

**IOWA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
A RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE BLOOMFIELD PRAIRIE**

RESOLUTION No. 8-0724

WHEREAS, in 2016 Iowa County leased 434.27 acres of the Iowa County farm to the Driftless Area Land Conservancy and Iowa County Recreation and Prairie Restoration Ltd, two active nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit organizations restored the land and developed a contiguous prairie that is now home to a unique flora and fauna ecosystem that also provides public open space for recreation; and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that the Bloomfield Prairie will continue under this land lease environment forever, or that federal funding will continue to support the prairie effort via the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and Iowa County has been notified that the lease terms will not be renewed at the conclusion of the existing contract; and

WHEREAS, Iowa County staff recently completed a series of public information gathering and listening sessions to help plan for the future of Bloomfield Prairie; and

WHEREAS, residents who attended the listening sessions and have communicated with County Supervisors have expressed an interest in seeing the property remain a prairie that is open for public use and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors has relied on the lease payments as a revenue to the Iowa County budget and is not prepared to add the expense of maintaining the prairie to future budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors would like to seek out a partnership with a nonprofit entity in order to secure the prairie for future generations through the sale of the prairie lands.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. Iowa County hereby directs the County Board Chair and the County Administrator to begin consulting with nonprofit entities to determine their willingness to purchase lands known as the Bloomfield Prairie or Farm.
2. Iowa County will further require that as part of any land sale, the property remains open to the public for recreation, education, and conservation purposes and continues to be used as a prairie with acceptable related improvements.
3. Should the nonprofit that purchases the property ever become defunct or discontinue operations as an organization or should the organization fail to file annual Internal Revenue Service tax forms for three consecutive years, that the property be deeded back to Iowa County for public use.
4. The County Board Chair and County Administrator shall report back to the Executive Committee once a tentative plan has been reached. The Executive Committee will provide guidance and recommend a final sale to the County Board once appropriate terms are established.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of July, 2024.



John M. Meyers, Iowa County Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kristy K. Spurley, County Clerk