



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

### Park Commission

*Consider:*

*Who benefits? Who is burdened?*

*Who does not have a voice at the table?*

*How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Wednesday, October 11, 2023

5:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Heritage Center Lower Level, 3101  
Lake Farm Rd, Madison; virtually via Zoom

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#### A. Call To Order

*Chair Thoresen called the Park Commission meeting to order at 5:30 PM.*

*Staff Present: Chris James, Alex DeSmidt, James Brodzeller.*

*Youth Governance Member Steve Hoang present.*

*Others Present: Supervisor Michele Doolan, Travis Austin.*

**Present:** 5 - NANCY BOGUE, ANALIESE EICHER, DAVE RIPP, TOM THORESEN and GRACE MORAN

**Excused:** 2 - STEFANIE BROUWER and KRISTIE GOFORTH

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)

[MIN-312](#)

Minutes of the September 27, 2023 Park Commission

**Attachments:** [2023 MIN-312 PC MINUTES 09-27-23](#)

A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by MORAN, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

#### C. Referrals (Resolutions & Ordinance Amendments) - None

#### D. Items Requiring Committee Action - None

#### E. Presentations

## 1. Black Earth Creek restoration project at Walking Iron County Park / Mazomanie Lions Park

*James Brodzeller, Watershed Management Coordinator for the Land and Water Resources Department provided an overview of planning that has been completed by Fish Creek Restoration consultants to date for the proposed Black Earth Creek stream restoration project. The project includes approximately 4,000' of Black Earth Creek between the southern border of Walking Iron County Park and the Village of Mazomanie. Major goals of the project include improving water quality, floodplain connectivity, fish and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and enhancing public use of the corridor. Stream restoration improvements proposed include realigning the channel to historic locations, riparian wetland and prairie restoration, a variety of natural bank stabilization and habitat improvement practices and re-establishing stream connections to the floodplain during high water conditions. Planning is anticipated to be completed in late 2023, and construction in 2024 pending approval of funding in the Dane County capital budget.*

[2023  
RPT-349](#)

Presentation on Black Earth Creek restoration project, Door Creek restoration project, and Black Earth Creek Headwater property stabilization

**Attachments:** [Presentation on Black Earth Creek restoration project, Door Creek restoration project, and Black Earth Creek Headwater property stabilization](#)

## 2. Door Creek restoration project at Door Creek Wildlife Area South Unit

*James Brodzeller and Dane County Land and Water Resources Watersheds Division staff have been working on plans to remove sediment and re-align Door Creek to its original alignment in the Door Creek Wildlife Area South Unit. The project is a recommendation of the Door Creek Watershed Management Action Plan and includes approximately 11,000' stream restoration work between CTH MN and Lake Kegonsa. Goals for the project include re-establishing a riverine environment, improving pike spawning habitat, increasing connectivity to the floodplain, improving water quality and enhancement of surrounding wetlands.*

## F. Reports to Committee

### 1. Black Earth Creek Headwaters property stabilization update

*Alex DeSmidt, Senior Landscape Architect, Dane County Parks Division and Brodzeller outlined restoration and property stabilization measures that have recently been completed on the Dane County Black Earth Creek Headwaters natural resource area property. Restoration projects include creation of waterfowl scrapes and prairie restorations adjacent to the existing Old Lake Middleton water body. Property stabilization efforts include removal of existing buildings at the original farmstead site and a proposed public parking lot at the existing STH 14 driveway entrance.*

[2023  
RPT-350](#)

Black Earth Creek Headwaters NRA Property Management Plan

**Attachments:** [Black Earth Creek Headwaters NRA Property Management Plan](#)

**G. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

1. Wednesday, October 25, 2023  
Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area East Trailhead  
5720 River Rd, Waunakee
2. Wednesday, November 15, 2023 - Hybrid Meeting  
Heritage Center lower level  
3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison  
This meeting will include a 2024 budget presentation

**H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

*Travis Austin spoke to advocate for increased efforts being made to connect the bicycle trail gap on the STH 12 trail between Dunlap Hollow Road and the Springfield Hill pedestrian overpass in anticipation of the pending Great Sauk Trail connection to Devils Lake State Park and the 400 State Trail in Reedsburg.*

**I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - None**

**J. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by EICHER, seconded by RIPP, that the Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.**

*Meeting adjourned 6:50 PM.*

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris James, pending Park Commission approval.*