



Friends of the Forest Preserves works to preserve, protect, and restore the Cook County Forest Preserves for the benefit of people and nature. For this project, you'll work with a representative from Friends of the Forest Preserves to find a local preserve where you and your project team can volunteer. To make this a C3 project, you'll need to volunteer three times at a site/s and involve a project team of at least two people. Please note, many work sites have only one workday per month so plan ahead and choose multiple work sites if necessary.

After completing your C3 project, you can train with a Steward to learn more and eventually become a Steward of your own site. An existing Steward can mentor you on how to restore health to our forests, prairies, and wetlands. On the ground skills include the ability to identify and remove invasive plants, collect native seeds, and burn brush piles. Additional skills offered in the Chicago region that are handy for stewardship work includes herbicide licensing and prescribed fire training.

Timeline:

Project Proposal due online: 1 week after the Community Organizing class

Part I: Contact the Friends' representative and choose your site: 2 weeks

Part II: Begin site visits and tracking environmental benefits: 3 months

Part III: Final Report due online: 1 week after your last visit

Part IV: Follow up (optional): Continue restoration work at the site. Learn additional skills from the Steward and perhaps become a site steward in the future.

Materials:

- Trash bags to collect waste
- Blue bags to collect recyclables
- Canvas work gloves
- Disposable gloves

Part I: Contact the Friends' Representative and Choose Your Site

~2 weeks

Your liaison will put you in touch with Alice Brandon at Friends of the Forest Preserves (312-356-9990, alice@fotfp.org). Alice will help you choose a forest preserve site for you and your project team. She can also give you a better idea of what stewardship work entails and what to bring to your first workday.

Part II: Tracking Environmental Benefits

~2 months

Once you begin your site visits, make sure you record and calculate your project's environmental benefits. This could include number of site visits, hours of work, number of community members involved, and outreach you did around your site visits. The most effective measure for documenting the work is to take before and after pictures.

Part III: Turn in Final Report (within 2 weeks of project completion)

After you've completed your 3 site visits: As soon as you've calculated environmental benefits, please fill out your **Final Report** online. Corresponding materials such as digital photographs, posters, press releases, or news clippings should be emailed to conservation@cityofchicago.org.

Part IV: Continued Site Visits (Optional)

After your site visits are complete, we hope you will continue long after you graduate from C3. We also hope you will consider being trained as a full site Steward – think of the impact you could have.

Additional Resources

- **Friends of the Forest Preserves:** www.fotfp.org/. Check out this site for news about the Chicago area's forest preserves, tours and events, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Forest Preserve District of Cook County:** www.fpdcc.com/. The Cook County Board of Commissioners is charged with running the forest preserve district. This site includes the history of the preserves, maps, and other useful information.
- **Cook County Forest Preserve Volunteers:** www.fpdcc.org/. Find volunteer opportunities near you.