

NAME _____ DATE _____

The Morrisville town council has an important decision to make. A citizen recently donated 250 acres (101 hectares) of nearby land called Morris Woods to the town. There are no zoning restrictions on Morris Woods, and the town council has to decide what to do with it. Morris Woods is completely covered with forest, including about 100 acres of large trees that are over 150 years old. A stream flows through the forest and it has good places for swimming. Deer, raccoons, frogs, salamanders, foxes, many different birds, and other animals live in the forest.

Morrisville is a medium-sized town. Many of the residents work for a local forest products company, but a lot of people also work at a computer-parts plant in a neighboring town. Others work at the schools, the library, and all sorts of small businesses.

The council is faced with three different options, supported by three different citizen groups:

**Option 1: Keep Morris Woods Natural**

Save Our Woods: We are concerned about the long-term health of our forestland. We want the town to keep Morris Woods as a nature park, with hiking and biking trails for people to enjoy. This option would preserve the forest for the future and provide residents with a wilderness area close to home.

**Option 2: Sell Morris Woods to Simpson Tree Farm**

Jump for Jobs: We are interested in increasing job prospects in Morrisville. We want the town to sell Morris Woods to Simpson Tree Farm, the local forest products company. Simpson Tree Farm has agreed to sustainably manage Morris Woods as a working forest to provide local jobs and lumber for local construction, while caring for the land and protecting animal habitats.

**Option 3: Sell Morris Woods to Build Homes**

More for Morrisville: We believe that Morrisville needs to grow in order to thrive. We want the town to sell the Morris Woods to the Morrisville Development Company to build new homes. More houses would mean more property taxes to help pay for schools, the library, and other services.

What should the town council do?



CAREER CORNER

FORESTERS manage forests for public and private use. They may develop short- and long-term plans for the forest. Their plans may include planting, growing, and monitoring trees for healthy growth and making sure forest practices meet environmental regulations.

I LOVE MY
GREEN JOB!