



Conservation@Home

“A Network of Individuals Bringing Conservation Practices Home”

**Illinois Lake Management
Association Annual Conference
April 11, 2014**

John Church
Kendall County Program Director
The Conservation Foundation

The Conservation Foundation



A private,
non-for-profit
organization



Offices at the McDonald Farm, Naperville and
Dickson-Murst Farm, Montgomery



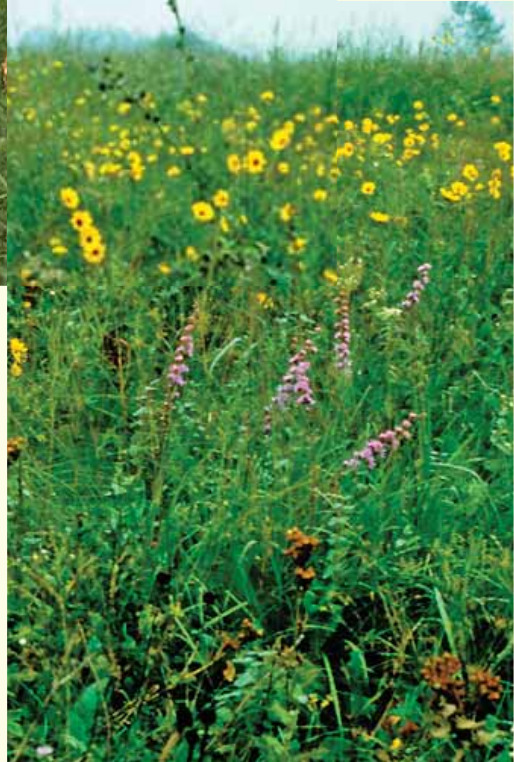
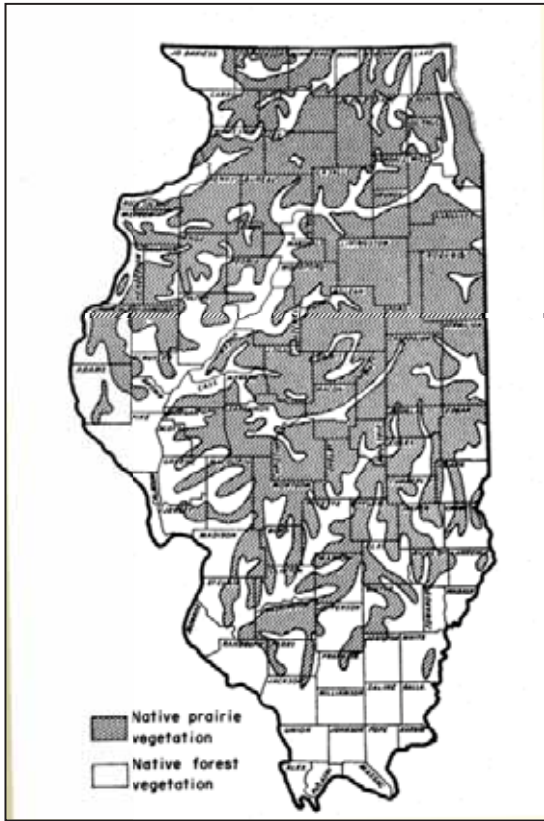
TCF Mission

DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Will Counties

- * Preserve natural areas and open space
- * Protect rivers and watersheds
- * Promote stewardship of our environment
 - * Provide education for children and adults



We Save Land. We Save Rivers.



Ken Robertson, INHS

Natural Surface & Groundwater relationships

Infiltration and Outfalls:

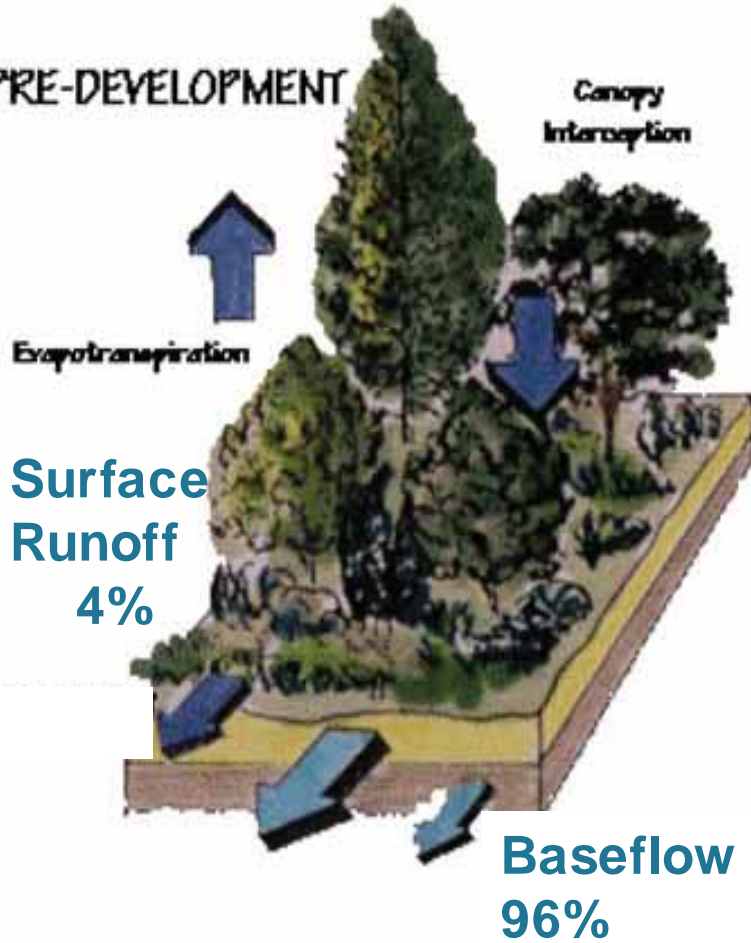
Springs, fens, wet prairies, seeps



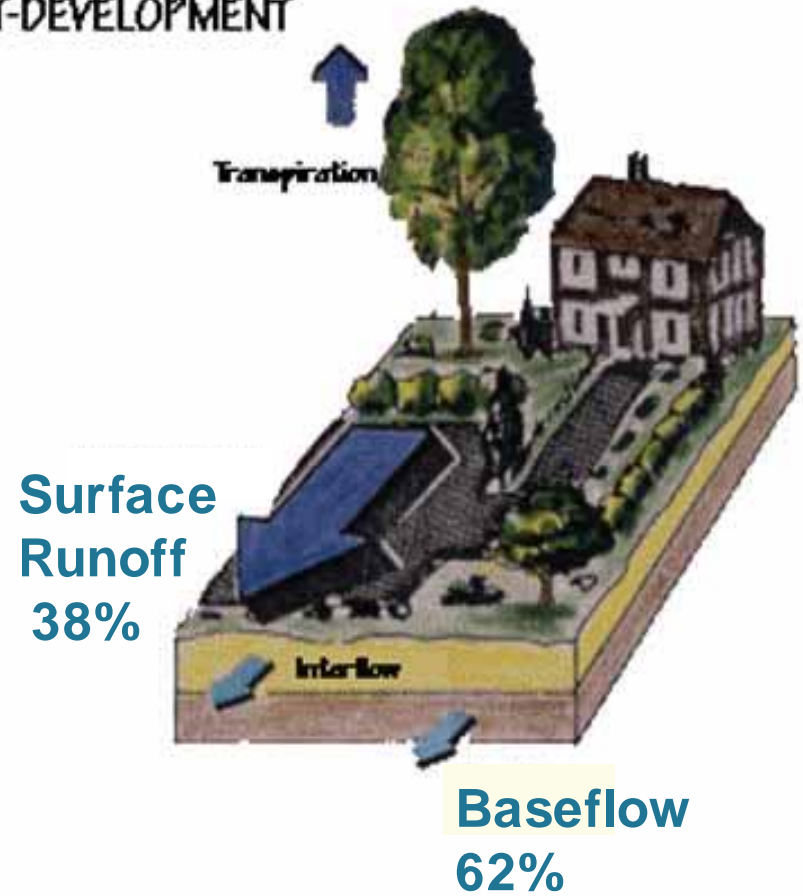


WATER BALANCE

PRE-DEVELOPMENT



POST-DEVELOPMENT









National River Cleanup – American Rivers



TCF Mission



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- * **Protect rivers and watersheds**
- * Promote stewardship of our environment
 - * Provide education for children and adults

We Save Land. We Save Rivers.



**The Conservation@Home program recognizes this property
for its environmentally-friendly landscape.**

Water conservation practices and the protection and restoration of native
plant and wildlife communities will improve the
quality of our environment.



The Conservation Foundation
(630) 428-4500
www.theconservationfoundation.org

2211-4682

VOSS SIGNS, LLC, MANHATTAN, NY 12104-8553 1-800-472-2676 www.vossigns.com

A History of Volunteer Watershed Work

- 1990 - Volunteer group of TCF - *DuPage River Project* started small doing a cleanup of the river, which has now grown into the large *DuPage River Sweep*.
- More than **9,500 volunteers** have removed nearly 235 tons of garbage from DuPage County streams since 1991.
- In 2013 three records were set -- a record 43 miles of shoreline cleared and 13 tons of debris collected.
- County-wide, **730 volunteers** were spread throughout the watershed.

A History of Volunteer Watershed Work

- Storm drain stenciling & citizens stream monitoring started in 1991.
- Added *restoration to Sweep* activities in 2009 – 12+ acres of land near waterways have been stewarded by volunteers removing invasive species such as buckthorn, garlic mustard, honeysuckle and multiflora rose.
- Those volunteer programs created a base of people doing stream bank restoration and other types of restoration work in the stream channels -- evolved into the DuPage River/Salt Creek Workgroup.

A History of Volunteer Watershed Work – C@H

- Recognized need to also move away from the stream itself and address sources of pollution
- ***Conservation@Home*** started as a part of the watershed effort -- to get better water quality.





Every Curb is a “Shoreline” (U. of MN)

*What Does 15%
Impervious Surface
Area Look Like on a
Typical McHenry
County Lot?*

22,446 sqft

average total lot size

3,367 sqft

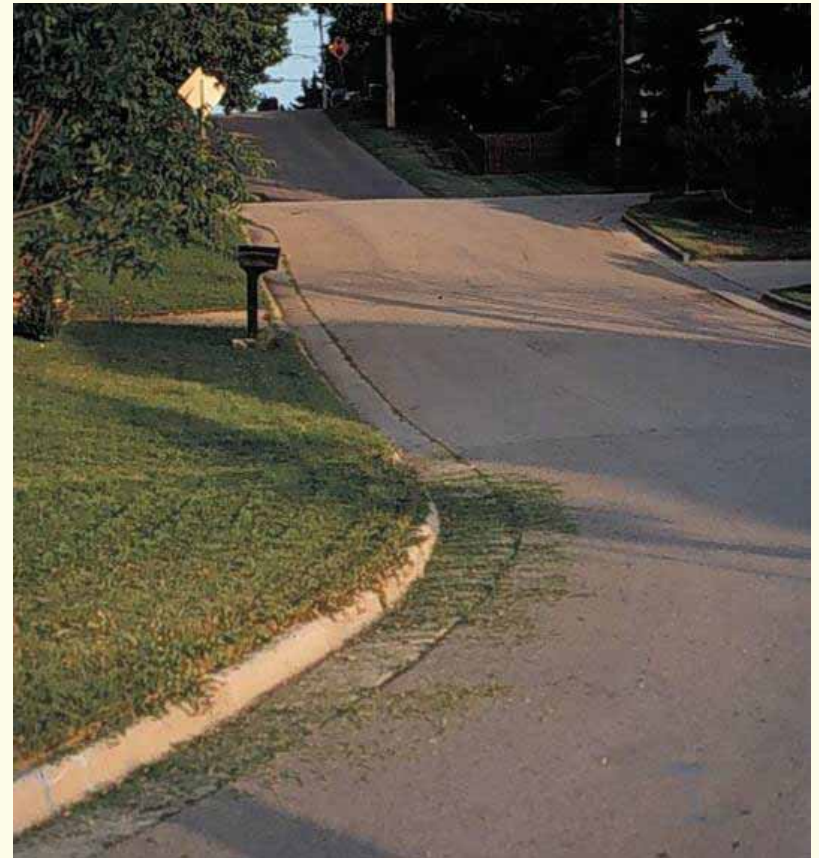
15% of average lot
size dedicated to
house, garage,
pavement and other
impervious surfaces.



Land Use Tools to Protect Groundwater Recharge, ELPC, 2011

We All Live Up & Down Stream

“Every Curb
is a Shoreline”



Univ. of MN

What can we do?



On one ... or
one hundred
acres ...

...OUR decisions
affect the local
environment and
the creatures that
reside in the
area.

Conservation@Home Program

* Native plants * Wildlife habitat * Water conservation *

~1000+ C@H Participants



* Compost / recycling * Reduction of pesticides/fertilizers *

C@H Goals



- Encourage the use of native plants in residential yards and gardens.
- **Protect and restore existing high quality natural areas.**
- Promote good water resource practices (rain barrels, rain gardens that reduce runoff, filter water and conserve water.)
- **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:

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



Focus

BMP's :
Best Management Practices

Water management...



The Problem: Typical site design

*Collect
Concentrate
Convey
Centralize
Control*

Reducing Stormwater Runoff



Traditional Drainage

U. of Wis

Harvesting

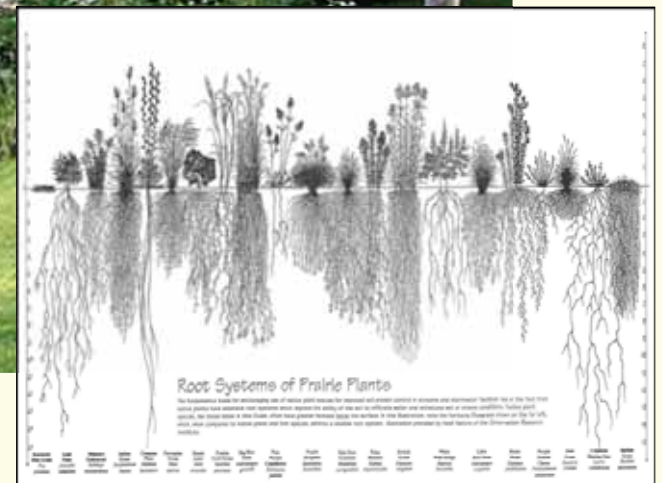


Rainwater Harvesting System Illustration

Aquascape Designs' Rain xChange

The Conservation Foundation, Naperville
750 & 25,000 gallon collection systems

Infiltration: Native plants & Rain Gardens



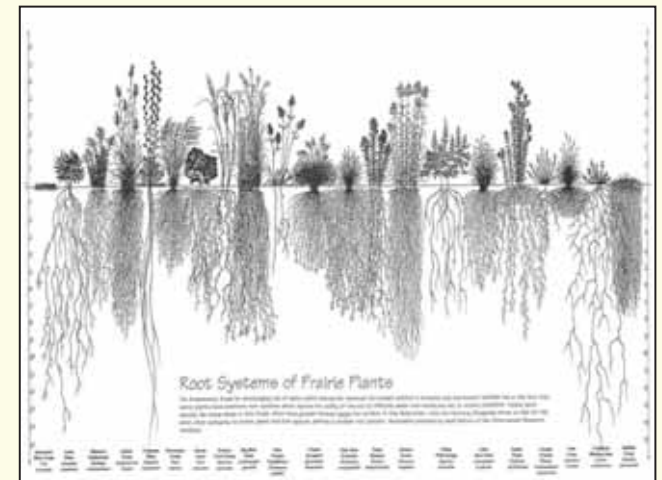
Stormwater Infiltration



Montgomery Police Dept.



www.chicagowilderness.org



Infiltration: Permeable materials



Morton Arboretum



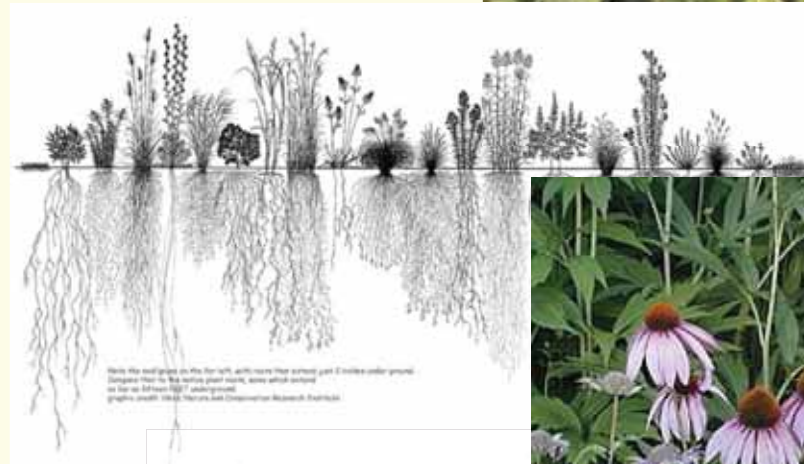
PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS



Permeable concrete sidewalk at Clow Education Center, McDonald Farm

Native plants have advantages

- Adapted to the climate and native pests
- Deep rooted
 - long roots make channels in the soil for water to follow
 - Soil improvement
- Havens for butterflies, birds, beneficial insects
- Reduces invasive species competition



Native plantings & wildlife...



Soils/Composting



Become Certified!

**Certification
how-to's:**

**Give us a
call!**

**Arrange a
visit**

**Become a
member!**





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[Using Rain as a Resource](#)

[The Birds and the Bees...and Butterflies](#)

[Butterflies](#)

[Healthy Soil, Healthy Lawns](#)

■ [Getting Started/Getting Certified](#)

■ [Calendar/Upcoming Events](#)

■ [Solving Problems with Native Plants](#)

■ [Landscaping for Wildlife](#)

■ [Rain Barrels & Other Ways to Save Water](#)

■ [Conservation@Work](#)

■ [Taking Conservation@Home Regional](#)

Getting Started/Getting Certified

Landowners that practice good environmental stewardship and conservation of local resources are the heart of Conservation@Home.

We award each Conservation@Home property a sign, identifying its certification as a wildlife haven and environmentally friendly landscape. Whether it's creating a butterfly or rain garden with native plants, using organic fertilizers and pesticides, or removing invasive vegetation, every little action we accomplish on our own properties works toward our greater goal of cleaning up our water, providing natural habitat and creating healthy landscapes for people and wildlife.

Steps to Certification:

1. If you are interested in making your property a Conservation@Home certified landscape, contact Jim Kleinwachter at The Conservation Foundation for more information at 630-553-0687, Ext. 304 or **email him**.
2. TCF staff will conduct an initial survey over the phone, based on the Conservation@Home Certification Criteria Checklist (91.48 KB). This checklist can also be mailed or faxed and helps pre-determine qualification.
3. Participants with strong qualifications are encouraged to set up a visit with a staff member. Those wanting information or advice on how they may get involved or improve their property will receive appropriate literature by mail.

Share



TCF in Your Neighborhood

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[Kane COUNTY](#)

[DuPage COUNTY](#)

[Kendall COUNTY](#)

[Other Places We Work](#)



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Conservation@Home



Taking Conservation@Home Regional

Thanks to the overwhelming success of the Conservation@Home program over the last five years, several other conservation groups in the region are helping to promote the program outside of The Conservation Foundation's service area of DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will counties.

If you live in Lake County, **[click here](#)**.

If you live in the Barrington area, **[click here](#)**.



THE
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION



This exciting NEW program is designed to encourage business property owners to help transform our landscape. We can all contribute to environmental improvement, at Work, School or our place of Worship.

The Conservation Foundation
105404 Knoch Knolls Road
Naperville, IL 60565
630-428-4500
www.theconservationfoundation.org

Conservation@Work Program





Stay informed with our emails!

Sign up Now

Volunteer

Membership

Donate

Preserving Land

Protecting Rivers & Streams

Educating & Empowering

Conservation@Home

Sustainability

Partner With Us

Volunteer



Nothing feels quite as good as working hard at work worth doing (except maybe a nice massage afterwards)! Volunteers are an integral part of achieving the mission of The Conservation Foundation, and there are many ways to get involved. We need an army to extend our reach on the land, in the water, in the classroom and in your neighborhood. Join up today!

Opportunities are available in the following areas of interest:

- Site Maintenance at McDonald Farm or Dickson-Murst Farm
- Native Vegetation Management at our preserves and easements
- Education Programs
- Office Work at either McDonald Farm or Dickson-Murst Farm
- Special Events
- Watershed Protection
- Eagle Scouts
- Spokesperson for The Conservation Foundation
- Butterfly and Children's Garden Maintenance
- Outreach and Marketing Projects
- **DuPage River Sweep**
- **Storm Drain Stenciling**
- **Adopt-A-Stream**



Cooperators/volunteers

- C@H members
- TCF members
- Master Gardeners
- Master Naturalists
- 4H/FFA
- SWCD
- Park Districts
- Forest Preserves
- Watershed groups
- Teachers
- Schools
- Scouts
- Local governments
- Foundations/private groups
- Other Agencies
- Church groups
- Service groups

DuPage River Sweep & Restoration



Rain Garden Plantings & Maintenance



Natural Area Restoration



Storm Drain Stenciling



Dickson-Murst Farm



Conservation@Home Program

* Native plants * Wildlife habitat * Water conservation *



* Compost / recycling * Reduction of pesticides/fertilizers *



Contacts

- **John Church, Kendall County Program Director
The Conservation Foundation
2550 Dickson Rd., Montgomery, IL 60538**

Ph. 630-553-0687 x 204

or Main office 630-428-4500

E-mail: jchurch@theconservationfoundation.org

website: www.theconservationfoundation.org