

**WHEREAS**, this water trail is consistent with the [comprehensive land use plan of Lowndes County](#) regarding:

- II. Issues and Opportunities, 3. Community Wellness, Opportunities:
  - “Greater promotion of environmental clean-up, through organizations and programs such as Keep Lowndes/Valdosta Beautiful (KLVB), WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS), Adopt-a-Highway, 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 paddle and hiking outings on the rivers, and every outing is a cleanup; and

**WHEREAS**, the economy of the County 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 Lowndes County 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 and through Lowndes County, thereby establishing a public easement of passage on the river; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of 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 Lowndes County have indicated their support for the water trail at outings on One Mile Branch, the Withlacoochee River, and the Little River, as well as at Lowndes County Commission meetings; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Lowndes County Public Works and the Lowndes County Manager have agreed to make a pair of directional signs to go on each road leading to one of those WLRWT landings in Lowndes County; and

**WHEREAS**, many of those road signs placed by Public Works will be in place before Paddle Georgia bring several hundred paddlers to WLRWT landings in Lowndes County;