

AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE OF LAND IN THE TOWN OF MAZOMANIE FOR
HALFWAY PRAIRIE SCHOOL COUNTY PARK

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD) recommends the purchase of approximately 74 acres at the intersection of Highway 19 and CTH F in the Town of Mazomanie from the Cleo I. Brockmann Revocable Living Trust for \$484,700. The property surrounds the 0.6 acre Halfway Prairie School County Park (1964).

The Halfway Prairie School is the oldest existing rural elementary schoolhouse in Dane County. The one-room school was operated from 1844 until it closed as a result of consolidation in 1961. The Friends of Old Halfway Prairie open the well preserved schoolhouse to visitors on holidays and Sunday afternoons. The Friends also work closely with area school districts to accommodate field trips.

Acquisition of the adjacent Brockmann property provides a unique opportunity to protect the historic setting around this very small county park and create a more diverse visitor experience. The property offers a mix of level cropland and steep wooded upland including a vibrant prairie remnant surrounding the rock outcropping. The landscape and varied topography would provide excellent opportunities for passive outdoor recreation such as hiking and bird watching.

The new property allows for improve visitor parking and access from STH 19 including creating better bus parking and ADA improvements. Currently, the parking is limited and there are safety issues with poor sightlines. The additional land would allow for a new parking lot with a safer exit point further down the road with an improved field of view.

Funds for the purchase are available in the Dane County 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 purchase of approximately 74 acres from the Cleo I. Brockmann Revocable Living Trust for \$484,700 plus miscellaneous costs according to Wis. Stats. Chapter 27.03(3); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department Director and the Real Estate Coordinator are authorized to administer the closing and the transfer of the above-mentioned property to Dane County, and the Controller is authorized to issue checks necessary to effectuate the transaction.