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City of Northampton Receives \$297,330 Grant to Permanently Protect 72 Acres in the Mineral Hills Greenway

NORTHAMPTON – The City of Northampton is pleased to announce that it will receive a \$297,330 Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant to permanently protect 72 acres in the southern Mineral Hills.

“Northampton is thrilled to be one of only five LAND grant recipients statewide,” shared Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, “We rely on this kind of support to expand, protect, and maintain our conservation lands, and I am proud Northampton continues to earn the confidence of state conservation experts.” This latest significant acquisition will build upon decades of work to protect forested land, wildlife corridors, and habitats citywide and create quality outdoor recreational opportunities for residents. This parcel includes headwater streams and wetlands that are important sources for water quality and quantity to both Hannum Brook and the Manhan River. Both are recognized as coldwater streams, a critical and threatened resource.

Working with the Crescione family, who have been incredible stewards of this important piece of the forest in the southwest corner of the city, the city will be able to permanently protect this land for the public and help the family achieve its long-desired goal. The parcel will fill a gap in a multi-town open space corridor and connect to an adjacent 300 acres of the city’s Mineral Hills Greenway in Northampton alone. Trail work and stewardship already completed by the Crescione family mean that its robust trail network will fit seamlessly into the surrounding trails in the rest of the Mineral Hills.

The city, through its Office of Planning and Sustainability, will continue pre-acquisition work through the fall, with a closing anticipated early in 2026. The area will be owned and managed by the Northampton Conservation Commission, with a conservation restriction to be held by the Kestrel Land Trust.

For more information, contact Sarah LaValley at 413-587-1263 or slavalley@northamptonma.gov.