

R 156-2021

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MADISON
SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
POTENTIAL OF THE DREW FOREST**

WHEREAS, consistent with the goals of the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan, as adopted as an Element of the Borough's Master Plan, to preserve and protect the Borough's unique cultural and historic sites in order to strengthen community assets; preserve natural systems and environmentally sensitive areas for the community and the wildlife it supports; protect the Buried Valley Aquifer; and create opportunities for additional resource-based recreation while fostering the growth and sustainability of the Borough's urban forest; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Recreation and Historic Preservation Committee voted to recognize the importance of Drew University to the Borough of Madison; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Recreation and Historic Preservation Committee recognized the importance of the Drew Forest as a significant element of the Drew University campus and education; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Madison also recognizes the significance of the Drew Forest to the Borough of Madison, Morris County and the Drew University community for the following reasons:

The Forest provides biodiversity, groundwater recharge and carbon storage;

The Forest is a living classroom for teaching and research for Drew students and the wider community;

For the past 12 years, 22 acres of the 45 forested acres known as the Zuck Arboretum and the Hepburn Woods have been restored through the Drew Forest Restoration Project;

In 2012, Drew University received the Governor's Environmental Excellence for Healthy Ecosystems for this work;

Native trees and plants, and habitats for pollinators, birds and other wildlife have been restored;

A portion of the Forest lies in the Great Swamp Watershed;

The Forest provides recharge and filtering of Madison's water supply and the Buried Valley Aquifer and reduces flooding and soil erosion by controlling run-off; and

The Forest serves as a major cooling zone to offset the urban heat island effect for the Borough.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Madison supports the concept of working with Drew University to maximize the conservation potential of the Drew Forest and minimize development in environmentally sensitive areas of the Drew Forest.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED
May 24, 2021

ROBERT H. CONLEY, Mayor

Attest:

ELIZABETH OSBORNE, Borough Clerk