



Resolution 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 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 flows through the Virginia's Gateway Region; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the National Park Service and the Crater Planning District Commission convened a series of meetings to develop the Appomattox River Corridor Plan funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program that recommended the river corridor should be used as both a land and water trail; and in 2002 a study by the Virginia Tech Community Design Assistance Center further refined the concepts. and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) was established in 2001 in partnership with the Crater Planning District Commission 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 Planning District Commission in the same year; and

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

WHEREAS the Appomattox River Trail system will also provide river access for self-propelled watercraft, 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 safe alternative than travel by car; and

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WHEREAS, bicycle, pedestrian and water activities cultivate economic development, support the creation of 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 connections to other nationally and regionally significant trails such as the East Coast Greenway, the Ashland to Petersburg Trail and the Capital Trail; and

WHEREAS, the entire Appomattox River Trail will run through Virginia's Gateway Region; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's Gateway Region is a private, nonprofit organization that is publicly and privately funded to facilitate new business opportunities, work with existing businesses, advance resources that will enhance the economic viability of the region, and foster regional cooperation among the public and private entities that are involved in economic development activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Virginia' Gateway Region Board, this 1st day of August 2019, hereby supports the Appomattox River Trail Master Plan and Signage Plan and commends the visionary approach of past planning efforts.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Virginia's Gateway Region 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 our region.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED that Virginia's Gateway Region 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 Virginia's Gateway Region, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Victor K. Branch, Board Chairman

Virginia's Gateway Region Board of Directors

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