

2018 RES-046

**DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY
(WISCONSIN LABORERS' APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING FUND)**

Groundswell Conservancy has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 95.5 acres in the Village of DeForest. The parcel lies within the Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area and also within the Department of Natural Resources' Cherokee Marsh Fishery Area. The property blocks with County land to the west and Department of Natural Resources' land to the southeast. A portion of its southern boundary is made up of 2,750 feet of Yahara River frontage, which is identified as a Tier II stream in the 2018-2023 Parks and Open Space Plan. The property is level, open wetland and is part of the largest remaining wetlands in the County.

The property will provide migration and nesting habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds while also providing riparian protection for spawning northern pike and water quality protection of Lake Mendota. The parcel connects public ownership making management of the wetland complex easier and more efficient. The connection will also provide continuity for public recreation. The property will be open to the public year-round for hiking, hunting, trapping, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, bird watching, and nature appreciation.

Groundswell Conservancy will partner with the County, Department of Natural Resources and the Friends of Cherokee Marsh to restore the wetland and manage habitat. Acquisition of this parcel will protect additional wetland within the Cherokee Marsh wetland complex; provide wetland habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for the public.

The project costs for the acquisition total \$214,640. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$17,070 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 small North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant 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 \$17,070 to the 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.