

A RESOLUTION NO. 19-32

Supporting the Appomattox River Trail through the Tri-Cities Region.

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River was designated a State Scenic River in 1977; and the designation was extended in both 1998 and 2011 to include 19.2 miles of river from 100 feet below the Brasfield Dam to the confluence with the James River passing through the jurisdictions of Chesterfield County, Dinwiddie County, the City of Petersburg, the City of Colonial Heights, Prince George County, and the City of Hopewell; and

WHEREAS, the State Scenic River designation recognizes the natural beauty and the historical significance of the Appomattox River; and

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River borders approximately 9.6 miles of the City of Colonial Heights; and phases 1 through 3 of the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail System are complete, consisting of approximately 1.5 miles of paved trail, and phases 4 and 5, consisting of approximately 4,250 feet, are scheduled for completion by 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Colonial Heights Appomattox River Trail will connect existing City assets such as Roslyn Landing Park and Appamatuck Park, and is consistent with previously approved concepts for the Appomattox River and the City of Colonial Heights Comprehensive Plan and will be a part of this greater regional system; and

WHEREAS, studies and plans have been prepared since the early 1990s by the Crater Planning District Commission ("PDC") and various state and federal partners; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) was established in 2000 in partnership with the Crater PDC and all six jurisdictions of the Lower Appomattox River with the mission of working in partnership with communities to conserve and protect the Appomattox River for all to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the Cameron Foundation funded the development of the Appomattox River Master Plan and Signage Plan that was completed in 2017 and adopted by FOLAR and the Crater PDC in the same year; and

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River Trail will be a 22 mile shared use path serving walkers, bicyclists, the physically challenged, and other non-motorized users; and

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River Trail system will also provide river access for paddle craft, swimming, and wading, as well as places for fishing, picnicking and other passive recreation pursuits; and

WHEREAS, the history and habitat of the Appomattox River will be preserved and interpreted, serving as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages; and

WHEREAS, when completed, the Appomattox River Trail will link the six jurisdictions along the river and increase transportation options while improving air quality, reducing roadway congestion, offering boating and fishing access, and encouraging ecotourism; and

WHEREAS, bicycle and pedestrian facilities can help curb a national epidemic of chronic obesity and weight related diseases by providing a safer alternative than travel by car; and

WHEREAS, bicycle, pedestrian, and water activities cultivate economic development and create jobs, attract events and visitors to our region, connect communities, and encourage a better and more enjoyable and equitable quality of life for all citizens; and

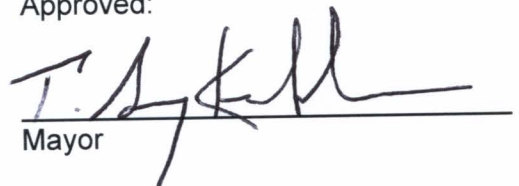
WHEREAS, when complete, the Appomattox River Trail will provide connection to other nationally and regionally significant trails, such as the East Coast Greenway, the Ashland to Petersburg Trail, and the Capital Trail; and

WHEREAS, part of the Appomattox River Trail runs through the City of Colonial Heights;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS:

1. That Council hereby supports the Appomattox River Trail Master Plan and Signage Plan and commends the visionary approach of past planning efforts.
2. That the City of Colonial Heights is committed to working with FOLAR and the localities of the Crater Planning District Commission and participating with national organizations to create a connected regional asset, thus setting an example for other counties and cities.
3. That the City of Colonial Heights is committed to working with our state and congressional representatives to support legislation promoting open space protection and active, human powered transportation facilities for the betterment of our city, region, state and country.

Approved:


Mayor

Attest:


City Clerk

I certify that the above resolution was:

Adopted on July 9, 2019
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Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 Abstain: 0

The Honorable Michael A. Cherry, Councilman:

Absent

The Honorable Kenneth B. Frenier, Councilman:

Aye

The Honorable W. Joe Green, Jr., Councilman:

Aye

The Honorable John E. Piotrowski, Councilman:

Aye

The Honorable John T. Wood, Councilman:

Aye

The Honorable Elizabeth G. Luck, Vice Mayor:

Aye

The Honorable T. Gregory Kochuba, Mayor:

Aye

Pamela B. Wallace
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Hyun P. J. Park, III
City Attorney