

Jefferson County Board authorizes grant application for Garman funds

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The Jefferson County Board of Supervisors authorized the parks department to apply for a \$16,500 grant from the state Department of Natural Resources' Stewardship Program to offset the costs of purchasing land adjacent to the Dr. J.S. Garman Nature Preserve in Waterloo.

The board took the action at its June 14 meeting.

A 5.7 acre parcel of land was purchased in 2015 by the county for \$56,000. Theo Garman donated \$28,000 toward the purchase of the land and Charles and Joni Crave donated \$14,000.

The remaining cost, \$14,000 was paid by the county through a three-year interest free loan from the Craves.

The grant approval was sought by the county administrator. Any grant money received would reduce the tax levy funds allocated and would be allocated in future year's budget for repayment of the loan.

In 2003, Garman donated to Jefferson County 40 acres of wood land in Waterloo, in memory of her late husband, Dr. J.S. Garman. It has been designated the Dr. J.S. Garman Nature Preserve.

According to the county board resolution that was unanimously approved by the supervisors, Theo Garman continues to support the preserve with cash donations totaling \$55,000 to date. She has been a driving force in keeping it a sacred place where anyone can enjoy nature and show respect for Native American culture.

The land is being preserved for public use and conservation, to expand the parks system for environmental and land use benefits and the health and enjoyment of Jefferson County residents.

If grant funds are awarded, the county administrator was directed to accept money on behalf of the county and enter into contracts to comply with the grant requirements.