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**2015 RES-379**

**APPROVAL OF THE MCCARTHY YOUTH AND CONSERVATION PARK MASTER PLAN**

Dane County Parks planning staff have completed a master plan for McCarthy Youth and Conservation County Park. The County currently owns approximately 260 acres within the recreation park boundary. The plan includes proposed improvements for lands within the park and also includes general recreation and resource protection recommendations for lands surrounding the park.

The master planning process evaluated existing cultural, natural and recreational resources within the McCarthy Youth and Conservation Park project area and incorporated public, stakeholder and staff input to create recommendations found within the plan. The public input process included a series of meetings with the public, Town of Sun Prairie, Village of Cottage Grove, Ho-Chunk Nation, stakeholders, neighbors and the Park Commission from July of 2014 through June of 2015.

Recommendations within the plan include a season based Ho-Chunk interpretive trail, new shelter and picnic area, wetland overlook platform, prairie restorations and several proposed trail improvements. Longer term recommendations include a future dog exercise area, agriculture preservation and conservation buffers along Koshkonong Creek and planning for a future regional sports facility that would potentially be located near the park in the Village of Cottage Grove.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** That the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive adopt the Master Plan for McCarthy Youth and Conservation Park as an element of the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan.

**Be It Finally Resolved** That the Dane County Park Commission, County Board of Supervisors, and County Executive thank the Town of Sun Prairie, Village of Cottage Grove, Ho-Chunk Nation, U.W. Madison Landscape Architecture Department and all of the citizens and stakeholders for their time and effort in assisting with preparation of the plan.