



DuPage County Activities

DUPAGE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION

DuPage County Open Space Master Plan

The Foundation coordinated the vision and plan for an open space master plan that connected existing open spaces together, extended trail linkages and preserved the county's last remaining natural areas.

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

The Foundation continues to advocate for open space referenda and specific land acquisitions throughout DuPage County. The Foundation also assists the District in identifying potential conservation easement properties near forest preserves.

Conservation Easements

The Foundation currently holds several conservation easements totaling over 200 acres in DuPage County. Discussions are occurring as opportunities arise on additional conservation easements throughout DuPage County.

DUPAGE COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION

DuPage River Sweep

The DuPage County River Sweep that was established in 1991 is an annual clean-up event that encourages citizens to improve local waterways by removing debris and litter from a section of stream or pond. Every year in the month of May hundreds of volunteers collect litter and debris from waterways to improve the health of our rivers and streams.

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup

The Foundation is a charter member of and provides staffing for the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW). The DRSCW formed in 2005 in response to concerns about new water quality regulations being set for the East and West Branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek. The DRSCW is made up of local communities, publicly owned treatment works and private environmental organizations. The DRSCW is committed to producing comprehensive data sets for local watersheds in order to determine and resolve priority stressors to local aquatic systems. The organization is implementing targeted watershed activities that resolve priority waterway problems.

DUPAGE COUNTY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Water Quality/Watershed Education

The Foundation is currently working with DuPage County Environmental Stormwater Management in implementing a countywide water quality education program focusing on stormwater quality and other forms of non-point source pollution. This includes landowner education, watershed workshops and providing assistance to municipalities, along with education to schools about water pollution and land stewardship.

Mighty Acorns

The Foundation coordinates the Mighty Acorns program, a program established by Chicago Wilderness. This educational program focuses on instilling land stewardship ethic in 3rd through 6th graders in schools throughout the Chicagoland region. The program includes in-class and field trip activities to restore local natural areas in West Chicago and Warrenville.

Youth Education Programs

The Foundation's education programs allow children to experience nature up close. By providing opportunities to explore natural habitats, children will be able to connect to the plants and animals that live in our area. Our hope is that these early experiences with nature will inspire them to become supporters and stewards of the environment as they grow into adults and become parents themselves.

Sustainable Development/Natural Areas Assurance Program

The Foundation is promoting sustainable development techniques throughout the county. Working with local groups to influence the way their own communities grow, the Foundation is committed to seeing conservation development become the norm in this region.

Workshops and Seminars

The Foundation frequently coordinates educational seminars on sustainability and land use, as well as open space and watershed protection.

Nature Rx

The Foundations *Nature Rx* initiative strives to educate the community and promote the efforts of healthcare facilities, park districts and forest preserves to engage people with the outdoors and the other living beings that share the places we call home. Through workshops, media and educational materials, we are educating people on the physical and mental health benefits of getting out into nature, and exploring the endless ways a connection to nature improves our quality of life.

CONSERVATION@HOME IN DUPAGE COUNTY

Residential and Commercial Certifications

Hundreds of locations in DuPage County have been certified with the Conservation@Home designation. They are being recognized for employing conservation practices such as using native plants and water-conserving measures on their properties.

Homeowners Association Presentations

The Foundation, along with ecological management consultants, have made presentations to groups of HOAs in DuPage County about how to manage their natural areas and convert conventional common area/detention pond landscaping to native vegetation.

Municipal Programs

The Foundation has done presentations on using rain as a resource and the use of native vegetation to replenish groundwater supplies. In addition, municipalities have had Conservation@Home "days." where presentations are given and a number of residential and municipal sites are certified.

Rain Barrels

In addition to selling thousands of rain barrels to individuals, the Foundation also works with corporations and municipalities to sell rain barrels on a larger scale. Presentations and a discount program are offered. Villages such as Downers Grove, Wheaton and Glen Ellyn, plus DuPage County, and corporations have all had rain barrel programs.