

Green Acres Stewardship Grant Application – Forest Restoration at Princeton Ridge East Public Hearing

February 23rd, 2026





Green Acres Program

Preserving & Enhancing New Jersey's Great Outdoors since 1961



- 2 Year Grants
- 50% Match Funding
- Princeton will apply for \$300,000

90-acre preserve outline

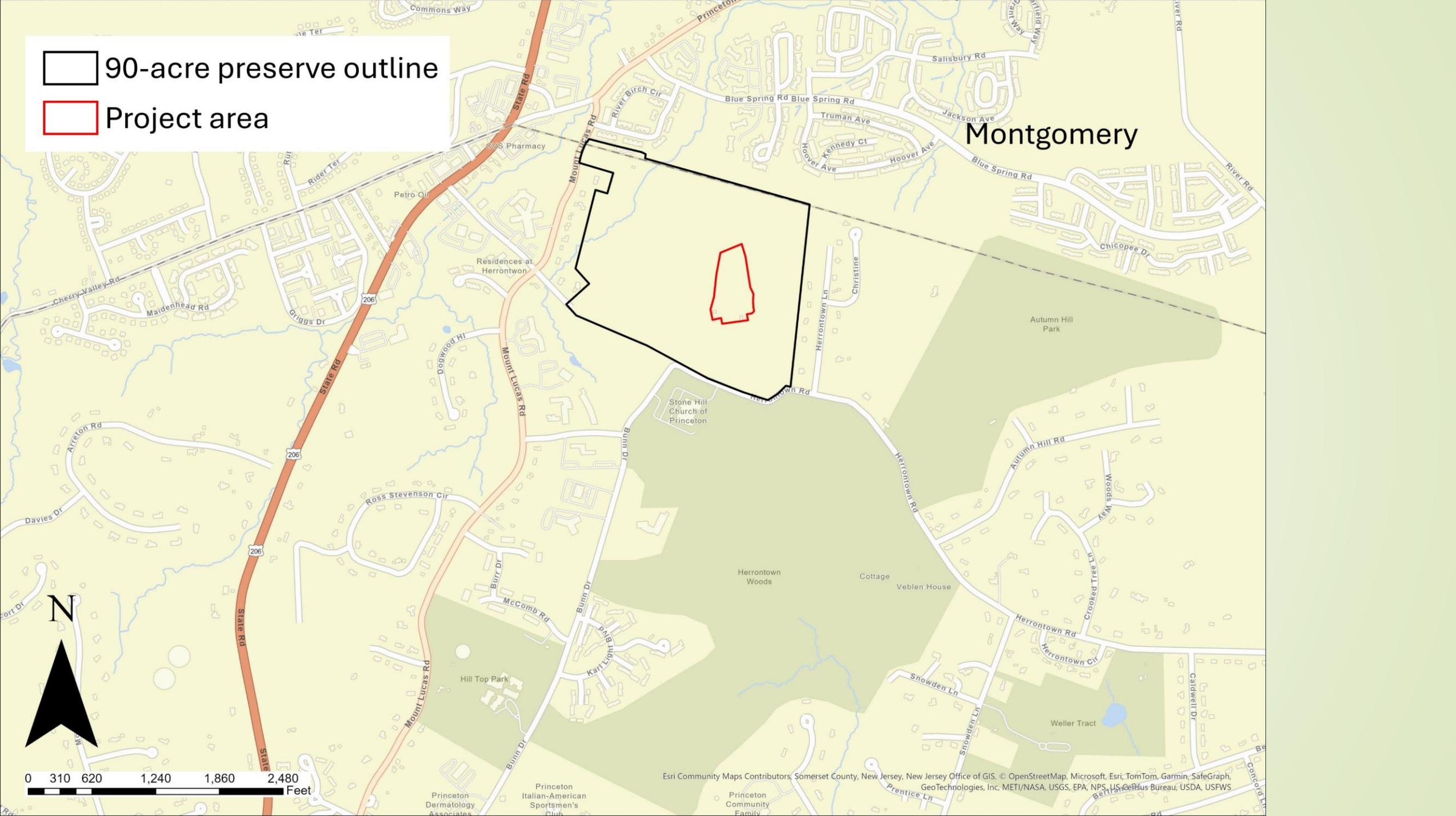
Project area

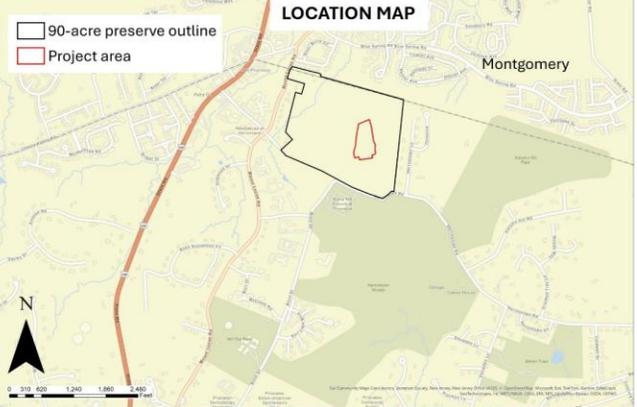
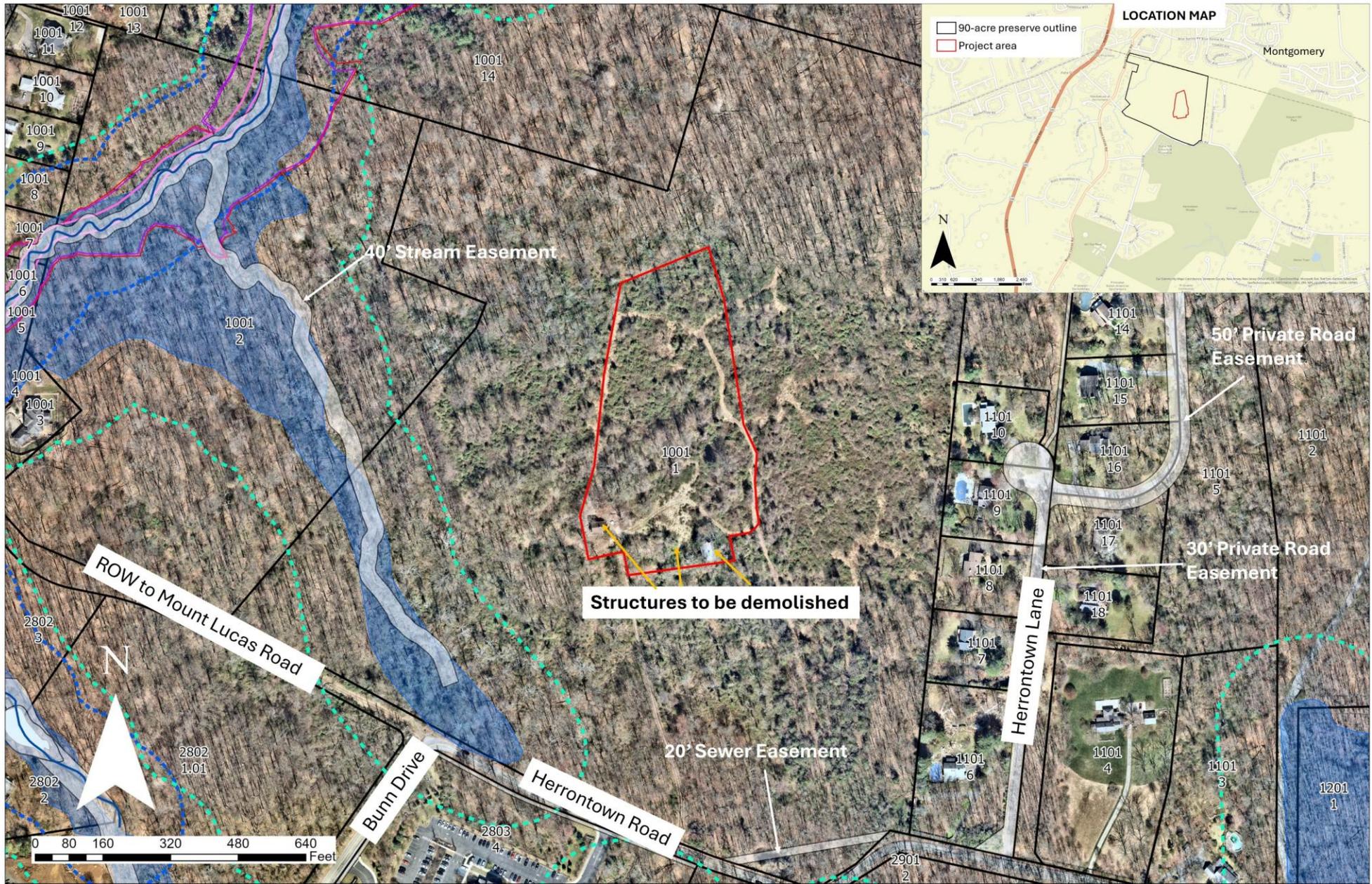
Montgomery



0 310 620 1,240 1,860 2,480 Feet

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- LEGEND**
- PROJECT SITE OUTLINE
 - TAX PARCEL¹
 - FRESHWATER WETLAND²
 - ARTIFICIAL LAKE³
 - WATERCOURSE³
 - 150FT WETLAND BUFFER
 - 150FT RIPARIAN ZONE
 - FLOODWAY⁴
 - 100-YEAR FLOOD HAZARD AREA⁴
 - 500-YEAR FLOOD HAZARD AREA⁴
 - EASEMENT⁵

Project site outline is approximate.

Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 (2022)
StatePlane New Jersey FIPS 2900 (US Feet)

Data Sources:
¹ RVE (2025): Princeton NJ Parcels 2024
² NJDEP (2020): Land Use/Land Cover
³ NJDEP (2015): National Hydrography Dataset
⁴ FEMA (2016): National Flood Hazard Layer
⁵ Princeton, NJ: Princeton Easements (internal dataset, last updated 2023)



ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES AND ALTERNATIVE TO PROJECT

This project will:

- Clear approximately 5 acres of invasive species
- Plant 4,200 native trees, and 1,000 native shrubs
- Provide habitat and food sources for local wildlife
- Increase the site's resiliency to storm events and drought

Alternative:

- If the project was not going to go ahead, the invasive species already dominating the proposed restoration area would spread further and future management would become increasingly difficult.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Affected Resources:

- **Vegetation:** invasive plants will be removed and 5,200 native trees and shrubs will be planted the site, which will be put on a trajectory to become a deciduous upland forest habitat
- **Soil:** the planting of native trees will improve soil quality by increasing stability, aeration and fertility
- **Water:** an improvement in soil stability and infiltration can reduce surface water flow from the project area to the wetlands that are located to the south and slightly down-slope of the site



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Short-term Impacts:

- Manual removal of invasive vegetation may affect local wildlife within the area that uses the invasive shrubs for shelter and foraging.



Short duration, not exceeding a few weeks



Will not impact breeding birds as in late fall



Herpetofauna survey prior to work



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Short-term Impacts:

- Soil disturbance may occur when machinery is used on site.



All machinery will be tracked



No use of machinery after heavy precipitation when site is excessively wet



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Short-term Impacts:

- Herbicide may impact native species.



Herbicide application will be carried out in spring when vegetation is readily identifiable



A licensed operator familiar with the local flora will be hired



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Short-term Impacts:

- The construction of the fence will cause temporary noise disturbance in the vicinity of the site
- A slight increase in traffic along Herrontown Road during the construction phase.



Short duration, not exceeding a few weeks



Contractor can utilize the driveway up to the site and vehicles will be parked there.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Medium and long-term Impacts:

Establishing native forest vegetation will:

- shade out invasive species,
- provide breeding and foraging habitat for local wildlife,
- improve soil structure and function,
- improve resiliency to impacts from storms, drought and heatwaves,
- sequester carbon,
- Serve as a seedbank for nearby areas.

The restored forest area will also make the experience of this open space a lot more enjoyable for visitors.