

**TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD
COUNTY OF CAMDEN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #2024-119

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD REAFFIRMING OUR
OBJECTION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION'S PROPOSED PLAN TO IMPLEMENT A NEW VEHICLE USAGE
MAP AND ROAD CLOSURES**

WHEREAS Wharton State Forest is the largest state forest in New Jersey at approximately 123,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Pine Barren municipalities, and throughout the state, have enjoyed unfettered access to the elaborate system of roads since the land officially became Wharton State Forest in 1954 and even will before its official designation; and

WHEREAS, regardless if visitors are driving to get to a hike, a hunting or fishing expedition or just going for a drive through the forest, they need access to the various roads within Wharton; and

WHEREAS, the most comprehensive baseline maps of roads are documented in the USGS Topographical maps and were adopted as the baseline by the Pinelands Commission in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Waterford previously passed resolutions opposing Wharton road closures and opposing the a proposed permit fee program; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection received public comment and feedback that was overwhelmingly in opposition to the closures; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Visiting Vehicle Use Map is nearly identical to the failed 2015 Wharton Motorized Access Plan; and

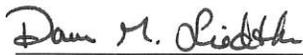
NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Waterford strongly oppose implementation of the proposed Wharton State Forest Visiting Vehicle Use Map as it will effectively deny access of law-abiding citizens to many areas of Wharton State Forest and will do very little to reduce or prevent the type of damage that has been caused by a small minority to certain specific areas of the forest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Township urges the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor to take whatever action is necessary to discontinue the Wharton State Forest Visiting Vehicle Use Map and instead adopt the map adopted by the Pinelands Commission in 2017.

This Resolution shall be circulated immediately to all State Senate and Assembly Officials, the Office of the Governor and all local County Officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted: March 13, 2024

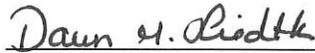

Dawn M. Liedtka, RMC
Township Clerk


Thomas Giangiulio
Mayor

	DONEY	JONES-FREITAG	THOMPSON	WADE	GIANGIULIO
YES	X	X	X	X	X
ABSTAIN					
NO					
ABSENT					

CERTIFICATION

I, Dawn M. Liedtka, Township Clerk of the Township of Waterford, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Mayor and Township Committee at its Regular Meeting held on March 13, 2024, at the Waterford Township Municipal Building, 2131 Auburn Avenue, Atco, New Jersey.


Dawn M. Liedtka, RMC
Township Clerk