

RESOLUTION NO. 21-26

ACCEPTANCE OF THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT OUTLOT 1 OF CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP #3719 AT GATEWAY DRIVE, GRAFTON, WI (PARCEL ID 100200801500) FOR ADDITION TO THE OZAUKEE COUNTY PARK SYSTEM PER §§ 59.52(6)(A) AND 27.065(1)(A) WISCONSIN STATUTES

WHEREAS, the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department has coordinated phases of the Ulao Creek Habitat Restoration Project with Patriot Properties, LLC, the owner of the approximately 7.06 acre parcel located adjacent and east of Gateway Drive in the Village of Grafton, WI 53024 (Gateway Property) (Outlot 1 of the Certified Survey Map #3719, Parcel ID 100200801500) since 2013; and

WHEREAS, the adopted Park and Open Space Plan for Ozaukee County: 2035, recommends County acquisition of lands along the Ulao Creek and within the watershed for protection of primary environmental corridors as well as natural resource areas and critical species habitat of which the project area is a part of, and identifies the project area as a natural area of local significance, as well as providing passive outdoor recreation opportunities and public access to natural areas and waterways (pages 47, 48, 81, 84, 85, 86, 87); and

WHEREAS, acquisition of lands in the Ulao Creek Watershed is consistent with existing Ozaukee Washington Land Trust conservation easements in the watershed and is consistent with the County Board endorsed Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update (pages 91, 92, 93, 95, 427) and adopted Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Ozaukee County (pages 77, 110, 112), which identify the parcel as part of a primary environmental corridor and natural area of local significance and recommends the protection of these areas, particularly for water quality benefits and improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department and its partners have developed and are refining a GIS-based fish and wildlife habitat decision support tool and a nationally recognized and awarded ecological prioritization GIS tool (GIS Tools) to prioritize habitat improvement and restoration activities for maximum benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Gateway Property, along with multiple additional upstream parcels, were initially identified by the GIS Tool as a high priority for habitat restoration and were the focus of a large scale, comprehensive ecosystem restoration project along the Ulao Creek corridor supported by federal, state, and local non-profit organization funding that has included construction of stream remeandering, channel narrowing and deepening, construction of riffles and pools, wetland creation and enhancements, floodplain reconnection through grading and native vegetation restoration along stream banks and floodplain corridors, invasive plant removal, native plant restoration, installation of fish and wildlife structures, and long term environmental monitoring including fish, avian, wildlife, and water quality monitoring; and

WHEREAS, since 2014, activities on the Gateway parcel, in conjunction with the landowner, have included remeandering and restoring approximately 1,000 linear feet of Ulao Creek, floodplain reconnection, installation of multiple fish and wildlife structures, planting and management of approximately 736 native trees, invasive vegetation management on the entire 7 acres, and long term (since 2013) fisheries, avian, wildlife, and water quality monitoring; and

WHEREAS, project activities and associated management have been and will continue to

be supported through a long-term partnership (25+ years) between Ozaukee County and the Ulao Creek Partnership, Inc. (UCP) (formed by former County Board Supervisor Tim Kaul), as demonstrated by the UCP hosting several volunteer work days and providing multiple grants (several thousands of dollars) from the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust to support invasive vegetation management and native vegetation plantings at the 7.06 acre Gateway parcel; and

WHEREAS, the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department has included the Gateway parcel as a demonstration project location for multiple Natural Resources Foundation education and outreach field trips since 2014 and other education and outreach events including the annual Treasures of Oz event; and

WHEREAS, the 7.06 acre Gateway parcel includes approximately 3.7 acres of wetlands and 3.1 acres of 100-year floodplain; thereby, limiting development potential on the property and where conservation of these areas is consistent with the adopted Park and Open Space Plan for Ozaukee County: 2035, adopted Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Ozaukee County: 2035 and the recently adopted Ozaukee County Land and Water Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Patriot Properties, LLC, has been a long time partner and has expressed interest and support in donating the 7.06 parcel to Ozaukee County for formal addition to the Ozaukee County Park System; and

WHEREAS, the property will be managed within the Ozaukee County Park System, under the County Park System ordinance, as a Nature Preserve; whereby, only passive recreational uses will be allowed such as hiking and wildlife viewing, and this property would represent the first fully publicly accessible parcel on Ulao Creek in the Ulao Creek Watershed and the first and only Ozaukee County Park in the Village of Grafton; and

WHEREAS, inclusion of the property in the Ozaukee County Park System will allow for continued long term environmental monitoring and maintenance of the habitat improvements completed under the Ulao Creek Habitat Restoration Project in conjunction with the UCP, which will reduce long term costs; and

WHEREAS, inclusion of the property in the Ozaukee County Park System and regulated under the Ozaukee County Park System ordinance will recognize the important natural, ecological, scenic, and recreational values as relatively natural habitat for plants and animals on the property, to assure that these values will be protected in perpetuity, to protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitat and natural communities, on the property, to enhance opportunities for wildlife-based outdoor recreation, and to confine the use of the property to activities that are consistent with these objectives; and

WHEREAS, the property also offers high potential for public visitation and ongoing public education and outreach activities due to its proximity to adjacent partner development (e.g. Waterstreet Brewery) and Ozaukee County Tourism Council partners such as the Hampton Inn and Suites as well as the available parking near Gateway Drive in conjunction with partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors, that Ozaukee County accept title of the 7.06 acre property via warranty deed with title policy, located adjacent to and east of Gateway Drive in the Village of Grafton, WI 53024 (Outlot 1 of the Certified Survey Map #3719, Parcel ID 100200801500) per §§ 59.52(6)(a) and 27.065(1)(a) Wisconsin Statutes; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the property will be added to and managed within the Ozaukee County Park System as a Nature Preserve; whereby, only passive recreational uses will

be allowed such as hiking and wildlife viewing.

Dated at Port Washington, Wisconsin, this 1st day of September 2021.

SUMMARY: Accept title of the Gateway Property via warranty deed with title policy, located adjacent to and east of Gateway Drive in the Village of Grafton, WI 53024 (Outlot 1 of the Certified Survey Map #3719, Parcel ID 100200801500) per §§ 59.52(6)(a) and 27.065(1)(a) Wisconsin Statutes.

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: B. Jobs, Vice-Chairperson

SECONDER: N. Minkel-Dumit, Supervisor District 26

AYES: Korinek, Jobs, Holyoke, Minkel-Dumit, Ross

RES. 21-26

Acceptance of the Title to the Property Located at Outlot 1 of Certified Survey Map #3719 at

 **Passed By Majority Vote**

Winker	YES
Haas	YES
Jobs	EXCUSED
Schlenvogt	YES
Clark	YES
Nelson	YES
Becker	YES
Larson	YES
Grabow	YES
Melotik	YES
Wolf	YES
Richart	YES
Korinek	YES

Rishel		EXCUSED
Geracie	M	YES
Duecker		YES
Irish		YES
Wirth		YES
Ross		YES
Godden		YES
Strom		YES
Holyoke	S	YES
Henrichs		YES
Braverman		YES
Read		YES
Minkel-Dumit		EXCUSED