



<Date>

Name

Address

Dear <name>.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County, U.S. Forest Service, University of Illinois Extension, and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative are writing to invite you to participate in an important project. Your community has been identified as one of the most ecologically important areas of Cook County and selected as the focus of a 2020 nonprofit project. Through this project, you and your neighbors can benefit from a unique opportunity: we invite you to enjoy a one-hour native plant-focused landscape consultation with a non-profit landscape design professional. During your appointment, we'll listen to your needs, walk your property with you, and provide practical advice so you can maximize the use of your time and dollars as you care for your property. ***This service is provided at no charge!***

Depending on your needs, you will learn about:

- Conservation friendly actions that can protect and improve your property values
- Ways to address mosquitoes, poison ivy, standing water, and dying trees
- Invasive species – and cost-effective control methods
- Ecological treasures and ways to protect them

This consultation service is provided through the Conservation@Home program for eco-friendly landscaping and land stewardship, locally administered by University of Illinois Extension and the Forest Preserves of Cook County. The goal is to help people who wish to improve their property values and retain landscape aesthetics while supporting songbirds, butterflies, clean water, and healthy communities. If your property meets our criteria, you'll receive a Conservation@Home certification and a plaque for your yard.

This opportunity is funded by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative based out of The Morton Arboretum, Forest Preserves of Cook County, University of Illinois Extension, and the USDA Forest Service. As a thank-you gift for your appointment, we will include a reusable bag with helpful resources about environmentally-friendly landscaping. To schedule your appointment, simply fill out the online form [*registration link*](#) or contact Trinity Pierce at tpierce@mortonarb.org, (630) 725 -2116. We welcome your questions and comments. Thank you!

Warm wishes for a magnificent fall,

Mayor Keith Pekau
Village of Orland Park

Trinity Pierce
Chicago Region Trees Initiative

