



## 2023 YEAR OF THE TRAIL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Chatham County's natural beauty is critical to its residents' quality of life, health, and economic wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the trails that span across our community are an integral part of the recreational and transportation possibilities of our area and promote an enjoyment of scenic beauty by our residents and our visitors; and

WHEREAS, the parks, greenways, trails and natural areas in our community are welcoming to all and provide a common ground for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to access our rich and diverse natural, cultural, and historic resources; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County's natural assets and resources are integral to disaster recovery and resiliency to climate change for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County's nature trails vary from trails along the Haw, Deep, and Rocky Rivers, Jordan Lake State Park, American Tobacco Trail, trails within parks and throughout communities from natural surface, paved, equestrian trails, and paddle trails; and

WHEREAS, trails offer quality-of-life benefits to all as expressions of local community character and pride, as outdoor workshops for science education, as tools for economic revitalization, as free resources for healthy recreation, as accessible alternative transportation, and as sites for social and cultural events; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County's investment in trails as a stakeholder for trails along the Haw and Deep River, owns and operates a portion of the American Tobacco Trail, and has joined forces with Kids in Parks by installing a TRACK trail located in our Southwest District Park; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly designated 2023 as the Year of the Trail in North Carolina to promote and celebrate the state's extensive network of trails that showcase our state's beauty, vibrancy and culture; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is known as the "Great Trails State;"

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim 2023 as "THE YEAR OF THE TRAIL" in Chatham County, and commend its observance to all people.

