

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Amanda Robertson, Chair
Franklin Gomez Flores, Vice Chair
David Delaney
Karen Howard
Katie Kenlan

COUNTY MANAGER: Bryan Thompson

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Haw River Trail

WHEREAS, the Haw River State Trail is one of North Carolina's most treasured natural resources, following 80 miles from Haw River State Park on the Rockingham County/Guilford County Line to Jordan Lake Recreation Area in Chatham County, supporting diverse wildlife, rich cultural history, and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, local governments, conservation organizations, state agencies, and community partners joined together to establish the Haw River Trail Partnership, envisioning a paddle and land trail that would protect the river corridor while expanding public access and outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Haw River Trail was closely linked with the development of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, establishing the Haw River Trail as an official segment of North Carolina's statewide flagship trail and strengthening its role in connecting communities, parks, and public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Haw River Trail has grown over the past 20 years into a regional asset spanning Alamance, Guilford, Rockingham, Orange and Chatham Counties, connecting communities through hiking, paddling, fishing, viewing, and environmental education; and

WHEREAS, the Haw River Trail has served as a model of cooperative conservation, with local governments, landowners, volunteers, and nonprofit partners working collaboratively to protect land, enhance water quality, and create meaningful outdoor experiences for people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Haw River Trail has contributed significantly to economic vitality across the region by attracting tourism, supporting local businesses, and strengthening the quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, the Trail's success has been made possible through dedication of countless volunteers, partner agencies, conservation advocates, and community members who have invested time, resources, and passion into protecting and activating this natural corridor; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 The North Carolina General Assembly authorized the Haw River Trail's addition to the State Trails System; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the Haw River Trail Partnership, a milestone that celebrates two decades of progress, partnership, and shared commitment to conservation, recreation, and community connection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize the 20th Anniversary Year of the Haw River Trail in North Carolina, and encourage all residents to explore, enjoy, and support the continued stewardship of this extraordinary natural, historical and recreational resource.

Adopted, this the 20th day of January 2026.

Integrity – Respect – Collaboration – Community – Equity – Service – Accountability

Amanda Robertson, Chair

ATTEST:

Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board