

2018 RES-214

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

Groundswell Conservancy has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 35.65 acres in the City of Fitchburg. The parcel is part of the South Waubesa Wetlands Natural Resource Area and is part of the Swan Creek wetlands system that drains into the Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area.

The property contains a small portion of uplands, farmland and wetland. It is directly across the street from the new 600-acre Northeast Neighborhood development.

Groundswell plans to partner with Neighborhood Food Solutions (NFS) in order to establish a local farm on the approximately 12.4 acres of farmland that would integrate farming, education and conservation. NFS plans to incorporate an agricultural education program for children and an agricultural training program for those returning from incarceration.

Approximately 19.5 acres of the property are sedge meadow with upland edges containing prairie restoration and oak woodlands. The wetland is considered to be in very good ecological condition and will provide wildlife habitat and ensure the wetlands remain intact and help provide water quality benefits for Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area.

The project costs for the acquisition total \$345,520. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$182,960 in County matching funds. The remainder of the acquisition costs will be provided by funds from the Department of Natural Resources' Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant Program, a donation from the landowner and funds from 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 \$182,960 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.