

DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO  
GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY (FESTGE)

Groundswell Conservancy has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 5.2 acres located on the south side of State Highway 14 in the Town of Cross Plains in the Black Earth Creek Natural Resource Area. It lies adjacent to Wisconsin DNR's Black Earth Creek Fishery Area and across the railroad tracks from Ice Age Trail Alliance lands. The acquisition would fill in a gap between existing publicly-owned lands and help protect the quality of the Black Earth Creek corridor.

The southern portion of the property is bisected by an intermittent tributary to Black Earth Creek, which is impaired. Acquisition would allow Groundswell Conservancy to convert the cropland to prairie to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

Groundswell plans on removing the tree line between the property and the adjacent DNR land to improve public access. The property would be open to the public for activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and cross country skiing.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition total \$107,680. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$47,900 in County matching funds. A Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant, donation from the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited and other private gifts will complete the purchase.

The term of the debt issued to support this expenditure will be 20 years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that a grant of \$47,900 to Groundswell Conservancy 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.