

Conservation In Our Community Program Overview

Overall Goal: To increase local community-based conservation initiatives in DuPage County (“The best conservation is local.”). Drill deeper in each community to make conservation part of its culture and a core value.

Strategy: TCF will partner with local units of government to educate and engage citizens in making conservation part of their community. TCF will develop new and implement existing programs around the specific needs and desires of each community.

Outcomes:

- Communities will receive the help they need implementing conservation practices for their residents
- Public awareness and knowledge of conservation issues is increased
- Increased use of native plants will result in reduced use of water and pesticides
- Increased use of rain barrels will result in better waste water practices, healthier local streams and rivers and reduced local flooding
- Reduced pollution dumped in storm drains because of increased public awareness of where the water drains

Funding:

- Grant received from the DuPage Community Foundation
- Each participating community
- The Conservation Foundation

Services Provided:

- Provide two workshops in your community to promote Conservation @ Home and the Rain Barrel Program
- Certify 10 homes and businesses in your community through our Conservation @ Home and Conservation @ Work program.
- Actively promote the Rain Barrel Program with marketing materials and workshops.
- Actively promote the Storm-Drain-Stenciling program by organizing community agencies and not-for-profit service programs to participate.
- Participate in annual River Sweep program by coordinating with liaison.
- See examples below for other conservation opportunities.

Examples of local conservation initiatives:

- A neighborhood groups organizes to clean trash from the creek flowing through their subdivision.

- The local garden club organizes to build a butterfly garden in front of the library.
- TCF works to establish a local Eco-commission with the mayor comprised of local citizens. They get hooked up with the network of other Eco-commissions we are establishing.
- A community rain barrel sale is set up with presentations and a rain barrels in parade is organized in downtown with the chamber.
- A boyscout troop stencils 300 storm drains and hangs info hanger on neighborhood doors.
- A HOA wants to save money on mowing so we hook them up with the meadow mix and turn an area into a pollinator natural area.
- A HOA organizes to stencil the drains in their neighborhood.
- Programs to help educate homeowners on streambank restoration on their property.
- Establish a volunteer program to set-up contacts for various programs, i.e. River Sweep, Storm Drain Stenciling,
- Organize a Community Tree and plant sale
- Regional Tree Initiative – set-up partnership with schools to have a tree nursery for the Village and Park District to use while operated and maintained by the schools.
- Provide news releases and information items for your community’s newsletter or publications.