

Proclamation

Maplewood Memorial Park Conservancy

WHEREAS, each year, the Maplewood Township Committee, during our reorganization meeting, wishes to dedicate the meeting to a person, a cause, or an organization; and,

WHEREAS, for our 2024 meeting, we wish to highlight the work and goals of the Maplewood Memorial Park Conservancy; and,

WHEREAS, designed over 100 years ago by the renowned landscape architecture firms of Brinley and Holbrook and the Olmsted Brothers and has been recognized as a beautiful and historic park, beloved by residents and widely admired; and,

WHEREAS, Memorial Park is listed in the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places and was designated one of New Jersey's Great Public Places by the American Planning Association; and,

WHEREAS, parks and green spaces are not only valuable to a community regarding its aesthetic and property values but also provide space for recreation and physical activity, improve mental health, and create a sense of community; and,

WHEREAS, from having the privilege to take a walk in nature during lunch, we can not be more lucky to have the Maplewood Memorial Park Conservancy board and volunteers as partners in not only maintaining but improving Maplewood Memorial Park and providing educational programs about history and nature and engaging residents with events such as Painters in the Park; and,

WHEREAS, the public-private partnership between Maplewood Township and the Maplewood Memorial Park Conservancy began in 2017, and since then, together, through grants and donations, has raised almost \$50,000, which has resulted in over 650 shrubs and perennial plants and 200 trees added to the park; and,

WHEREAS, the Conservancy has undertaken many restoration and enhancement projects to restore the park to its former glory and beauty with thoughtful respect to the historical design and plantings. These projects, designed by Conservancy landscape designer Jennifer C. Ryan, include the multi-phase Flagpole Hill restoration along Dunnell, the Vietnam Memorial redesign, the dedication plaque at the entrance to the park, and multiple restorations along the river and park borders; and,

WHEREAS, without the fundraising, talent, and devoted volunteer labor, the Township would never have been able to restore the park to the extent the Conservancy has in this brief time; and,

WHEREAS, the Conservancy has dedicated countless hours of volunteer time planning projects and

installing plantings, and has developed a comprehensive master plan to guide the replacement of shrubs and trees.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED I, on behalf of the Township Committee of Maplewood, do hereby proclaim 2024 as the year of the Maplewood Memorial Park Conservancy. Together, for seven years this November, the Township and Conservancy have done great things, and as the park approaches its 93rd year, we look forward to working with them as we approach its 100th anniversary.

Maplewood Clerk

Mayor of Maplewood