

RESOLUTION 113-2024

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MULLICA
OBJECTING 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 fettered access to the elaborate system of roads since the land officially become Wharton State Forest in 1954, and even before its official designation; and

WHEREAS, regardless of 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 various roads within Wharton; and

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

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the governing body of the Township of Mullica to oppose Wharton road closures and the 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.

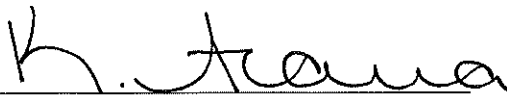
NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Mullica, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, strongly opposes implementation of the proposed Wharton State Forest Visiting Vehicle Use Map as it will effectively deny access of law-abiding citizens to many areas of Wharton State 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.

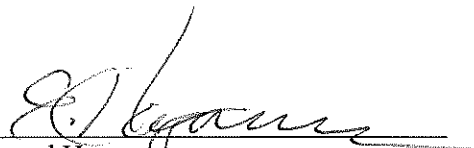
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be circulated to all State Senate and Assembly Officials, the Office of the Governor and all local County Officials.

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

ADOPTED: April 16, 2024




Krystel M. Arana
Municipal Clerk



Edward Hagaman
Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Krystel M. Arana, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Mullica, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution 113-2024 was adopted by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Mullica at a Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Arana", written over a horizontal line.

Krystel M. Arana
Municipal Clerk