

2018 RES-045

**DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY (WHITESIDE)**

Groundswell Conservancy has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 10.9 acres in the Village of Waunakee. The property is located on a plateau that overlooks the Cherokee Marsh-Yahara River valley and is located within the boundary of the Cherokee Marsh Natural Resources Area. Acquisition of the parcel would fill a gap in conservation ownership between the Westport Drumlin Preserve/State Natural Area and conservation lands on the west side of Cherokee Marsh. The parcel would also provide land for local food production, which falls under the Agriculture, Gardening and Foraging initiative of the 2018-2023 Parks and Open Space Plan.

The landowner currently leases the land to local farmers and Groundswell would continue this practice, making the land available to immigrant farmers for subsistence and market growing. Community GroundWorks, a non-profit that manages 26 acres of community farms and agricultural programming at Troy Gardens on the north side of Madison, has committed to partnering with Groundswell to manage the leases and the infrastructure on the property.

The landowner is donating half of the value of the land to Groundswell Conservancy as well as a perpetual conservation easement on the remainder of her farm. The land and the easement will allow a pedestrian trail linking the Westport Drumlin Preserve with County owned land east of River Road.

The project costs for the acquisition total \$107,590.00. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$26,897.00 in County matching funds. The landowner will donate 50% of the land value and the remainder of the acquisition costs will be provided by Groundswell Conservancy.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$26,897.00 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, Real Estate Coordinator, and Acquisition and Planning Specialist 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.