue
Grayslake, IL 60030

For more information, please contact the Village Hall at (847) 223-8515.

Pursuant to Village Ordinance, the following trees shall not be planted on Village parkways and therefore do not qualify for reimbursement under this program:

- Box Elder
- Catalpa
- Mountain Ash
- Mulberry
- Poplar
- Soft Maple
- Tree of Heaven
- Willow
- Ash (all varieties)

Mayor: Rhett Taylor
Trustees: Bruce R. Bassett ~ Jeff Werfel ~ Amy Edwards ~ Shawn M. Vogel ~ Ronald L. Jarvis ~ Kevin D. Waldenstrom
Village Clerk: Cynthia E. Lee



VILLAGE OF GRAYSLAKE PARKWAY RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Parkway Restoration Partnership Program gives residents the opportunity to make needed improvements and repairs to the parkway near their home. Through the program, participating homeowners will receive the needed materials, such as black dirt and seed, at no cost to the resident. In exchange, the residents are asked to do their part by providing the needed sweat equity and ongoing watering necessary to enhance the appearance of the area.

Residents who are interested in participating in the program should contact the Request for Service System at 847-223-8515.

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Ten South Seymour Avenue ~ Grayslake, Illinois 60030 ~ (847) 223-8515 ~ Fax: (847) 223-4821 ~ www.villageofgrayslake.com