

DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
THE NATURAL HERITAGE LAND TRUST (HANLEY)

The Natural Heritage Land Trust has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program to assist in purchasing 25 acres in the Town of Bristol bordering the City of Sun Prairie's northeast edge. The 25-acre property is identified in *the Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan*, in addition to being a "Priority One Acquisition Area" in Dane County's 2003 Patrick Marsh Natural Resources Plan. Patrick Marsh has also been identified as a "Legacy Place" in the Wisconsin DNR's Land Legacy Report.

Patrick Marsh has been the hub of activity involving natural resource education, wildlife habitat protection, habitat management, trail building, and new features that enhance public access and the visitor experience. Patrick Marsh Middle School utilizes Patrick Marsh in its environmental education curriculum, and the property will improve school access to the marsh.

The Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Area is home to numerous varieties of waterfowl, and this purchase will greatly enhance upland bird nesting habitat. The property will be open to the public year-round for hiking, fishing, cross country skiing, bird watching, and nature appreciation.

Project costs for the acquisition total \$1,378,720. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$704,360 in County matching funds. The remainder of the acquisition costs will be provided by funds from the City of Sun Prairie, Town of Bristol, Patrick Marsh Conservancy, Token Creek Watershed Association, and private gifts to Natural Heritage Land Trust earmarked for this project.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$704,360 to the Natural Heritage Land Trust 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 Deputy 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.