

DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
THE NATURAL HERITAGE LAND TRUST (KOLTES)

The Natural Heritage Land Trust has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 10 acres in the Town of Westport. The property is identified as a prairie remnant site in the *Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan* and buffers the Westport Drumlin Prairie Unit within the DNR's Empire Prairie State Natural Area that harbors one of the finest remnants of Wisconsin's most endangered natural communities. The property will contribute toward the goals of the project area by its prairie restoration potential, protection of endangered and threatened species, and will serve as the main access to the Westport Drumlin site off Bong Road. The 10-acre site is the last in-holding at this prairie unit and is surrounded by 203 acres of protected lands owned by the Natural Heritage Land Trust and 14 acres by Wisconsin DNR.

The purchase includes the original farmstead. Selected buildings will be retained for a visitor center and land restoration and management support activities. The Prairie Enthusiasts and the Land Trust's "Prairie Partners" land management crew are regularly engaged in restoration efforts. The property will be open to the public for hiking, hunting, trapping, cross-country skiing, bird watching, and nature appreciation.

The project costs for the acquisition total \$274,710. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$34,607 in County matching funds. The remainder of the acquisition costs will be provided through grants from the DNR Stewardship Grant Program and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$34,607 to the Natural Heritage Land Trust 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 rights be managed under the jurisdiction of the Dane County Park Commission.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department Deputy Director, Real Estate Coordinator, and Acquisition and Planning Specialist are authorized to approve closing and reimbursement documentation for the grant project 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.