

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES
THAT THE MUNICIPALITY EXPRESSES ITS OPPOSITION TO THE ADOPTION OF A
WHARTON STATE FOREST VISITING VEHICLE USE MAP

WHEREAS, Wharton State Forest (“Wharton”) 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 well 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 proposed Visiting Vehicle Use Map is nearly identical to the failed 2015 Wharton Motorized Access Plan; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Winslow strongly opposes 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 and will do very little to reduce or prevent the type of damage that has been caused by a small minority to certain special areas of the forest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township urges the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governing 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.

BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, New Jersey State President Nicholas Scutari, New Jersey State Republican Leader Anthony Bucco, New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, New Jersey Assembly Republican Leader John DiMaio, and our State Senator and Assembly members.

ADOPTED: March 12, 2024

Marie D. Lawrence, Mayor

Lisa L. Dority, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Winslow at a regularly scheduled meeting on **March 12, 2024** held at the Winslow Township Municipal Building.

R-2024-_____