

Ecological Restoration Certificate Program

Register for ERCP classes online at www.mchenry.edu/coneducation.



What is the Ecological Restoration Certificate Program?

McHenry County Conservation District and McHenry County College welcome you to the first-ever educational program of workshops designed around the practice and philosophy of ecological restoration. Whether you are a member of the general public or you are already working or volunteering in ecological restoration, you will find a workshop for you!

Choose one or two that interest you or complete the whole program. Certification requires attending 15, one-day workshops. The ten core workshops are denoted by an asterisk. In addition, a participant must take one plant identification workshop, two wildlife ecology workshops, and two electives (which may include additional plant identification or wildlife ecology workshops).

For more information, contact Tom Simpson, Research Field Station Ecologist, (815) 678-7644, tsimpson@mccd.org. Register for the workshops through McHenry County College, online at www.mchenry.edu/coneducation or call (815)455-8588.

Prescribed Fire in Ecological Restoration*

Instructors: Jeff Murray, Restoration Ecologist & Ben Haberthur, GIS Specialist

Saturday, March 13, 9:00 am–4:00 p.m.

Wiedrich Education Center, Glacial Park

Cost:\$50

Prescribed burning refers to the use of fire as a management tool in which managers control the timing and extent of fires to have the maximum ecological benefit at a minimum cost, while ensuring the safety of the fire crew and the public. Because most native ecosystems of the Midwest formed under the influence of recurrent fires, prescribed burning is the single most important management tool the District uses in ecological restoration. This workshop will provide Chicago Wilderness Crew Member Burn Training certification. We will spend part of the day outdoors, so dress for the weather. Please bring a lunch and something to drink.

Forensic Ecology*

Instructor: Ed Collins, Natural Resources Manager

Saturday, March 27, 9:00 am–4:00 p.m.

Wiedrich Education Center, Glacial Park

Cost:\$50

This intensive wide ranging seminar is designed to enable homeowners, agency staff, land managers and others interested in discovering a site's past use history. The morning lecture will introduce students to many of the varied resources available for discovering lands hidden past. Resources covered include: public land survey notes, early plat books and maps, diaries, journals and early publications, sequential aerial photography, soils, census records, county history books & directories, newspapers, farm drainage information, cemetery records, post cards, and probate and tax records. Afternoon work will allow students to use these resources in a series of practical exercises that utilize McHenry County sites to track land use changes from 1837 to the present. By day's end, students will be familiar with the tools, resources and procedures that can be used to trace the genealogy of your own land.

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Wildlife Ecology: Amphibians & Reptiles

Instructors: Sara Denham, Wildlife Resource Center Manager & Beth Flitz, Wildlife Resource Center Specialist

Saturday, April 17, 9:00 am–4:00 p.m.

Wiedrich Education Center, Glacial Park

Cost:\$50

Every ecological restoration manager should be aware of the benefits and perils that management may pose for wildlife species. In this workshop we will look at amphibians and reptiles, their identification, habitat preferences and behaviors. We will then examine efforts such as monitoring, radio tracking, and captive breeding programs that the District is using to ensure the survival of rare and endangered species. We will spend much of the day outdoors. Dress for the weather. Please bring a lunch and something to drink.

Plants of Forests and Woodlands

Instructor: Greg Rajska, Director Small Waters Education

Saturday, May 8, 9:00 am–4:00 p.m.

Coral Wood Conservation Area

Cost:\$50

Woodlands and forests were less common than prairies and oak savannas in McHenry County prior to European contact, but they were rich in plant species that occurred nowhere else. Learning to identify these plants will help you restore these ecosystems and appreciate their beauty and diversity. This workshop will introduce you to many of the species of forests and woodlands. We will spend the day outdoors. Dress for the weather. Please bring a lunch and something to drink.

Landscaping with Nature: Bringing Conservation Home

Instructors: Amy Peters, Sarah Rummel & Austin Taylor, Planning & Development Department

Saturday, May 22, 9:00 am–4:00 p.m.

Prairie View Education Center, Crystal Lake

Cost:\$50

The beauty of nature can be found in a prairie, wandering in an oak grove, or deep within a shady woodland. Found among these landscapes are native grasses and wildflowers, trees and shrubs, birds and butterflies—all abound with color, texture, and movement. Learn to transfer the beauty of native landscapes into your own backyard or small residential property using the techniques of ecological restoration. You don't need to visit a conservation area to experience the wonders of the natural world—they can be right outside your door! This workshop will include appropriate plant species and pairings for residential applications along with the benefits that restoration techniques on a residential scale can have for water quality, habitat, aesthetics and maintenance. We will spend a portion of the day outdoors. Dress for the weather. Bring a lunch and something to drink.

Register in advance for the 2010 ERCP workshops through McHenry County College, online at www.mchenry.edu/coneducation or call (815)455-8588.

Preview of the Summer & Fall Workshop Schedule

SUMMER

Communicating Ecological Restoration to the Public*	June 12
The History Ecological Restoration:*	
20 Years of Restoration in Glacial Park	June 19
Plants of Wetlands	July 3
Wildlife Ecology: Living with Wildlife	July 10
Paddling through Time	July 17
Woody Plants & Ecological Restoration I*	July 24
Plants of Prairies and Savannas	Aug. 14
Glaciers, Mud, Gravel, Sand, Soil, and other stuff*	Aug. 21

* Required to complete the ERCP

FALL

Native Landscapes Prior to European Contact:*	Sept. 11
Focus on Prairies and Savannas	
Restoring Vegetation*	Sept. 18
Weeds and What We Do About Them: Invasive Plant Management*	Oct. 2
Changes in Native Landscapes:*	
Focus on Wetlands	Oct. 9
Releasing the Spirit of Place	Oct. 30
Using the Soil Survey in Ecological Restoration	Nov. 13
Woody Plants II: Tree and Shrub Identification in Winter	Dec. 4