

RESOLUTION
Appomattox River Trail

Subject:

Resolution supporting the Appomattox River Trail through the Tri-Cities Region

DRAFT Resolution Language:

WHEREAS, the Appomattox River was designated a State Scenic River in 1977 and the designation was extended in 1998 and 2011 and now includes 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 comprises 10 miles of the northern border of the Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District; 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 that recommend 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 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 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 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 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 increased physical activity; and

WHEREAS, bicycle and pedestrian facilities can help curb a national epidemic of chronic obesity and weight related diseases by providing a safe alternative to 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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District, this X day of X month 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 the District is committed to working FOLAR and the other localities of the Crater Planning District Commission and participating with national organizations to create a connected regional asset thus setting an example for other localities.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED that the District is committed to working with our state and congressional representatives to support legislation and funding to promote open space protection and active, human powered transportation facilities for the betterment of our county/city, region, state and country.