

# The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

## Introduction

Welcome to the 2009 edition of the Defenders' Membership Handbook, a reference manual for all members.

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is a non-profit environmental organization, funded primarily by memberships and donations. Any person, firm, or organization with a desire to assist in accomplishing our goals may be a member.

*Our Mission:* The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is a citizen organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the environment. We are committed to building sound ecological relationships between people and the natural world that supports all life.

To achieve the aim of environmental preservation and improvement, we provide the community with educational programs and volunteer action on pollution prevention, sustainable land uses and energy and natural resource conservation. We advocate policies which protect drinking water supplies and conserve land for open space and agriculture. We demonstrate waste reduction through recycling drives and reuse centers. We encourage natural resource protection through native landscaping and stream protection programs.

We hope the information contained in this Membership Handbook will be of value to you. Use it to become effective as one of the many . . .

***"Citizens Working for a Healthy Environment."***



*We hope you find this handbook useful. Please contact the office at 815-338-0393 or mcdef@owc.net with any comments or corrections.*

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Woodstock, IL 60098-3296  
www.mcdef.org*

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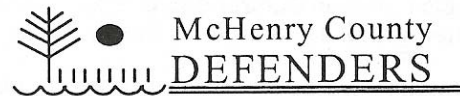
## **CHAPTER 1: THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OF MCHENRY COUNTY**

### **I. A BRIEF HISTORY**

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County history begins in 1969 when the Fox Valley Freeway was proposed. In response to the proposal that would pave over some of the most ecologically significant features within the Fox River watershed, a group of concerned citizens from the Barrington area formed the Defenders of the Fox to protect and improve the Fox River ecosystem and its tributaries. The Defenders of the Fox's first goal was to fight the freeway. In February 1970, a group of like-minded people from Crystal Lake and other parts of McHenry County joined the Barrington group, forming the McHenry County chapter of the Defenders of the Fox.

At about the same time, an ad in the Woodstock *Daily Sentinel* called for people interested in environmental matters to attend a meeting at Pleasant Valley Outdoor Center. Rita and Ralph Halvorsen, Anne Carroll, Sherry Anderson, and Lou and Margaret Marchi attended and eventually formed the McHenry County Environmental Council. In September 1970 this group presented Earth-O-Rama, a program on ecology. Admission was gained by bringing some item to be recycled. Soon thereafter, the Council was asked to become a part of the McHenry County Defenders of the Fox. In February of 1971, the two groups merged and incorporated as McHenry County Defenders.

In 2008, the members of the McHenry County Defenders voted to change their name to "The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County" to more accurately describe the mission of the organization.



*Citizens working for a healthy environment*

From the beginning, the Defenders has been instrumental in many environmental successes ~ stopping the Fox Valley Freeway (twice! in the early 70's and again in the early 90's); saving Allerton Park near Decatur; protecting Volo Bog and Wilson Bog as Illinois Nature Preserves and an Illinois State Natural Area; banning phosphates in detergents; crafting a Crystal Lake watershed protection ordinance; protecting the Middlefork River near Danville; saving Ryder's Woods in Woodstock; forming the McHenry County Conservation District; passing the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act and the Solid Waste Management Act; regulating gravel mining in McHenry County; preventing landfills on permeable soils in McHenry County; stopping power plants from being built on agricultural lands, and aiding in the adoption of the McHenry County Stormwater Ordinance.

The McHenry County Defenders has won several awards for its work, including the Illinois Environmental Council's *Environmental Organization of the Year*, 1983; *Governor's Hometown Award*, 1987; Daughters of the American Revolution *State Conservation Award*, 1989; *Take Pride in America Award* to the Wildflower Preservation & Propagation Committee, 1989; Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste *Environmental Justice Award*, in both 1989 and 1993; the Center for Neighborhood Technology's *Pathmaker Award*, 1998; the McHenry County *Outstanding Recycler Award*, 2002; the McHenry County *Recycler Commendation Award*, 2003; and the McHenry County *Consistency in Recycling Award*, 2004.

The Defenders has been a strong advocate of recycling activities since the organization's inception. Recycling activities were promoted as a way to handle the solid waste problem and as a source of funds. Over the years, the Defenders has operated recycling drives in Algonquin/Lake-In-The-Hills, Crystal Lake, Harvard, Hebron, Huntley, McHenry, Richmond, Wonder Lake, and Woodstock. During the 1990's and through October 2006, the Defenders operated a full-service drop-off center in Woodstock. We continue to hold monthly recycling drives in Woodstock and McHenry.

For the past 38 years, the Defenders' work has continued the initial goals of its two founding groups. Education and advocacy on issues which impact the environment are the dual prongs of the Defenders successful stewardship of the natural resources of McHenry County. Today, four active issue committees (Land Use Planning, Natural Resources Preservation, Waste Reduction, and Water Resources Protection) offer events, tours, projects and demonstrations of environmental interest and address issues facing the county. Additional committees (Education, Fundraising, Membership, and New Home) raise both funds and awareness of Defenders activities in the community.

Reuse efforts have always been a large part of the Waste Reduction Committee's work. The office on the Woodstock Square housed the Grassroots Seller Resale Shop, selling antiques and collectibles as a way to promote reuse. When the office moved in 2002, the Grassroots Seller closed, but the Waste-Not-Warehouse continued to sell used "stuff" at the Woodstock Area Recycling Center. Currently held in Richmond in a space donated by a member, the Waste-Not sales promote reuse as well as provide vital operational income for the organization.

Groundwater protection has been an important issue for the Defenders. The group has published reports on the subject, as well as working with businesses to protect groundwater

supplies. Interns helped businesses with pollution prevention projects and prepared fact sheets on topics including solvent substitutions and pollution prevention for drycleaners, printers, and auto shops. The Defenders is a member of the Northern Regional Groundwater Protection Planning Committee and has served on both the Governor's GAC and the Steering Committee for the McHenry County Groundwater Plan.



Stream protection efforts have been the focus of the Water Resources Protection Committee in recent years. *Friends of the Kishwaukee River* and *Friends of Nippersink Creek* groups have been formed under the Defenders wing. These groups promote the awareness of the high quality waterways of McHenry County via river clean-ups, canoe trips, and educational programs. Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is an active participant in both the Fox River and Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnerships. Funding through the partnerships has enabled the Defenders to create two brochures and a poster about the Kishwaukee River as well as a display, a slide show and a manual on best management practices for municipal officials. A brochure about assistance programs for Nippersink Creek stream-front landowners was completed and a project focused on establishing proper buffers for the North Branch of the creek is underway. New projects focusing on outreach efforts in the Nippersink will target municipal decision makers.

The Land Use Planning Committee promotes good community planning and sustainable growth to protect the natural resources of McHenry County. Efforts to educate the public include the publication of the slow growth fact sheets, the 1993/1994 seminar "Preserving Our Heritage in Growing Communities," and candidate forums. Transportation forums promoting alternatives to constructing highways and education about the environmental impacts of road construction have also been conducted. Recently, a first publication of the Local Farm to Market Growers of McHenry County has been produced to provide consumers with local, sustainable market options for produce as well as support local farmers. The Land Use Committee works with other organizations in the Chicago region in efforts to combat suburban sprawl, including the Campaign for Sensible Growth, Citizens Organized for Sound Transportation, and the Chicagoland Transportation and Air Quality Commission.

The Education Committee sponsors an annual observance of Earth Day, with large celebrations held at McHenry County College for both the twentieth and thirtieth anniversaries in 1990 and 2000. Since 2000, annual celebrations of Earth Day are sponsored by the Defenders in collaboration with other local environmental groups. The Education Committee also sponsors Full Moon Theatre educational presentations that provide a friendly forum for discussion of current environmental issues.

The Natural Resources Preservation Committee promotes the use of native plants for roadside prairies. Starting with a workshop for county and township road commissioners in 1993 and through their ongoing demonstration projects ~ Lake Avenue Prairie in Woodstock, the O'Brien Prairie south of Hebron ~ the committee has successfully educated the community on the value of native landscaping.

The Defenders publishes a quarterly newsletter with articles on environmental issues facing the county and about the work of the organization. For years we provided Environmental Tips to radio station WIVS, and currently contribute weekly Water Conservation Tips to the Northwest Herald. A Resource Library, with an extensive collection of books, videos, and magazines about environmental issues was established in 1981 and is open to the public. The Alta Rush Titus Scholarship and Teresa Charlotte Mangold Scholarship are awarded to college students studying environmental issues, while the Youth Conservation Fund supports environmental youth projects.

The Defenders first hired staff and rented office space in 1981, in Crystal Lake. The organization has been through various locations and staff throughout the years, bringing it to its present success and location in Woodstock.

## II. ORGANIZATION

### A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Defenders' activities are administered by a slate of five officers and a Board of Directors representing a geographic, educational and experiential diversity. New members of the Board are elected every two years at our Annual Meeting, held in the spring of each year. The Board of Directors meets every month on the third Monday, beginning at 7 pm.

Current Board members are:

Dwight Dalton	Cynthia Kanner
Bill Donato	Nancy Schietzelt
Ed Ellinghausen	Joe Starzynski
John Headley	James Wigman
Suzanne Johnson	Kim Willis

### B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee consists of the four officers of the Board:

President.....	<i>Bill Donato</i>
Vice President.....	<i>Joe Starzynski</i>
Treasurer.....	<i>Ed Ellinghausen</i>
Secretary.....	<i>Suzanne Johnson</i>

### C. STAFF

Administrative Coordinator .....*Christy Matsuoka*

### III. COMMITTEES

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is a membership-based organization. That means that as a member, you decide what issues are important and where the efforts of the organization should be concentrated. Issues may change from year to year, but through the use of membership surveys, questionnaires and volunteer involvement, the board and staff are guided in its efforts by your concerns.

Members are encouraged to volunteer their time in any of the following committees. New faces and ideas are always welcome.

**Education Committee** organizes Full Moon Theatre presentations and educational forums for members and the public. Also sponsors Earth Day, the Lou Marchi Environmental Awards, and the Margaret Marchi Environmental Library, the largest environmental library in northern Illinois.

**Fundraising Committee** coordinates special fundraising events to support ongoing operations, including the Waste-Not Sales, Used Book Sales, County Fair volunteers, and a bake sale at the Christmas Tree Sale. Also coordinates raffles and other sales throughout the year, and assists with solicitation of individual donations and in-kind gifts.

**Land Use Planning Committee** researches and conducts programs to involve citizens in local planning, zoning, farmland preservation, transportation issues, and controlling urban sprawl.

**Membership Committee** develops and implements strategies for increasing membership, visibility, and membership retention. Plans and organizes membership and volunteer events, including the Annual Meeting and the Corn Roast.

**Natural Resources Preservation Committee** implements programs on restoration of native wildlife habitat and protection of greenways and public open spaces. Sponsors Defenders' Natural Roadsides Program.

**New Home Committee** works toward our goal of housing Defenders' operations under our own roof. Oversees the building fund, and seeks grants and financial assistance for building this new home.

**Waste Reduction Committee** works to stop waste of energy and natural resources by promoting recycling, educating about waste reduction, and demonstrating alternatives to wasteful lifestyles.

**Water Resources Protection Committee** develops policies and programs to protect the county's groundwater, wetlands, rivers, lakes and streams from pollution by urban and agricultural runoff, toxic chemicals, and gravel mining operations. Sponsors the Friends of the Kishwaukee River and Friends of Nippersink Creek projects.

#### **IV. THETA AWARD WINNERS**

Theta is the eighth letter of the Greek alphabet. Traditionally a warning of death, it has become a symbol of the threat of pollution to Earth and its atmosphere. The closed “e” shape is usually shown on a field of green stripes, representing unspoiled land, and white stripes, denoting pure air.

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County honor an individual or group who has shown an outstanding commitment to improving the environment of McHenry County by presenting them with the “Theta Award”. The award is given to community members to encourage environmental achievement by all.

1970 ~ Ward Duel	1991 ~ Tina Hill, Kelli Kopsell, Elizabeth Learner, & Megan Marshall
1971 ~ Kenneth Fiske	1992 ~ Anton Rebel
1972 ~ Jim, John, & Robert Veugeler	1993 ~ Citizens Against Leaf Burning
1973 ~ Arlene Fetzner	1994 ~ Jack Schaffer
1974 ~ City of McHenry	1995 ~ J. Maichle Bacon
1975 ~ Pleasant Valley Outdoor Center	1996 ~ Citizens Against the Pipeline
1976 ~ Julie Newman	1997 ~ Dick Hilton
1977 ~ Sally Joosten	1998 ~ Jewel Hahn & Julene Perbohner
1978 ~ Joe Saban	1999 ~ Fel-Pro Families
1979 ~ Shuji Kimura	2000 ~ Al & Barb Wilson
1980 ~ Citizens Concerned for the Environment	2001 ~ Bob Miller of Algonquin Twp. Road District
1981 ~ Cary Prairie Management Committee	2002 ~ Ed Collins
1982 ~ Steve Aradas	2003 ~ Ralph Burnett
1983 ~ Joyce Perbix	2004 ~ Cindy Skrukrud
1984 ~ City of Woodstock	2005 ~ McHenry County Regional Planning and Development Commission
1985 ~ Dr. J. V. Johnson	2006 ~ Village of Algonquin
1986 ~ Janet Ring	2007 ~ Land First Task Force Committee
1987 ~ Joseph & Harriet Bystricky	2008 ~ Village of Lakewood
1988 ~ Dr. Lloyd Shaw	
1989 ~ Tom Sullivan	
1990 ~ Aavang Family	

#### **V. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

- A quarterly newsletter packed with current environmental issues and information about upcoming events. This can be sent paperless as well.
- Our weekly eNews, an e-mail with local environmental events or issues - another way to stay connected to your local community.
- Invitations to the Annual Meeting and Annual Corn Roast.
- The opportunity to join one of our many active committees and get involved in an issue that means a lot to you.
- The satisfaction of knowing that YOU are making a difference in the environment of McHenry County!

## VI. THE NEW HOME PROJECT

In June of 2001, the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, in collaboration with the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), the Soil and Water Conservation District, and the City of Woodstock, purchased and preserved 112 acres at the headwaters of the Kishwaukee River.

This property is located on the south side of Woodstock on the southeast corner of Dean Street and Route 14. The parcel is a key component of the Woodstock Greenways plan and crucial to the preservation of this high quality stream and habitat. The majority of the parcel (over 90 acres) is owned by MCCD is held in conservation easement for perpetuity.

The Defenders and the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) each own approximately 8 acres of land on the northwest side of the property. The Defenders assisted in the purchase of the property through a \$100,000 grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation. The SWCD has already built a structure for their operations on the site.

The Defenders are planning a building to house our office, resale shop and library. It will be a model of sustainable development and energy efficiency through environmentally sensitive design. The New Home Committee is in the process of working with an architect, civil engineer and green building consultants to utilize state of the art sustainable building techniques to create an environmental center in which the Defenders can continue our mission to educate and advocate for preservation of the environment.

## VII. ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events may be added or changed. An up-to-date calendar with committee meetings and additional events is posted on our website, in our newsletters, and in our weekly eNews.

### **January**

Recycling Drive - McHenry  
Used Book Sale  
National Day of Service

### **February**

Recycling Drive - Woodstock  
Used Book Sale

### **March**

Recycling Drive – McHenry  
Annual Meeting

### **April**

Recycling Drive - Woodstock  
Earth Day Celebration

### **May**

Recycling Drive - McHenry  
Waste-Not Garage Sale  
Patron Appreciation Event

### **June**

Recycling Drive - Woodstock  
Waste-Not Garage Sale

### **July**

Recycling Drive - McHenry  
Waste-Not Garage Sale

### **August**

Recycling Drive - Woodstock  
Waste-Not Garage Sale  
County Fair  
Annual Corn Roast

### **September**

Recycling Drive - McHenry  
Waste-Not Garage Sale  
It's Our River Day

### **October**

Recycling Drive - Woodstock  
Defenders' Month  
Used Book Sale  
Make a Difference Day

### **November**

Recycling Drive - McHenry  
Used Book Sale  
Annual Christmas Tree & Bake Sale

### **December**

Recycling Drive - Woodstock  
Used Book Sale  
Annual Christmas Tree & Bake Sale  
Christmas Tree Walk at Opera House

## **CHAPTER 2: DEFENDERS' RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

### **I. RECYCLING DRIVES**

The Defenders hold a monthly recycling drive on the second Saturday of each month, from 9 am until noon, alternating between McHenry & Woodstock.

The McHenry drive is held in odd-numbered months at the Metra Station Parking lot on Main Street. We take fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs, batteries, packing peanuts, and reusable bubble wrap. We also take aluminum cans, brass, and copper for donation or buy-back.

The Woodstock drive is even-numbered months in the Farm Bureau parking lot, 1110 McConnell Rd. We will accept fluorescent tubes, CFLs, household batteries, packing peanuts, and reusable bubble wrap. (metal buyback program is only held at our McHenry drives.)

We continue to collect these items because they are not accepted by waste haulers, and should not be put into landfills due to the harmful chemicals they contain. The process of recycling these items is costly, therefore, donations are requested.

#### Recycling Guide for Additional Items

For information on where to recycle other items, such as paint, oil, and computers please visit our website at [www.mcdef.org](http://www.mcdef.org) to view the *Green Guide* recycling directory for McHenry County, or pick one up at the office, compliments of the Lou Marchi Recycling Institute at MCC.

### **II. WASTE-NOT & USED BOOK SALES**

The Defenders holds garage sales and used book sales many times throughout the year. Watch the eNews and newsletters for dates. We also have an eBay store at [www.environmentaldefenders.com](http://www.environmentaldefenders.com). These sales keep items out of the landfill, and provide needed income to support Defenders programs.

Donated items should be in good working condition. We are looking for such items as antiques and collectibles, books, cameras, clocks, dish sets and glassware, electronics, furniture (no upholstered pieces, please), household goods including stainless steel and cast iron pans and Pyrex/Corning Ware, lamps, office equipment, pictures and frames, small appliances, stereo equipment and radios, telephones, tools and garden equipment, toys and games, and other items which sell at garage sales. We CANNOT take upholstered furniture, clothing, TVs, computer monitors, large appliances, or construction materials (doors, windows, etc.)

## **CHAPTER 3: CONSCIOUS CONSERVATION: PRACTICAL EVERYDAY ACTIONS**

This section will give you ideas on what you can do to be a better steward of our planet. Every one of our actions affects the environment in a positive or negative way. Hopefully these tips will help you come up with some more of your own! Check out our website for more ideas.

### **I. Purchasing Power**

Tell manufacturers how you feel about their environmental scorecard ~ with your wallet!! Manufacturers work with trends and markets. You need to show them what is important to you. Here are some ideas:

- Close the loop by buying products made with recycled materials. The best ways to keep items out of our landfills is to create a better market for recycled products and to boycott products that are wastefully over-packaged.
- Buy common stocks so you can vote and have a say on what business and industry do about environmental issues.
- Boycott companies that are environmentally unfriendly.
- Subscribe to newspapers printed on recycled newsprint, or read the news online.
- When you must buy paper products, look for unbleached, non-dyed recycled products. Bleaching and dyeing require additional energy and pollute water.
- Buy beverages in recyclable containers, and be sure to recycle them. (Or even better, use a travel mug or reusable cup!)
- Buy a small car with good gas mileage and pollution abatement devices.

## **II. Everyday Actions**

Be willing to sacrifice your "standard of living" for your "quality of life." Practice voluntary simplicity.

- Compost food wastes instead of throwing them into the garbage.
- Walk, bike, or use mass transit whenever possible. Form a car pool.
- Don't let water run while brushing teeth; turn on only when rinsing.
- Install a water-saving dam in your toilet to reduce each flush by approximately 2 gallons of water.
- Use a low-flow shower head. Install a flow diverter on all faucets.
- Wash laundry and dishes in full-load quantities only.
- Repair faucet leaks promptly; a drippy faucet can waste as much as a gallon of water every 90 minutes.
- Reduce consumption of electricity by setting thermostats lower.
- Use "muscle power" instead of electric tooth brushes, carving knives, can openers, and other non-essential electrical gadgets.
- Line-dry laundry, substituting solar power for a clothes dryer.

## **III. Re-Use before Recycling**

- Use worn-out clothing for cleaning rags instead of paper towels.
- Recycle outgrown clothes that are in good condition by passing them on to friends or charities, or by using clothing drop-off bins located throughout the area.
- Use both sides of paper ~ the second side can be used as scratch paper or cut down into memo sheets. Use the backs of envelopes, letters, and greeting cards for notes, grocery lists, etc.
- Save natural resources by using washable cloth napkins, hand towels, and diapers. China dishes and glassware are more earth-friendly than throwaway paper plates and plastic forks.
- Reuse binders and folders.
- Store food in reusable containers instead of buying plastic wrap and aluminum foil.
- Use newspapers for garden mulch by laying down the paper in between established rows and covering with dirt or wood chips. The paper will keep weeds down, will decompose, and can be tilled into the soil at the end of the season.
- Roll newspapers for starter logs for your fireplace or wood burning stove. A frozen juice cardboard container makes a good ring to hold the paper log together.
- Shred newspaper and use it for bedding for animals. It is absorbent, dust-free, and decomposes quickly.
- Share newspapers, magazines, and books with friends, or donate to hospitals, doctors' offices, or used-book sales.

## **IV. Be an Armchair Activist**

- Write to manufacturers of products that use excessive packaging, and let store managers know your concerns.

- Write letters to legislators, business, industry, and newspaper editors, expressing your environmental concerns.
- Educate yourself by reading books, articles, or watching Public Television. And don't forget about the Defenders' Resource Center. Our library has books, magazines, videos and an extensive pamphlet file on all types of environmental subjects!
- Write "Ecologically Wasteful" on junk mail business reply cards and envelopes and return to sender.
- Become involved in your community's decision-making processes.

## V. Your Yard and Garden

Choosing plants that are native to your area is the first step toward an almost carefree yard. Native plants are hardy, not subject to most common pests, need little or no fertilizer, and can withstand long periods of drought with minimum water. They also cause less hay fever than do non-native plants. Native plants include ground covers, flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees.

Getting your natural yard started may seem like hard work, but the Defenders offers several publications in our library to help you. Here are a few tips for planning your natural yard:

- Plant more trees to absorb air pollution, produce oxygen, and protect buildings from chilling winds.
- Grow flowers for beauty, wild bird food, and as pollen and nectar sources for worker bees and butterflies.
- Use organic fertilizers (manure, compost) rather than petroleum or natural gas-based fertilizers. These man-made chemicals do not return nutrients to the soil as organic materials do.

Use natural predators in your garden. Chemical pesticides are indiscriminate poisons, often harmful to humans, and deadly to bees which are essential for pollination. The Safer Pest Control Project is a great resource: contact them at [www.spcpweb.org](http://www.spcpweb.org) or 773-878-PEST.

If you are looking for ways to introduce native plants, check out these companies for seeds, plants, and planning assistance. Some provide a catalog upon request, either free or for a nominal fee.

### **Blazing Star**

2107 Edgewood Dr, Woodstock, IL 60098; 815-338-4716  
[www.Blazing-star.com](http://www.Blazing-star.com)

### **Boehlke's Woodland Gardens**

5890 Wausauka Rd, West Bend, WI 53095; 920-876-2598

### **Enders Greenhouse**

State & Enders Dr, Cherry Valley, IL 61016; 815-332-5255

### **The Natural Garden, Inc.**

38W443 Highway 64, St. Charles, IL 60175; 630-584-0150  
[www.TheNaturalGardenInc.com](http://www.TheNaturalGardenInc.com)

### **Prairie Moon**

32115 Prairie Lane, Winona, MN 55987; 507-452-1362  
[www.Prairiemoonnursery.com](http://www.Prairiemoonnursery.com)

### **Prairie Nursery**

PO Box 306, Westfield, WI 53964; 800-476-9453  
[www.prairienursery.com](http://www.prairienursery.com)

### **Prairie Ridge Nursery**

9738 Overland Road, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572; 608-437-5245

**Prairie Seed Source (mail order only)**

PO Box 83, North Lake, WI 53064

<http://www.prairiebob.com/>

**The Wild Flower Preservation and Propagation Committee**

PO Box 352, Woodstock, IL 60098; 815-337-9502

**CHAPTER 4: RESOURCES FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

**I. Environmental Phone Directory**

ANIMAL AID

**Department of Conservation, Division of Natural Heritage:**

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702

Phone: 217-785-8774 For information on endangered species.

**Target Illinois Poachers (T.I.P.):** To report violations: 1-877-236-7529 or visit

<http://dnr.state.il.us/law3/poach.htm> for the online form.

**Wildlife in Need:** 815-338-7757

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

**Illinois Emergency Services & Disaster Agency Hotline:** 24 hour phone: 217-782-7860

**Whistleblower's Hotline:** 888-622-0117. Inspector General's Hotline; handles complaints of fraud, waste and abuse.

ENERGY USE

**Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity:** 217-785-3416 TDD: 800-785-6055. For information about energy issues.

GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 5: 800-621-8431

For general information on air, water, or land pollution problems.

**Environmental Justice Hotline:** 800-962-6215

HEALTH ISSUES

**Auto Safety Hotline:** 888- 327-4236.

**Consumer Product Safety Commission:** 800-638-2772

POLLUTION, CHEMICAL SAFETY, PESTICIDE USE

**Department of Agriculture:** 800-641-3934 For information about pesticide spraying and chemicals.

**Illinois Pollution Control Board:** 312-814-3620

**McHenry County Emergency Services & Disaster Agency:** 815-338-6400. For chemical spills, etc.

**National Pesticides Information Center:** 800-858-PEST

**Superfund Hotline:** 800-424-9346

WASTE REDUCTION

**Illinois Waste Management and Research Center:** 217-333-8940

**McHenry County Solid Waste Manager:** 815-334-4560. For information about proper household hazardous waste disposal.

WATER/WETLAND INFORMATION

**US EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** 800-426-4791. For information on the safety of your drinking water.

**McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District:** 815-338-0099.

Provides technical information relating to the natural resources of McHenry County including protecting wetlands and preventing soil erosion.

**US EPA Wetlands Protection Helpline:** 800-832-7828

## **II. Wetland and Floodplain Regulations**

The following information is important if you are planning to do any work near a stream (including small unnamed streams), lake, wetland or floodway.

Under the laws of the United States and the State of Illinois, certain agencies have been assigned specific and different regulatory roles which are designed to protect the waters within the State's boundaries. These roles, when considered together, include protection of navigation channels and harbors, protection against floodway encroachments, maintenance and enhancement of water quality, protection of fish and wildlife habitat and recreational resources, and, in general, the protection of total public interest. Unregulated use of the waters within the State of Illinois could permanently destroy or alter the character of these valuable resources and have an adverse impact on the public.

Early coordination is required with regulatory agencies before plans for work around wetlands and floodplains are finalized. This will allow measures to compensate for adverse impacts to be recommended as well as possible environmental enhancement provisions to be made early in the project planning stages. This could reduce time required to process necessary approvals.

### **Who Must Apply**

Anyone proposing to dredge, fill, riprap, or otherwise alter the banks or beds, or construct, operate, or maintain any dock, pier, wharf, sluice, dam, piling, wall, fence, utility, floodplain or floodway subject to State or Federal regulatory jurisdiction should apply for agency approvals.

#### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Chicago District, 111 N. Canal Street, Chicago, IL 60606-7206,  
312-846-5530.

#### **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

Division of Water Pollution Control, Permit Section, Watershed Unit, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, IL 62706, 217-782-0610.

*NOTE: Contacting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before commencement of any work in or near a water of the United States is strongly advised. Persons responsible for willful and direct violation of Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 or Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act are subject to fines ranging up to \$25,000 per day of violation and imprisonment for up to one year, or both.*

## **III. McHenry County Open Burning Ordinance**

In 2008, McHenry County's revised ordinance on open burning of landscape waste went into effect. It applies to both incorporated and unincorporated McHenry County. If you live in a city with more stringent restrictions, the more restrictive rules apply.

### **PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES**

- Burning of manure, garbage, litter, etc. on any property in McHenry County.
- Burning of landscape waste within 100' of a habitable structure (i.e. residence, school, etc).
- Burning of landscape waste within 50' of a non-habitable structure (i.e. detached garage, barn, etc).

### **RESTRICTIONS WHEN GREATER THAN 100' FROM A HABITABLE STRUCTURE AND 50' FROM A NON-HABITABLE STRUCTURE**

- Only landscape waste and only on the property where the landscape waste was generated
- Only during the months of April, May, Oct. (weekends only)
- Only between dawn and dusk
- Only when the winds are less than 10 mph
- Must be supervised by an individual at least 18 years of age

- A fire extinguisher, garden hose or water source must be available at the burning site

#### 500' EXEMPTIONS

Burning of on-site generated landscape waste 500' or greater from a habitable structure is allowed:

- During any month of the year
- On any day of the week
- At any time of the day

NOTE: All other prohibitions / restrictions apply.

#### OTHER EXEMPTIONS

- Recreational fires; not larger than 3'x3'x3'; NO leaves, grass or shrubbery clippings
- Ceremonial fires (bonfires) larger than 3'x3'x3'; NO leaves, grass or shrubbery clippings; permit required from McHenry County Department of Health
- Habitat Reclamation or Firefighter

#### ENFORCEMENT

Any officer of the McHenry County Dept. of Health, law enforcement agency, fire department or fire protection district is authorized to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

For the full ordinance and information in your area please visit:

[http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/common/CountyDpt/health/PDFDocs/OpenBurning\\_016.pdf](http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/common/CountyDpt/health/PDFDocs/OpenBurning_016.pdf)

### **IV. Other good things to know**

#### **A. To have your name removed from telemarketing and mailing lists:**

- Mailing lists - Direct Marketing Association at [www.dmachoice.org/](http://www.dmachoice.org/)
- Telemarketing lists: [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or 1-888-382-1222

#### **B. You can help save Illinois wildlife by giving a donation to the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund on your Illinois Income Tax return.**

You can contribute any amount of \$1 or more. Your contribution will decrease your refund or increase your balance due. Your refund will not be delayed. Donations go to the Illinois Department of Conservation. Helping save Illinois Wildlife!

#### **C. Links to finding you local legislators (you can also find these links on our website)**

- County Board Members: <http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/common/countyBrd/default.asp>
- Illinois Legislators: <http://www.elections.il.gov/districtlocator/SelectSearchType.aspx>  
You can reach any legislator in the Springfield Capitol complex by calling 217-782-2000. You may write to all legislators and the Governor at: Honorable (name), State House, Springfield, IL 62706
- Federal Legislators:  
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Generally, you can register to vote at village or city halls, the county clerk's office, and township offices.