

**DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
THE DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY (SAMUEL-THOMAS)**

The Driftless Area Land Conservancy has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase a 53-acre conservation easement in the Town of Perry. The property is within the boundary of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, the eastern focus zone of the Southwest Wisconsin Grasslands and Stream Conservation Area, a partnership effort involving a dozen non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies working to protect and manage prairie and grassland in central and western Wisconsin. Both projects are identified as regional resource protection initiatives in the *Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan*. The goal of these projects is to conserve and enhance functioning grassland, savanna and stream ecosystems, as well as habitat for rare plant and animal species.

This 53-acre conservation easement contains approximately 575 feet of a stream which feeds into Syftestad Creek, a tributary to Kittleson Valley Creek and is adjacent to a network of parcels with Dane County streambank easements meandering through the scenic rolling western Dane County countryside. In addition, its 19 acres of grassland includes 16 acres of restored prairie as well as an acre of pre-settlement remnant prairie with rare species such as prickly pear, blue eyed grass, and birds foot violet. The remaining 34 acres is an oak-hickory woodland being managed to promote oak regeneration.

The appraised value of the 53-acre conservation easement is \$139,600 with total project costs at \$142,505. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$40,626 in County matching funds. The remaining costs will be offset by a \$16,000 grant from Madison Community Foundation, funds from Driftless Area Land Conservancy and a considerable donation from the landowner.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$40,626 to Driftless Area Land 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 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 and Real Estate Coordinator 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.