

DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO THE
MADISON AREA FOOD PANTRY GARDENS, INC.
(ELIZABETH POPE AND POPE FAMILY TRUST)

Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens, Inc. (MAFPG) strives to provide local food pantries with first-choice, fresh, nutritious and culturally relevant produce. This non-profit organization, with its thousands of volunteers, creates nutrition security for those who rely on the Dane County emergency food system by collecting surplus produce from area farms and markets and by growing produce in its network of gardens for food pantries and other emergency food programs. MAFPG has been leasing land for one of these network gardens, known as Forward Garden, from Elizabeth Pope and the Pope Family Trust since 2020 and now has the opportunity to purchase the land.

These 15 acres of land are located on the Pope Farm Homestead in the Town of Middleton off of W. Old Sauk Road, adjacent to Town of Middleton's Pope Farm Conservancy. The parcels lie within the southern boundary of the county's Black Earth Creek Natural Resource Area.

MAFPG has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase these 15 acres of land and buildings in order to continue and increase operations at Forward Garden and also provide educational opportunities revolving around sustainable agriculture, food and wildlife ecology to the community. The Agriculture, Gardening and Foraging Initiative in the 2018-2023 Parks and Open Space Plan supports grants to non-profits for the protection of lands for sustainable agriculture and local food production and creating opportunities to bring people outdoors and connect to the land.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition are \$1,570,000. MAFPG has applied for a grant award in the amount of \$650,000 plus transaction costs. Donations and fundraising will cover the balance of the acquisition cost. Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$660,000 in county matching funds for the acquisition and related transaction costs.

County grant funds will be from the Dane County Conservation Fund and the term of the debt issued to support this expenditure will be 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$660,000 to the Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens, Inc. is approved by the Dane County Board and the Dane County Executive and that the County will pay up to the grant amount based on actual project expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Clerk and Dane County Executive are authorized to execute documents necessary to effectuate the grant award, which may include grant agreements, management agreements, and the acceptance of an easement that will vest in Dane County according to Wisc. Stats. 27.05(3), and that the land interests be managed under the jurisdiction of the Dane County Park Commission.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Director and Real Estate Coordinator, are authorized to approve closing and reimbursement documentation for grant projects and the transfer of an easement to Dane County and the Controller is authorized to issue checks necessary to effectuate the transactions authorized through the grant award.