

**DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY – VILLAGE EDGE, LLC**

Groundswell Conservancy has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance for the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on 156 acres of agricultural land in the Town of Black Earth from Village Edge, LLC. The farm is owned by Village Edge LLC and is just outside the Black Earth Creek Natural Resource Area, where Groundswell Conservancy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the County have been collaborating to protect lands along the Highway 14 corridor and Black Earth Creek.

Vermont Creek runs through the portions of the parcel, which is protected by a County streambank easement. The parcel contains nine (9) development rights and has seven (7) lots which have been proposed for residential development. This conservation easement will preserve these prime soils and ensure agricultural use in perpetuity.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition are \$677,000. Groundswell has secured a Natural Resources Conservation Services, Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant for approximately 50% of the costs. The Dane County Park Commission recommends granting the remaining 50% of costs, up to \$338,500 in County matching funds.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of up to \$338,000 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.