

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

WHEREAS, the Little River and the Withlacoochee River run less than six miles west and six miles east of Hahira, Georgia, with convenient boating and fishing access at Folsom Bridge and Hagan Bridge, both on Georgia Highway 122; and

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

WHEREAS, the citizens of Hahira 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 such as Franks Creek, as well as lakes, ponds, swamps, sinks, 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 Hahira and Lowndes County](#) regarding:

- II. Issues and Opportunities, 3. Community Wellness, Opportunities:
 - “Increased pedestrian/bicycle facilities and recreational facilities (parks, trails, dog parks, improved public river/fishing access) will help encourage healthier, active lifestyles.”
 - “Greater promotion of environmental clean-up, through organizations and programs such as Keep Lowndes/Valdosta Beautiful (KLVB), WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS), Adopt-aHighway, Adopt-a-Stream, Rivers Alive, and the school systems, will address litter and pollution challenges. ”
- V. Community Policies, 3. Wellness:
 - “3.4.3. An active, healthy lifestyle should be promoted through livable community urban design and development patterns, including hiking, running, and biking trails connecting urban and rural areas with parks and with water trails along our creeks and rivers.”
 - In 6. Natural Resources, Opportunities: “Promote education and awareness of water resources, importance of quality and quantity of water, historical resources, blueways, and boat landing locations (e.g. on the Withlacoochee, Little, and Alapaha Rivers).”
- V. Community Policies, 5. Land Use:
 - “5.3.4. Development patterns should be promoted that encourage walkability and integrate green spaces as well as both passive and active recreational areas, including hiking, running, and biking trails connected to parks and to water trails along the creeks and rivers.”

- As well as other passages; 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 Hahira 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 Hahira, thereby establishing a public easement of passage on the river; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tift, Colquitt, Brooks, Cook, Berrien, and Lowndes Counties, Georgia, as well as Madison and Hamilton Counties, Florida, all share in this valuable resource and most have provided for access to one or both of the Withlacoochee or Little Rivers and to other streams or waterbodies in its watershed; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Hahira have indicated their support for the water trail at Hahira 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 Hahira, Georgia;

Section 1: The concept of the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail as outlined by the website <http://www.wwals.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 River past Hahira is hereby recognized and accepted by the Council on behalf of the citizens of Hahira, 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 CITY COUNCIL OF HAHIRA, GEORGIA, this 1st day of February , 2018.

By: _____

Attest: _____