



Press Release

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San Damiano Purchase Awarded 'Urban Project of the Year'

The City of Monona is pleased to announce that the Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) has recognized the City's purchase of the former San Damiano Friary property at 4123 Broadway Ave as *Urban Project of the Year* at an award ceremony on January 13th.

In presenting the Award, the Alliance acknowledged that the San Damiano property <u>could</u> have been sold for development and the City should be commended for preserving the property that will not only be a treasured green space for the public to enjoy, but help control runoff into Lake Monona.

Mayor Mary O'Connor said "The Clean Lakes Alliance is the premier organization devoted to improving the waters that make up the Yahara River Watershed. We are honored to be recognized in this way and we look forward to the Alliance continuing to work with us on the project as a valued community partner."

Alder Nancy Moore, who first introduced the San Damiano property to CLA Executive Director, James Tye, said "Given his passion and expertise, James was immediately stunned by not only the property's beauty and value as a Lake Monona destination, but its value for controlling stormwater runoff. As an arboretum perched above the Lake with mostly porous surface, it's a natural catcher and cleaner of a significant volume of water. And it is a tremendous new resource reflective of CLA's dedication to making the lakes the center of our community."

Stay tuned for the <u>very</u> soon-to-be-launched web site for the Friends of San Damiano and of course, for opportunities to visit once the City of Monona closes on the property on June 1st.

For additional information or questions, also feel free to contact Alder Nancy Moore at nmoore@ci.monona.wi.us or Andrew Kitslaar, President of the Friends of San Damiano, at info@sandamianomonona.org.