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## BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION CHECKLIST

### Note:

Each item below is not applicable to every property. This is a list of suggestions to guide you in choosing ways to bring conservation into your organization. For certification purposes, at least one criteria must be met from each category, with a total of ten criteria fulfilled. Certification is valid for five years and renewable through a return visit to verify that conservation practices were maintained.

### 1. Native Vegetation

- Native plants incorporated into existing landscape beds
- Native trees and shrubs incorporated into existing landscape
- Managing property for invasive species
- Protects or restores existing high quality areas
- Creates a new native plant habitat.

### 2. Water Stewardship

- Water directed from at least 1 downspout to a rain garden, rain barrel, bioswale, or over a bed of rocks to help retain and filter stormwater.
- Runoff reduced with permeable walkway or parking lot
- Property along aquatic habitats managed to reduce erosion and pollutants.
- Low-flow toilets and faucets installed in building

### 3. Landscape Management

- Compost bin or pile used for landscape waste and/or food scraps
- Use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides minimized
- Leave grass clippings in place (unless composted)
- Leaves used to mulch around trees, shrubs, and landscape beds
- If service used, check into their practices

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

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**Continue for more categories...**

#### 4. Wildlife Habitat

- Bird feeders provided
- Bird, bat, or native bee houses provided
- Water provided (bird bath, fountain, pond)
- Pollinator habitat provided
- Leave standing vegetation and leaves in landscape beds over winter to provide habitat

#### 5. Conservation Ethic

- Volunteers to improve native landscapes in McHenry County
- Utilizes a recycling program and uses paperless options when possible
- Incorporates composting of food scraps and landscape waste
- Has an organic vegetable garden on site
- Educates staff about resource conservation: turn off lights, don't leave water running, etc.
- Provides staff and clientele with outdoor natural area for use during breaks
- Provides staff and clientele with local environmental literature about programming and volunteer opportunities.

For office use only:

Site Visit Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Method: \_\_\_\_\_