2021 RES-071

NAMING OF THE COUNTY FACILITY AT ROBERTSON ROAD

Dane County has owned property at 4318 Robertson Road since 1973. The property has been used for parks and lake management staff and equipment. The property was expanded in early 2021 through the acquisition of the adjoining property (4212 and 4130 Robertson Road). Together, these properties total over 5 acres and will serve as the base for parks and lake management into the future.

Darren Marsh has been an icon at the facility since joining Dane County in 1993 as the parks operations manager and becoming parks director in 2003. Director Marsh's passion for public service and his dedication to the people and places of Dane County have been an inspiration for three generations of staff and volunteers.

As Director, he oversees an amazing team of dedicated staff that worked together to meet the outdoor recreational and resource preservation needs of the fastest growing county in the state. During his tenure, Dane County Parks expanded rapidly from approximately 5,600 acres in 2003 to approximately 15,000 acres today. Director Marsh is also responsible for the development of several programs to better serve the public and that have received national recognition:

- off-leash dog parks
- non-credentialed park rangers
- cooperative/reciprocal park permits
- premier disc golf courses
- accessible fishing piers and water access
- volunteer partnerships

In 2005, the Land & Water Resources Department was established to better meet the county's resource protection goals. Staff from various former departments were successful integrated into the new department, and Director Marsh and many other staff relocated to the Lyman F. Anderson Agriculture & Conservation Center. Director Marsh made a point to stay actively engaged with daily operations at Robertson Road, often starting his day at 6:30 am at Robertson Road and finishing at 6:00 pm or later from the Anderson Center.

Public service is the core value espoused by Director Marsh and he puts his words into action every day. Parks Director Marsh will retire from county service on July 1, 2021 but his vision and commitment will carry on through the staff and volunteers that have been inspired, motivated and taught through his work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of supervisors and County Executive extend their appreciation to Parks Director Darren Marsh for his leadership and service to Dane County Parks, and wish him a long and active retirement;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the county-owned properties at 4130, 4212 and 4318 Robertson Road be collectively dedicated and known from here on after as the Darren Marsh Parks & Lake Management Facility.