

**DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS (UREN REVOCABLE TRUST)**

The Prairie Enthusiasts, Inc. (TPE) has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 77.1 acres and an access easement off County Highway E in the Town of Blue Mounds from the Uren Revocable Trust for its Erbe Grassland preserve project. The property is located within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area and the Southwest Grasslands which are Regional Resource Protection Initiatives under the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan.

The property has one of the highest groundwater recharge rates in Dane County and provides groundwater recharge for the upper watersheds of two Class II trout streams, Gordon Creek and German Valley Branch. Once restored, the land will provide critical nesting and foraging habitat for seven species of grassland bird of Greatest Conservation Need including bobolink, dickcissel, short-eared owl and Henslow's sparrow along with pollinators including the rusty patched bumblebee and the regal fritillary butterfly. The property will also provide recreational opportunities to the public all year round including hiking, bird watching, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting and trapping.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition are \$790,000. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$395,000 in county matching funds. A Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant will complete the remaining 50% of the project costs. Grant funds will come from the Conservation Fund and the term of the debt issued to support this expenditure will be 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$395,000 to TPE 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.