

2018 RES-044

**DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
THE CITY OF VERONA (MATTS/JONES)**

The City of Verona has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 13.1 acres in the City of Verona that lies within the Badger Mill Creek Natural Resources Area. The majority of the parcel consists of wetland and floodplain and includes over 1/3 of a mile of Badger Mill Creek, a tributary to the Sugar River. Badger Mill Creek has been reclassified by the Department of Natural Resources as a “cool water fishery” indicating that it has the potential to sustain some trout populations.

The parcel is adjacent to the City’s Fireman’s Park and the addition of this parcel would nearly double the size of the Park. Acquisition of the property would create an opportunity to improve habitat for fish and wildlife and provide public access for public recreation including hiking and fishing. The City intends to remove invasive woody plants and reestablish an open meadow with natural walking paths allowing access to the Badger Mill Creek.

The City plans to partner with Trout Unlimited, the Upper Sugar Watershed Association and the Department of Natural Resources for habitat and streambank improvement and management of the parcel.

The project costs for the acquisition total \$80,200. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$20,500 in County matching funds. The remainder of the acquisition costs will be provided by funds from the City of Verona.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$20,500 to the City of Verona 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.