

**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