

***Letter of Intent
Land Use Application
Dane County Humane Society***

The Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) is a non-profit organization providing refuge, healing, and new beginnings for over 9,000 companion animals, exotic species, farm animals, and injured or orphaned wildlife every year. DCHS was founded over 100 years ago and has been operating and serving the community since 2000 at the Voges Road location.

The Wildlife Center program of DCHS serves Dane County and beyond by rehabilitating sick, injured, or orphaned native wildlife. The Wildlife Center's mission is to promote the health and welfare of wildlife through rehabilitation and public education with the understanding that the world is a better place for people and animals with a humane ethic of empathy, care and appreciation for all living things.

The proposed structure is a ground mounted solar array with generally open slatted walls to create an avian enclosure under the solar panels. The solar flight pen or avian enclosure will be utilized to rehabilitate and provide pre-release conditioning to birds of prey such as bald eagles, peregrine falcons, owls, hawks, and other native Wisconsin species before release of healthy individuals back into the wild. The solar structure will be an L-shaped design with bifacial solar panels. The project is supported by several grants including the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation grant program.

The completed structure would house birds of prey undergoing rehabilitation at Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center. The structure would not be open to the public for display and have no public operating hours. The structure would be in use 24/7 if birds of prey were in rehabilitative care. The Dane County Humane Society has approximately 90 employees, but none would be based out of this structure as it is a solar flight pen structure intended for use with wild birds of prey.

The proposed solar flight pen structure has 2600 square feet. There are no units or bedrooms.

The Dane County Humane Society property was historically an old Christmas tree farm and work has been done over the years to restore native habitat to the area. The proposed construction area has been primarily buckthorn thicket that is mowed down every few years as the habitat restoration continues.

The project would be scheduled to start pending permit and zoning approvals immediately in July, 2023 with a planned completion date after approximately 8 weeks.