



NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

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RESOLUTION OF THE SIERRA CLUB NEW JERSEY CHAPTER SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION POTENTIAL OF THE DREW FOREST

WHEREAS, Drew University has been reported to be considering selling portions of the Drew Forest for development; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of Madison, Chatham and Chatham Township have resolved to work with Drew University to explore the preservation of the Drew Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter recognizes the significance of the Drew Forest to the University and the surrounding communities 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 area.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club supports municipalities and other government agencies and organizations working with Drew University to maximize the conservation potential of the Drew Forest and minimize development in environmentally sensitive areas of the Drew Forest.