

**DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION FUND GRANT AWARD TO  
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (MCMEEN TRUST)**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has applied to the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program for financial assistance to purchase approximately 36 acres in the Town of Blue Mounds from the Daniel E. McMeen and Carol Auguston-McMeen Revocable Living Trust for its Thomson Memorial Prairie preserve project. The property is located on the corner of Straubhaar Road and County Road F, within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area and the Southwest Grasslands which are Regional Resource Protection Initiatives under the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan.

The property immediately adjoins TNC's 706 acre Thomson Memorial Prairie on the west and sits north of private lands encumbered by a Conservation Easement held by The Prairie Enthusiasts. Acquisition of this property will allow TNC to convert 36 acres of cropland to restored prairie and grassland habitat providing habitat for Species of Concern need including Henslow's Sparrow, bobolink, grasshopper sparrow and regal fritillary butterfly. The property will also provide opportunities for public education and year round public recreation including hiking, bird watching, hunting and trapping.

The estimated project costs for the acquisition are \$441,600. The Dane County Park Commission recommends up to \$221,000 in county matching funds. A Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant will complete the remaining 50% of the project costs. 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 \$221,000 to The Nature 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.