

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

Groundswell Conservancy has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase four small parcels from David D. Cooper and the David D. Cooper Revocable Trust totaling approximately 1.26 acres. The property is located on the north side of the Village of Black Earth and has approximately 120 feet of Black Earth Creek frontage on its eastern border. The parcels lie on both sides of Center Street and are bordered by Wisconsin DNR's Black Earth Creek Fishery lands on its east and northwest sides. The property is improved with two vacant houses, two garages and three woodsheds which all experienced flooding in the heavy rains in 2018 and should be demolished.

Acquisition of this land will fill in a gap between public lands and provide the opportunity to create a canoe/kayak launch on the creek. This land will also add a potential corridor for the proposed Black Earth Creek Trail.

Groundswell Conservancy and the Village of Black Earth have entered into an agreement that will allow the Village to take ownership of the land in the future. The Village will also be responsible for removal of the buildings, development of the canoe/kayak launch and maintenance of the property as a public park.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition total \$146,700. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$78,400 in county matching funds. A Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant will complete the purchase. Grant funds will come from the Conservation 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 \$78,400 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.