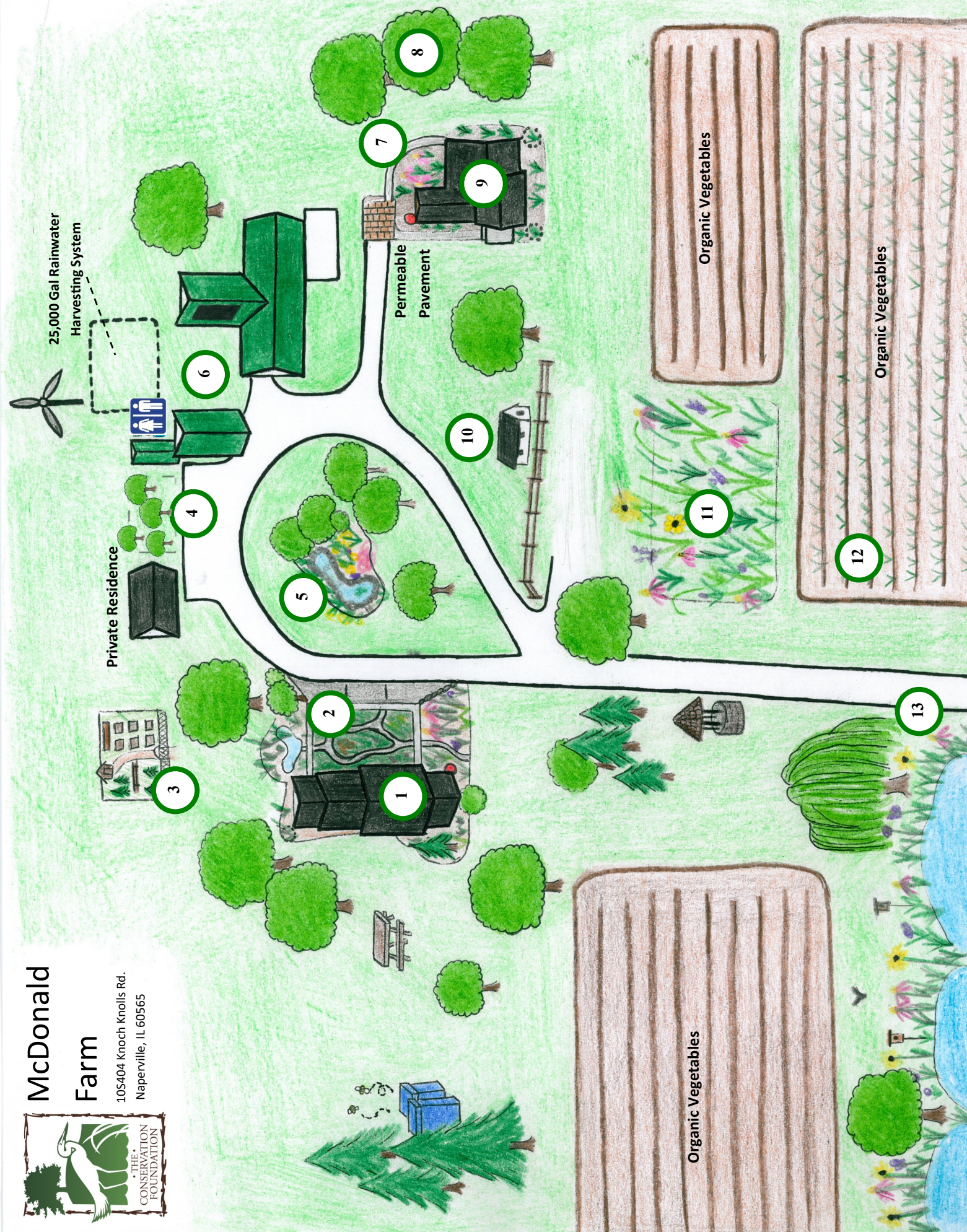


**McDonald Farm**  
 105404 Knoch Knolls Rd.  
 Naperville, IL 60565



# McDonald Farm Self-Guided Tour

The Conservation Foundation (TCF) is one of the oldest land and watershed conservation organizations in northeastern Illinois. Civic and business leaders established the Foundation in 1972. We have helped preserve more than 35,000 acres of land, including this 60-acre McDonald Farm. We've become a leader in preserving natural areas, protecting rivers and streams, promoting sustainable development, and educating the public.

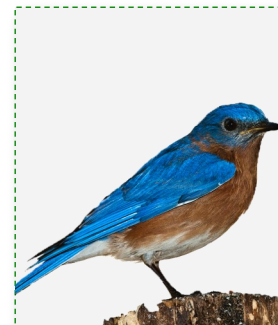
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## The Conservation Foundation Office

The McDonald Farm is so-named after its previous owners, Sterling McDonald and Lenore (Clow) McDonald. The pair bought the property in 1949. After Sterling passed away, Lenore continued operating the farm, but this task became difficult as suburban development increased. To ensure that no houses were built on her farm, Lenore donated the 60-acre farm to us in 1992. We moved our offices to the McDonald Farm in 1998 and immediately placed a conservation easement on the farm to ensure its preservation in perpetuity. This ranch house now serves as the regional office headquarters.

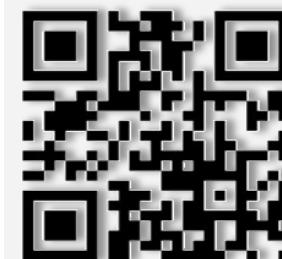
To learn more, please come into our office to find more M-F, 9am-5pm



## Seeing blue?

Notice we have placed nesting boxes around the farm to encourage nesting of **bluebirds** and other beneficial bird species. We regularly monitor each box and record all species using the boxes. The Eastern Bluebird is very beneficial to us and was once very common in the United States. However, over the last century their numbers have diminished due to loss of nesting habitat and competition from European birds. Please do not disturb the bird boxes.

See the back page of this brochure for an easy-to-follow map of McDonald Farm



Download the **Prairie State Hike App** to your phone and take a virtual walking tour around McDonald Farm! For both Android and Apple devices.



To learn more, read the interpretive sign.

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## Sandy Dawe Memorial Butterfly Garden

This garden demonstrates a variety of native plant species that can be used to attract butterflies to any garden. Feel free to take a stroll through the garden and observe the various plant and butterfly species. Near the west end of the house is a 750 gallon rainwater harvesting system, which is used to water plants in both the butterfly garden and the children's garden. The garden is named after Sandy Dawe, a long-time volunteer, who loved gardening.

## Children's Sensory Garden

The future of our planet rests in the hands of today's youth. That's why we emphasize the importance of educating our youth and providing hands on experiences. Through the work of our teachers and wonderful volunteers we are able to reach hundreds of children every year. The sensory garden includes a variety of native plants and flowers. Please walk through and enjoy!



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## Marti Henning Tree Nursery

This small native tree nursery is named in memory of Marti Henning. The nursery is located in the former "chicken yard" when this farm had chickens decades ago. We nurture many types of native trees, especially oaks, and plant them throughout our service area.

## Water Garden

Water gardens are visually soothing and connect people to the natural world. A water garden is not only a nice cosmetic feature, but it also attracts a variety of wildlife, such as birds, frogs, and dragonflies. What makes our garden unique is that we use native plantings and we do not use chemicals, which attracts larger numbers of wildlife than the typical water garden. Thank you to Aquascape Designs for donating this beautiful water feature.



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To learn more about our sustainability project, please refer to the signs on the barn and brochures.

## Sustainability Project

We produce about 30 percent of our own clean, renewable energy for the office by utilizing sunlight and wind equally. Water conservation is another key component of our sustainability project. Near the barns is our 25,000 gallon, underground rainwater harvesting system. 100 percent of rainwater runoff from the roofs of the barns is directed into the system and then the our farmers use the collected water to irrigate the organic crops. Both barns have "green" roofs made from up to 90 percent recycled metal and last about 50 years, making them eco-

To learn more, read the interpretive sign.

## Rain Gardens

A rain garden is designed to collect water that runs off your roof or water discharged from your sump pump. Rain gardens are planted with native wildflowers and grasses which help filter and clean runoff before infiltrating it into the ground. This restores underground water supplies, keeps runoff out of storm drains, helps protect water quality in local lakes and streams, and reduces water use in your yard. Rain gardens are low maintenance and also provide food and shelter for wildlife.



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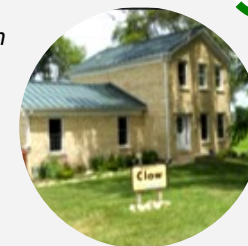
## Edible Food Forest

An edible forest garden is a permaculture design that mimics a woodland ecosystem using edible, medicinal, fiber, dye, and fuel producing trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. It is a demonstration and educational programming tool for how we can transform suburban lawns, grow food security, and have beautiful, self-maintaining landscapes. This garden utilizes the abundance of water produced at the vegetable washing station next to the barn, and was built and is maintained by the Resiliency Institute. Take a walk through this garden and read the signs.

To learn more about The Clow House, please go inside and read the signs or take a brochure.

## Robert C. Clow Education Center

This stone house, the childhood home of Lenore (Clow) McDonald, used to be on 104th Street in Naperville, but it was dismantled and reconstructed at the McDonald Farm in 2007. Robert Clow came to the U.S. from Scotland and homesteaded property in the 1840s, and this building housed multiple generations of his family. Be sure to check out the sustainable features of the house, including its permeable paver driveway and permeable concrete front walkway, and bamboo flooring. The building is used for staff offices, meetings, and educational programs.



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## Living Green Roof

The plants growing on top of this little white milk house are several types of sedums, or succulents. They soak up the rain water instead of shedding it off the roof. The plants also keep the milk house cooler in the summer, which is nice for the farm workers as they take their breaks. Living green roofs, or roof gardens, are very popular on larger buildings in Chicago. To learn more, read the sign on the front of the building

To learn more, read the interpretive sign.

## Prairie Restoration

This small, one-acre prairie shows what most of our land looked like 200 years ago. Once the settlers entered this area, they immediately started to transform the prairie into farms. Now, we have lots of houses and roads. Prairies provide homes for many species of wildlife and are important habitat for pollinators, especially monarch butterflies.



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Interested in sharing in the harvest? Visit [theconservationfoundation.org/green-earth](http://theconservationfoundation.org/green-earth)



## Green Earth Harvest

The rich soil at McDonald Farm is used by our Green Earth Harvest program to grow organic, healthy vegetables in an Earth-friendly way. The program uses a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) design that allows anyone to purchase a share of the harvest and enjoy delicious vegetables along with education about nature, nutrition, and caring for the Earth. These certified organic vegetables are available from May through November for shareholders of the CSA.

Stop in the office to learn more!

To learn more about the importance of wetlands, please visit [wetlands-initiative.org](http://wetlands-initiative.org)

## Wetlands Restoration

Over the past few centuries significant amounts of wetlands have been removed or destroyed. In an effort to reverse this trend, we have created a wetland restoration project right here on the farm. Wetlands are vital to water conservation in Illinois. The natural movement of water through this wetland is slow, allowing the rich vegetation to remove pollutants from the water. Wetlands also serve as natural habitats for a wide variety of wildlife, provide natural water reservoirs for excess stormwater, and help decrease the risk of flooding.



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