

# Friends of Cherokee Marsh

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Sept. 24, 2012

To: Madison Common Council Alders

Re: File #: 27581 Version: 1 Name: 100015 Wheeler Triangle Resolution

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh strongly support the Wheeler Triangle resolution, which authorizes the execution of a Purchase Agreement with the Natural Heritage Land Trust, Inc. for the City's acquisition of lands (known as the Wheeler Triangle) for the expansion of Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park.

The 6-acre parcel, on the northwest corner of Wheeler Rd. and Comanche Way, is adjacent to Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's South Unit.

With public ownership, the City of Madison can extend its system of hiking and ski trails from the conservation park. The site is within easy walking distance for students from nearby Gompers Elementary School and Black Hawk Middle School. Students can use the site for recreation and for school-sponsored environmental field studies.

A restored and managed buffer at the Wheeler Triangle will reduce stormwater runoff into the adjacent wetlands and river and will help to temper the flood events that in recent years have been damaging and destroying high quality shoreline wetlands on the upper Yahara.

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh very much appreciate the Common Council's recent support for other initiatives at Cherokee Marsh including the addition of stormwater ponds on City land north of Wheeler Road at Cherokee Marsh and support for entering into a grant agreement with the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service for wetland restoration at Cherokee Marsh.

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association has named Cherokee Marsh a Wetland Gem. Protecting the Wheeler Triangle will help ensure that Cherokee Marsh can continue to be the excellent gem that it is.



Jan Axelson  
President

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*To protect, preserve, and restore the beauty, value, and health of the Cherokee Marsh and upper Yahara River watershed.*

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