

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE WITHLACOOCHEE
AND LITTLE RIVER WATER TRAIL
FOR THE CITY OF ADEL, GEORGIA**

WHEREAS, Adel is situated between Bear Creek, which runs in the Little River on the west; and

WHEREAS, Adel has convenient boating and fishing access at seven landings on the Little River in Cook County and at Ray City Landing on GA 37 on the Withlacoochee River; and

WHEREAS, the City of Adel website notes, "REED BINGHAM STATE PARK, located about six miles from the interstate, is a sprawling state park that stretches from Cook into Colquitt County and surrounds a 375-acre lake. In addition to fishing, the park offers visitors scenic hikes through the southern Georgia wilderness" and

WHEREAS, the Little River and the Withlacoochee River are described in various guidebooks as "Intimate, shaded in its norther reaches, mysterious in its beauty", with abundant wildlife, limestone shoals, and sandbars; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Adel value the natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities afforded by the Little and Withlacoochee Rivers and their watersheds such as fishing, swimming, boating and birding; and

WHEREAS, the citizens value the Withlacoochee and Little Rivers for water quality and habitat protection; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City will greatly benefit from the recreational and natural experiences provided by a water trail or blueway; and

WHEREAS, the Little and Withlacoochee River watersheds also include creeks, lakes, ponds, swamps, and wetlands that can be included in maps, brochures, and guides for the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail; and

WHEREAS, existing hiking and biking trails can be linked to the Water Trail to encourage more multi-purpose participation; and

WHEREAS, this water trail is consistent with the comprehensive land use plan of Adel and Cook County regarding establishing blueway (water trail) corridors, assisting in river cleanups, and promoting and protecting Reed Bingham State Park; and

WHEREAS, WWALS Watershed Coalition (WWALS) holds the annual BIG Little River Paddle Race at Reed Bingham State Park; and

WHEREAS, WWALS holds frequent outings on the rivers, and every outing is a cleanup; and

WHEREAS, the economy of the City will benefit from visitors to the Water Trail, and a Water Trail is a feature of quality of life that is attractive to businesses and employees and so may contribute to the economic development of the county; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Adel and visitors from throughout the State of Georgia and the United States have for more than twenty (20) years regularly and openly enjoyed and exercised a right of passage by boat on the Little and Withlacoochee Rivers as they travel past Adel, thereby establishing a public easement of passage on the river; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Adel have indicated their support for the water trail at Adel City Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City has repeatedly supported parks and recreation with funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Adel, Georgia;

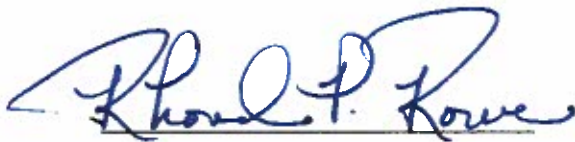
Section 1: The concept of the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail as outlined by the website <http://www.wvals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail> is approved and hereby incorporated by reference; and

Section 2: That the public easement of passage established by more than twenty (20) years of regular and open travel by boat on the Little and Withlacoochee Rivers past Adel is hereby recognized and accepted by the Council on behalf of the citizens of Adel, and visitors from throughout the State of Georgia and the United States; and

Section 3: That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption; and

Section 4: That we hereby direct each department in the City to work individually, together, and with other governments and organizations to support and implement the water trail.

Passed and Adopted by the City Council of Adel, Georgia this 16th day of January, 2018.



Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk



Buddy Duke, Mayor