

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT
THE ALAPAHA RIVER WATER TRAIL (ARWT)**

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOWNDES, GEORGIA DRAFT of May 12, 2019

WHEREAS, the Alapaha River flows across the eastern boundary of Lowndes County from north to south; and

WHEREAS, the Alapaha River is still “unspoiled, wild, and scenic” as depicted in the August 1979 Soil Survey of Lowndes County, Georgia, being described in various guidebooks as “Jungle-like.” “luxurious,” with “A+” scenery of “exotic vegetation” and “dark reddish-brown waters.” with abundant wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Lowndes County value the natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities afforded by the Alapaha River and its watershed such as fishing, swimming, boating, and birding; and

WHEREAS, the citizens value the Alapaha River for water quality and habitat protection; and

WHEREAS, half of the County is in the Alapaha River Watershed, with the divide between the Alapaha and Withlacoochee River watersheds running roughly down Bemiss Road in the north part of the county and I-75 in the south part; and

WHEREAS, the Alapaha River watershed also includes many lakes and ponds such as Grand Bay that can be included in maps, brochures, and guides for the Alapaha 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, WWALS holds frequent paddle and hiking outings on the rivers, creeks, and lakes, and every outing is a cleanup; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Lowndes County have indicated their support for the water trail at Lowndes County Commission meetings and outings at Grand Bay and on the Alapaha River; 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 Atkinson, Berrien, Lanier, Lowndes, and Echols Counties, Georgia, and Hamilton County, Florida all share in this valuable resource and have provided for access to the Alapaha River and to lakes and other streams in its watershed; 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 Alapaha River as it travels through Lowndes County and along its boundaries, thereby establishing a public easement of passage on the river; and