



MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON

Department of Infrastructure
& Operations

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council
From: Inga Reich, PhD., *Open Space Manager*
Subject: Ordinance Authorizing a Deed of Conservation Restriction for the Community Park North Project Area
Date: April 22, 2026

Attached for authorization by Princeton Council are a deed of conservation restriction and associated exhibits for a portion of Community Park North, which is subject to a forest restoration project funded through a \$552,000 Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) Grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Forty-five acres of a former spruce and pine plantation is being cleared of invasive species and planted with nearly 5,000 native trees and shrubs to improve habitat and resources for birds and other animals and increase the amount of carbon sequestered by the forest in future years and make it more resilient to climate change. Work began in July 2025 and is set to finish in October 2027.

As a condition of the grant, Princeton is required to execute a Deed of Conservation Restriction with the NJDEP for the project site, to ensure the preservation, protection, repair, maintenance and monitoring of the NCS grant project for a set term and to further ensure the viability and receipt of the full environmental benefit of the project. The full terms, conditions, and requirements of the deed restriction will be in effect for a period of five years from the date of completion of the project (anticipated to be October 2027) while no development is allowed within the project area until 2050. Community Park North is already encumbered under the Green Acres program and the restrictions listed in the deed restriction will not result in any change to current and past uses of the property for the public.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (609) 921-7077 ext. 7635 or by email at ireich@princetonnj.gov.