

DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO
GROUNDSWELL CONSERVANCY (OLSON)

Groundswell Conservancy has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 38 acres located on both sides of Olson Road in the Town of Black Earth within the Black Earth Creek Natural Resource Area. It lies adjacent to 22 acres of Wisconsin DNR's Black Earth Creek Fishery lands and a 178 acre conservation easement held by Groundswell Conservancy. The property is south of Wisconsin Heights School which is the current southern terminus of the Black Earth Creek Trail a/k/a the Wolf Run Trail. Acquisition of this parcel would fill in a gap between existing publicly-owned lands and provide a needed link for the trail.

The property is a mix of farmland and wetland and contains approximately 4100 feet of Black Earth Creek frontage. Groundswell Conservancy plans to convert the land to prairie in order to reduce erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Acquisition will also allow for the removal of fence and cables across Black Earth Creek that are currently obstacles to paddlers. The property would be open to the public for activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and cross country skiing.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition total \$311,920. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$159,700 in county matching funds. A Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant will complete the purchase. Grant funds will be from the Black Earth Connector Corridor Fund and the term of the debt issued to support this expenditure will be 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a grant of \$159,700 to 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 and Real Estate Coordinator, 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.