

Resolution

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 to recognize the natural beauty and the historical significance of the river; and

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River comprises nearly four miles of the northern border of the City of Hopewell; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) was established in 2000 in partnership with the Crater Planning District Commission and all 6 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 Appomattox River Master Plan and Signage Plan that was adopted by FOLAR and the Crater Planning District Commission in 2017 to serve as the regional guide to create 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 6 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

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, the Appomattox River Trail will run through the City of Hopewell and serve as the eastern trail head for the trail system and existing City assets such as the Riverside Park Stormwater Greenway, Hopewell City Marina, Hopewell Riverwalk, City Park, and the Petersburg National Battlefield at City Point will all be a part of this greater regional system; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hopewell City Council, this 11th day of June, 2019, hereby supports the Appomattox River Trail Master Plan and Signage Plan and commends the visionary approach of past planning efforts and 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/cities. Furthermore, the City of Hopewell 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 county/city, region, state and country.




Ronnie L. Arrington, City Clerk