

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEEP RIVER STATE PARK TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Deep River flowing through Chatham County is considered nationally significant for its biological resources, including globally rare species of fish and mussels, and is renowned for its scenic bluffs, rock outcrops, high quality floodplain forests, and many features of historical interest; and,

WHEREAS, the Deep River is popular with paddlers and fishermen and has considerable potential to support recreational uses and to attract tourism to the five-county region through which the river flows; and,

WHEREAS, the Deep River should be protected for the use and enjoyment of present and future citizens of Chatham County and their visitors; and,

WHEREAS, a multi-county Deep River protection and recreation project could take the form of a land-based and paddle trail, and could include the river and its tributaries, beginning in Guilford County and continuing through Randolph, Moore, and Chatham counties to the confluence of the Deep River and the Haw River near Moncure in Lee County.


WHEREAS, this trail could become the backbone of an extended regional trails system with connecting trails to Greensboro, Asheboro, the NC Zoological Park, and Jordan Lake, and could perhaps continue down the Cape Fear River to Raven Rock State Park and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, the trail could be implemented as a partnership with local governments, interested organizations and landowners, but participation in the project would be voluntary and private property rights would be respected; and,

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Deep River State Park Trail as a unit of the North Carolina State Parks System would unify regional efforts to protect the river and enhance its recreational use, and would enable the NC Division of Parks and Recreation to facilitate and coordinate a multi-governmental approach to the planning, land acquisition, development and management of the Deep River State Park Trail; and,

WHEREAS, legislation must be passed by the North Carolina General Assembly for the Deep River State Park Trail to be included as a unit of the NC State Parks System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners endorses and recommends the establishment by the NC General Assembly of the Deep River State Park Trail as a unit of the NC State Parks System, and pledges to be an active partner in future efforts to plan and implement the trail.



Carl Thompson, Chairman

ATTEST:



Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board