



# 2025 – 2029 Community Forestry Management Plan

Council Meeting  
December 22, 2025



**TREE CITY USA®**

# Special Thanks to Our Contributors



- Shade Tree Commission
  - Sharon Ainsworth, Chair
  - Victoria Airgood
  - Sandra Chen
- Princeton Environmental Commission
  - Anne Soos, Chair
- Ad Hoc Tree Canopy Committee
  - David Cohen
  - Brian McDonald
  - Leighton Newlin
- Davey Resource Group, Consultant

# The Municipality of Princeton, NJ

December 2025

## Background

- Community Forestry Management Plans (CFMP) guide proactive and informed management of an urban forest
- They are valid for a 5-year term
  - This CFMP is for 2025 through 2029
  - Princeton Township had a CFMP since 2006
- Additional benefits of having a CFMP:
  - Builds community support and partnerships for urban forestry initiatives
  - Eligibility for state grants
  - Liability protections
  - Eligibility for Sustainable Jersey points



Tree Group





# Princeton's Achievements

- Tree Inventory completed in 2022
- Tree canopy assessment completed in 2024
- Tree City USA designation earned for 29 years
- Tree and shrub ordinance update
- Microforest creation
- 45-acre forest restoration in Community Park North
- In 2025, more than 250 trees were planted, focusing on species diversity and climate-adapted selections
  - Exceeded the previous CFMP goal of 500 trees planted in 5 years



# Community Outreach

- Landscaper education with Sustainable Princeton
- Arbor Day presentations to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders
- Tree giveaways at Community Night Out and Porch Fest
- Tree of the Month social media posts







# CFMP Mission Statement

Princeton strives to proactively preserve, enhance, maintain, and grow a sustainable community forest that provides lasting aesthetic, social, cultural, economic, environmental, and health benefits while ensuring public safety for all who live and work in the community.

We are committed to achieving tree equity across the municipality through thoughtful stewardship of our urban tree canopy.

Our goal is to balance sustainable growth with the protection of natural ecosystems, fostering environmental resilience for current and future generations.



# 2025-2029 Elements, Objectives and Action Items

Pages 37 – 43 of the CFMP

- I: Training and Education
- II: Community Forestry Ordinance
- III: Tree Resource Management
- IV: Community and Capacity
- V: Disaster Planning



# Recommended Action Items



PROHIBIT PLANTING OF  
NJST INVASIVE SPECIES  
FOR MUNICIPAL  
PROJECTS AND  
PROJECTS SUBJECT TO  
LAND USE BOARD  
APPROVAL



STRENGTHEN STREAM  
BUFFER PROTECTIONS



PREPARE A COMPLETE  
AND GREEN STREETS  
POLICY (2025 COUNCIL  
GOAL AND PRIORITY)



PLANT AT LEAST 1,500  
TREES ON MUNICIPAL  
LANDS DURING THE 5-  
YEAR TERM



ACQUIRE WOODLANDS  
AND ADD GREEN  
SPACES WITHIN AND  
NEAR CENTRAL AREAS



MAINTAIN TREE CITY USA  
DESIGNATION AND  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS



PREPARE DEBRIS  
MANAGEMENT PLAN



SUPPORT THE  
PREPARATION OF  
WILDFIRE PROTECTION  
AND EVACUATION PLAN



# Next Steps

- Submission of the CFMP to the New Jersey Forest Service
- Preparation of the 2025 Annual Reports for:
  - Mayor and Council
  - Tree City USA
  - New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry (NJUCF) office of the DEP

