



DANE COUNTY
**Environmental
Council**

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2011 Environmental Grant Program Annual Project Summary

As a part of the Dane County Land and Water Legacy initiative, the Dane County Environmental Council competitively awards grants to support projects that improve, protect, and enhance land and water resources to the benefit of Dane County residents.

Environmental Grants are awarded in two categories:

1. The **Capital Equipment Program** provides funding to assist with equipment purchase, rental, or lease; construction of conservation measures; or maintenance of previously constructed conservation measures that improve, protect, and enhance land and water resources in Dane County.
2. The **Community Partners Program** provides funding for projects that promote environmental education, conservation, and restoration.

In 2011, the Environmental Council awarded a total of \$11,797 in grant awards for 12 projects that restored natural areas and promoted conservation in Dane County. We are pleased to report that these projects have been a tremendous success. Here are some highlights from this project reports we received this year:



Ice Age Trail Alliance

IATA was granted \$1,428 to purchase trail building tools to build new Ice Age Trail in Dane County and to perform maintenance and restoration work on existing trail. The old tools used for these tasks in the past were in poor condition or non-functional. The new tools were used at multiple work outings by several dozen volunteers. Trail improvements and new construction were completed in numerous places including Verona's Prairie Moraine County Park, Valley View preserve (just west of Verona), Table Bluff, Indian

Lake County Park, Lodi Marsh State Wildlife Area. All of these areas have segments of the Ice Age Trail and are open to the public for hiking.

Wheels for Winners

The Wheels for Winners program recycles used bicycles and provides them to local youth in exchange for 15 hours of community service and assistance with the refurbishment of the bikes. This year, 17 elementary school youth at the Allied Drive Learning Center, 20 youth at the Bayview Community Center, and 11 children at the Goodman Community Center completed their 15 hours of community service and received bicycles. The children in the Allied Drive program collected bottles and cans in their neighborhood for recycling and the children at the Goodman Center recycled garbage and also stripped old bicycles of their parts for recycling to prepare the bikes for refurbishing efforts by our staff of volunteer mechanics. Each of the children also received new helmets, bike locks, and bike trail permits.



This is just a sample of the many projects we were able to support this year, thanks in large part to the generous support of local donors. For a complete list of the 2011 grant projects and a copy of the grant application packet, please visit the Dane County Environmental Council's web site:

www.countyofdane.com/commissions/environmentalcouncil

Since 2009, the Environmental Council has awarded more than \$50,000 in funds to 48 projects throughout Dane County. Funding for these grants is provided through the Dane County Land and Water Legacy Initiative and generous donations from American Transmission Company, American Family Insurance, the Alliant Energy Foundation, the MG&E foundation, Stevens Design, and local individuals. Most grant recipients also provide matching funds in order to complete their projects, which enhance the impact of the generous donations from our community. **For every dollar awarded by the Environmental Council, more than three dollars are provided in matching funds by the recipients.**

If you or your company would like to support the Environmental Grant program with a donation, please send a check payable to the Dane County Treasurer to the address shown on the front of this report. Please refer to the "Dane County Environmental Council" on your check. Your donations may be tax-deductible – please consult with a knowledgeable advisor.

The Dane County Environmental Council is a seven-member panel appointed by the County Executive and approved by the County Board. The Council assists groups in recognizing and protecting natural areas in Dane County and assumes an educational role in the awareness, conservation and protection of the environment.