

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF LAND FOR THE  
ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan recommends the acquisition of land for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (IANST). The IANST was designated a National Scenic Trail by Congress in 1980 and is one of only eleven National Scenic Trails. The Trail corridor traverses north - south through western Dane County and follows the end moraines that mark the furthest extent of the glacial advancement. The County, along with other units of government and the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) work together to acquire lands in order to make Trail connections and to preserve the glacial landscape.

A portion of the established IANST currently runs through the University Ridge Golf Course in the Town of Verona, ending at Woods Road. In 2018, with the county's assistance, the City of Madison purchased land on the west side of Woods Road for a critical Trail connection. The county has recently negotiated the purchase of approximately 40 acres of land adjacent to this City owned land from Mary M. Christiansen, Loveday Herrling and the Martha G. Cowling Revocable Trust. The parcel is unimproved, with mature woodlands and rolling topography with some steeper inclines and contains a couple small ponds. Acquisition of the land will provide options for a trailhead and parking and preservation of land within the IANST corridor project area.

Acquisition of this property is a partnership between the County, City of Madison, City of Verona, Town of Verona and the IATA. The purchase price has been established at \$2,700,000 which is based on appraised value. The county will contribute \$1,660,000 toward the purchase and hold fee title to approximately 80% of the property. The City of Madison will provide \$540,000 toward the purchase price and will annex and hold fee title to approximately 20% of the northern portion of the property, per a certified survey map, based on its contribution. This 20% ownership will be encumbered by a trail and conservation easement held by the county.

The City of Verona will provide \$500,000 toward the purchase and will hold a trail and conservation easement on the county's 80% ownership. The Town of Verona will provide maintenance services including mowing and snow plowing at the property. IATA and its partners/volunteers will be responsible for construction and management of the Trail.

Funds for the purchase are available in the Conservation Fund. The debt issued to support this expenditure will have a term of 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the expenditure of up to \$2,700,000 plus related miscellaneous costs for the purchase of approximately 40 acres from Mary M. Christiansen, Loveday Herrling and the Martha G. Cowling Revocable Trust according to Wis. Stats Chapter 27.05(3); and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize the conveyance of the northern 20% of the property to the City of Madison and acceptance of a trail and conservation easement from the City of Madison to Dane County; and

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane  
53 County Executive hereby authorize the conveyance of a trail and conservation easement to  
54 the City of Verona on the portion of the property to be owned by Dane County; and  
55

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to the extent revenues are received from the City of  
57 Madison and the City of Verona, the 2022 capital budget be amended to increase the  
58 expenditure account LWCONSRV 57273 Dane County Conservation Fund by \$1,040,000,  
59 to increase the revenue account LWCONSRV 84830 Sale of County Property by \$1,040,000  
60 and that these funds shall carry forward; and  
61

62 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department  
63 Director and Real Estate Coordinator are authorized to administer the closing and the  
64 above-mentioned easements and the Controller is authorized to issue checks necessary to  
65 effectuate the transaction.