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# Princeton Land Trust

December 2003



Dear Princeton Resident:

Every day 40 acres of open space is being lost to residential development in Massachusetts! Towns in our region are now suffering from some of the highest rates of conversion of farm and forestland to new housing development in the state. Housing development compromises water quality, reduces wildlife habitat and increases the need for municipal services.

Of course housing is needed. Yet, by guiding housing to areas where it makes sense and at the same time preserving our farmland and forests and other open spaces, we can protect our water quality, save animal habitat and preserve the unique community character we value in Princeton. Protecting open space while managing residential development is quite simply – smart growth!

The Princeton Land Trust is the only private nonprofit organization completely dedicated to preserving Princeton's open spaces. **For more than a decade we have been instrumental in Princeton's smart growth, helping to protect more than 1,000 acres of prime watershed and recreation land in town.**

Last year we helped to save the East Princeton Road gravel pit from residential development. Not only were we instrumental in preventing the development of this land into residential housing that would have dramatically affected drinking water quality in this critical watershed area, we also enabled the creation of a new recreation site for our town's young people. Elsewhere, we have built trails, cleared fields and actively managed 98 acres of protected open space open for the enjoyment of town residents.

In partnership with state and national conservation organizations and government agencies, the Princeton Land Trust is increasing its efforts to meet the challenge of rapidly disappearing open space. We are working to protect 260 acres on the west side of town collectively known as the Bentley-MacDonald lands. We are also negotiating with several landowners who have expressed their desire to protect a total of 110 acres of open space in other parts of town.

However, to succeed in saving Princeton's remaining open space we need your support.

As a nonprofit organization we depend on gifts from people like you who care about Princeton's open space for the benefits it brings in the quality of the water you drink and the quiet rural beauty of your surroundings. **Your gift will enable us to protect fields and forests for future generations of Princeton residents.** I urge you to join me in making a gift to the Princeton Land Trust – an organization that is making a real difference in our community.

Sincerely,

*Wells Dow*  
President

**P.S. Give the gift of a Princeton Land Trust membership to someone who loves the rural landscape of this town as you do.**