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THE SAUK PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE AWARDED GRANT FROM REI

By: Heidi Royal

[The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance](#) announced today that it has received a \$4,500 grant from [REI](#) (Recreational Equipment, Inc.), a national outdoor retail co-op committed to connecting people with nature, to support its Volunteer Restoration Program.

The Alliance was incorporated in 2002 to advocate for and involve local communities in ecosystem restoration activities at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant, a 7,354-acre industrial facility currently undergoing a transfer of ownership from the US Army to local, state, tribal, and federal hands. As part of its Volunteer Restoration Program, the Alliance offers Saturday workdays at Badger a minimum of one day per month, March through November. Work varies seasonally and includes invasive plant removal, prescribed fire and planting native seed. Funds from REI will go directly toward purchasing several pieces of equipment that will help make sites at Badger more accessible to volunteers; funding will also help support part time staff to grow the volunteer program.

“Since the decommissioning of the plant was announced back in 1998, the community has stepped forward to create a shared vision for the property that includes multiple land uses in sync with one another,” stated Heidi Royal, Coordinator for the Alliance. “Part of this vision involves restoration of many native remnant prairie and savanna sites located throughout the property, a task undertaken wholeheartedly by our volunteers. REI began partnering with us in 2010, increasing overall volunteer participation in, and awareness of activities at Badger. Their recent financial support will further enhance our program efforts!”

REI is committed to promoting environmental stewardship and increasing access to outdoor recreation through education, volunteerism, gear donations and financial contributions. The grant is the result of a nomination made by the Madison based REI store.

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance promotes conservation of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant lands and the greater Sauk Prairie landscape through ecological restoration, education, research and recreation, providing opportunities for individuals and partner organizations to pursue these activities guided by the values and goals of the Badger Reuse Plan, the document which guides all future land use at Badger. For more information, please visit www.saukprairievision.org.