



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 16-0347, **Version:** 1

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### **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Department(s):** Conservation & Experiential Programming

**Other Part(ies):** The Conservation Foundation, McDonald Farm, 10S404 Knock Knolls Rd., Naperville, Illinois

**Request:** Enter into agreement to partner with The Conservation Foundation on the Conservation@Home program

**Good(s) or Service(s):** The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Preserves”) would like to enter into a long term partnership with The Conservation Foundation on the Conservation@Home Program. Conservation@Home is a program that encourages, celebrates and assists homeowners and gardeners to help them create and maintain eco-friendly gardens and landscapes on their property. The Conservation Foundation will provide technical support, templates, support documents and other resources to aid the Preserves in launching this program for the benefit of residents in Cook County.

**Agreement period:** Ten (10) years from the date of execution.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$1,000.00 onetime fee to The Conservation Foundation

**Accounts:** Advertising and Promotion, 01-6264

**Agreement Number(s):** None

**Summary/Notes:** The Preserves wish to add the Conservation@Home program to the Conservation and Experiential Programming Department’s core offerings. The Preserve volunteers who are trained by the University of Illinois Extension program will certify gardens and landscapes in Cook County. The University of Illinois Extension program may also provide additional assistance. The Conservation@Home program offered by the Preserves will encourage gardeners to choose native plants over invasive plants; create habitat for pollinators and native wildlife; practice water conservation, and contribute to the restoration and conservation work of the Preserves. Gardens and landscapes that have been Conservation@Home certified would advance the goals of the Preserves’ Next Century Conservation Plan to mobilize people to heal and nurture the land. The Preserves will require a \$50.00 fee from homeowners wishing to certify their gardens; this fee goes towards covering the cost of the sign and other materials accompanying the certification. The final Conservation@Home agreement will be subject to final review and approval of the Chief Attorney of the Preserves. Volunteers involved in certifying gardens and landscapes will be required to execute liability waivers.