



## Dane County Environmental Council Capital Equipment Grant Report for Token Creek DNR Pond Restoration

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### Statement of Need

On behalf of the Town of Windsor and the Token Creek Conservancy Committee (TCCC) I respectfully submit my final report for the Capital Equipment Grant for the purchase of a pond aeration system for the Token Creek DNR ponds, located at the intersection of US Highway 19 and Portage Road. Revival of the former trout ponds as a destination park for fishing has been a priority project for the TCCC. Recently the ponds obtained Urban Fishery designated status. This status allows for special fishing regulations geared toward children and persons with permanent disabilities. The aeration equipment provided the needed pond restoration required to support stocked fish and keep the ponds clean.

### Project Goals and Objectives

Without proper aeration and biological control, the ponds were overgrown with weeds, muck and algae. This water condition was poor for the fish that were stocked at the ponds as well as the Token Creek itself since water circulates out of the ponds and into the creek. The timing of the request was also important because over the summer a handicap accessible pier for fishing was constructed at the site. The grant allowed two separate projects to be combined and now the public has better access to the ponds and a wonderful park feature. The restoration of the ponds certainly benefited the overall experience of visitors to the park.

This project meets the objectives of the Dane County Environmental Council Mission by protecting and preserving of the environment and natural resources present at the ponds site. The project further provides improved access to a diverse group of individuals and enhanced recreational facilities to the public which promote outdoor recreation in a natural environment.

### Work Accomplished

All of the project goals and objectives were met with the installation of the aeration equipment. The ponds are now a healthy amenity and feature at the Token Creek/DNR ponds. This was complimented by the completion of other improvements at the site which will provide a safe and accessible place to fish and enjoy outdoor recreation. The ponds trails are adjacent to a loop trail to the Raintree Conservancy allowing expanded open space for hiking.

## Highlights

The ponds are looking better and will continue to improve in years to come because of the new equipment. The restoration of the ponds and creating accessible fishing locations on or near the Token Creek will further promote this natural resource and hopefully encourage more individuals to enjoy the outdoors. In addition, a portion of the grant matching funds came from a deceased Token Creek Conservancy Committee member, Wayne Day who always wanted “a place for the kids to fish”. Completing this project was important for the Wayne Day family.



