

**TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION
2025 – 219**

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON
APPROVING A JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH THE BOROUGH OF HIGH BRIDGE FOR
THE NASSAU AND SPRINGSIDE TRAILS SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Borough of High Bridge (“Borough”) acquired the Solitude-Nassau tracts (Block 4.07, Lot 1; Block 37, Lot 1; and Block 40, Lots 2 & 11.01) through a Declaration of Taking in 2001, which lands contain approximately 128.74 acres; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Borough conveyed a 40.00-acre conservation restriction to NJDEP as part of the Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program (hereafter “EIFP”), which 40.00 acres are divided between 16.15 acres in Block 4.07, Lot 1, and 23.85 acres in Block 40, Lot 2; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of High Bridge acquired the Wetteland tract (Block 40, Lot 4) in 2002, which tract contains 36.00 acres. Simultaneous with the acquisition, a conservation restriction was placed on that lot in favor of NJDEP in exchange for NJDEP funds from Green Acres and the Office of Natural Resource Restoration; and

WHEREAS, concurrent with the Borough’s acquisition of the Wetteland tract, the Township of Clinton (“Township”) purchased the Brookside tract with funding from NJDEP, which tract is adjacent to the Wetteland tract and provides continuity between the Township’s Foran Fields and Lake Solitude in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, certain hiking and off-road bicycling trails pre-date acquisition by the Borough and the Township, and some work began to develop the area known as the Nassau Trail system; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong off-road bicycling community within the Borough and the Township; and

WHEREAS, cycling is considered an active recreational activity that is prohibited under the conservation restrictions unless NJDEP gives its express permission, which permission (also known as “Discretionary Consent” in Section VII(D) of the 2007 Deed of Conservation Restriction) can be gained through the NJDEP’s approval of a Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and Township’s envisioned joint Management Plan would “...not violate the purposes of this [2007] Conservation Restriction”, and “either enhance or do not impair Conservation Values associated with the EIFP Conservation Restriction Area”, and

“existing forested areas shall be maintained and/or improved... including watershed protection and the control of non-native, invasive plant species”; and

WHEREAS, this Management Plan would apply to that part of the Solitude-Nassau acquisition and the Springside/Wetteland acquisition that contains the “Nassau & Springside Trails System” within the Borough of High Bridge, specifically Block 37, Lot 1 and Block 40, Lots 2, 4 & 11.01, as well as the Springside acquisition within the Township of Clinton, specifically Block 33, Lots 2, 4 & 9; and

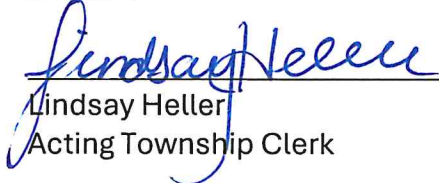
WHEREAS, the Management Plan would apply to all areas described above, not just those areas encumbered by the EIFP Conservation Restriction, in order to provide a holistic approach to land and trail management within this area; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the EIFP and the recreation activities favored by the Borough and the Township for this area are compatible, given a reasonable amount of planning, execution, and monitoring; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The plan entitled “MANAGEMENT PLAN, Nassau & Springside Trails System,” prepared by Gracie & Harrigan Consulting Foresters, Inc., dated August 28, 2025, is hereby approved.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ATTEST:

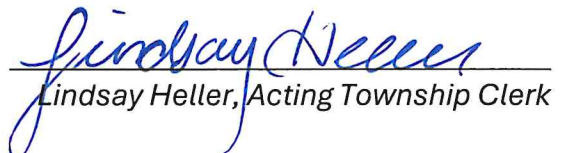

Lindsay Heller
Acting Township Clerk


Bill Glaser
Council President

Adopted: September 24, 2025

CERTIFICATION

I, Lindsay Heller, Acting Clerk of the Township of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Clinton at its regular meeting held on September 24, 2025.


Lindsay Heller, Acting Township Clerk