

ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY RESTORATION

Dane County purchased 160 acres on the north-end of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy in 2019. The property provides a variety of ecosystem services and expanded recreational access to an incredibly popular but sensitive natural resource area. In 2009, the Wisconsin Wetlands Association identified the Pheasant Branch Conservancy as a “workhorse wetland gem” due to its many connections to surface and groundwater.

Several partners have joined Dane County on the planning and implementation of site restoration. Restoration will significantly reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and provide habitat through a diverse mix of native vegetation.

A high-quality prairie, with as many as 100 plant species per acre, is being established over four years has been dubbed a “platinum prairie” due to the many advantages over prairies dominated by a few plant species:

- The greater diversity of plant species supports a greater diversity of animals utilizing the different flora for food and habitat.
- The variety of flowering plants provide an aesthetically beautiful landscape in bloom from spring to fall.
- Greater biodiversity contributes to ecosystem resilience, better able to adapt to disturbances and changes in climate.
- A healthy prairie can provide carbon sequestration at about one ton per acre per year, with the fully-restored prairie offsetting the carbon dioxide equivalent of over 16,000 gallons of gasoline each year.
- A diverse, resilient prairie will incur reduced management costs.
- A platinum prairie provides a seed collection source for future prairie restoration on other Dane County properties.

The first quadrant of platinum prairie was seeded in March of 2021. The following partners will support the second quadrant of platinum prairie seeding with financial contributions:

- The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy will grant \$25,000 for the second year in a row and has pledged to continue fundraising with a goal of contributing \$100,000 to the project over the four year restoration period.
- The Clean Lakes Alliance will grant \$25,000 for the second year in a row and has committed to a four year total contribution of \$100,000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Land & Water Resources Department is authorized to accept funds from the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy and the Clean Lakes Alliance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that accounts LWRPKOP 80135 Pheasant Branch Restoration Revenue and LWRPKOP 20137 Pheasant Branch Restoration Expense be increased by \$50,000 and that these funds shall carry forward until expended; and

43 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the County Board of Supervisors and County Executive
44 give thanks to the Friends of Pheasant Branch and the Clean Lakes Alliance for supporting
45 the project and for their generous financial contributions.