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2024 RES – 361

**SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE
KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

The Wisconsin State Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The program has supported land acquisition and capital development projects by local units of governments including Dane County, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state.

Dane County, and local units of government within Dane County, have received Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant funds to acquire parkland and public access easements, develop trails, lake access sites, and other public outdoor recreation opportunities. Dane County and local units of government provide at least 50% matching funds to all Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant projects.

Per Ch. 23.0915(2c)(d), Wis. Stats., the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is set to expire in 2026.

The Dane County Board of Supervisors considers the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program a valuable tool to preserve and restore natural areas, wildlife habitat and water quality while supporting the development of public nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities that promote economic development and enhance quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports funding renewal for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Wisconsin Governor and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary.