

The Conservation Foundation DuPage County Activities

DUPAGE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION

DuPage County Open Space Master Plan

The Foundation is currently coordinating the visioning and planning for an open space master plan that will connect existing open spaces together, extend trail linkages and preserve the county's last remaining natural areas. Jan Roehll, former land acquisition director for the forest preserve district, to coordinate this project.

DuPage County Forest Preserve District

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.

Wheaton Park District

The Foundation is assisting Wheaton Park District with land acquisitions to expand Cosley Zoo and the Lincoln Marsh. Each parcel of land that the landlocked zoo and marsh can acquire is of vital interest. The Foundation also assists other park districts in similar ways.

Conservation Easements

The Foundation currently holds 15 conservation easements totaling nearly 100 acres in DuPage County. Discussions are occurring as opportunities arise on additional conservation easements throughout DuPage County.

DUPAGE COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION

DuPage River Coalition

The Foundation, through the DuPage River Coalition, has been coordinating the cleanup and restoration of the DuPage River since 1991. In 1999, a watershed management plan was developed for the DuPage River and was updated in 2009 to conform to new water quality/watershed planning standards. The Foundation also coordinates the annual DuPage County River Sweep, the storm-drain stenciling program, volunteer monitoring program, and a host of other volunteer and educational efforts.

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 & West Branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek. The DRSCW is made up of local communities, publically 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 water way problems.



Established 1972



DUPAGE COUNTY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Water Quality/Watershed Education

The Foundation is currently working with DuPage County staff in implementing a countywide water quality education program focusing on stormwater runoff and other forms of non point source pollution. This includes landowner education, technical 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 joint program with Chicago Wilderness. This educational program focuses on instilling a land stewardship ethic in 4th through 6th graders from 4 schools and includes in-class and field trip activities to restore local natural areas in West Chicago and Warrenville. Mighty Acorns is being featured in West Chicago Park District's summer camp program as well.

Envirothon

The Foundation partners with the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District to organize the annual Northeastern Illinois Envirothon competition for high schools, including Kane and DuPage Counties.

Stream Monitoring/DuPage River C.A. R.E.

The Foundation is partnering with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources/EcoWatch Program to train citizens and teachers to conduct water quality monitoring and river studies.

Sustainable Development

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.

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, Lisle, Wheaton and Glen Ellyn, plus DuPage County, and corporations such as McDonalds and Nalco have all had rain barrel programs.