

DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO  
ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE (FESTGE)

Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 46 acres in the Town of Cross Plains for its Mammoth's Back project, so named as it includes part of a hill that resembles the back of a mammoth. The property lies within the Black Earth Creek Natural Resource Area and is adjacent to IATA's existing Black Earth Creek Reserve. Acquisition of this parcel would provide a trail corridor for an approximate ½ mile segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

The property consists of mostly agricultural land along with uplands to the south and contains a remnant prairie. An existing snowmobile trail runs along the southern border of the property. IATA plans to remove invasives and other non-desirable species from the hillside to restore the remnant prairie. The agricultural fields will be slowly converted to planted prairie over time to enhance the trail corridor. The property will be open to the public for activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and cross country skiing.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition total \$432,900. IATA has secured a Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant, donation from the Ice Age Trail Alliance Dane County Chapter and other private gifts for the purchase. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$228,600 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 \$228,600 to Ice Age Trail Alliance 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.