



Established 1771

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY MANAGER

Renee Paschal

P. O. Box 1809, Pittsboro, NC 27312-1809 • Phone: (919) 542-8200

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners SUPPORTING THE LOWER HAW TRAILS PLAN

WHEREAS, the Lower Haw River State Natural Area (State Natural Area) is a unit of the North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation (NC State Parks) system consisting of about 1,025 acres located along both sides of the Haw River in Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, this State Natural Area is designated by the NC Natural Heritage Program to be Nationally Significant for rare aquatic species and Statewide Significant for riverbank natural areas; and

WHEREAS, this State Natural Area serves to preserve and protect areas of aesthetic and ecological value and water quality while offering opportunities for limited types of low-impact outdoor recreation to the public; and

WHEREAS, although informal use of this State Natural Area has occurred for years, this State Natural Area is considered undeveloped by NC State Parks since there are no official land or paddle trails or amenities; and

WHEREAS, NC State Parks expressed a desire for a trails plan to guide development of official public access in this State Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, in its role of assisting NC State Parks, Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area was awarded a grant from the Triangle Community Foundation's Support for Places Awareness Program to develop this trails master plan to provide a structured process for planning future sustainable development of official hiking and paddle trails and amenities by balancing conservation and recreational use; and

WHEREAS, a Lower Haw Trails Plan was developed by Recreation Resources Service in partnership with Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area and NC State Parks and incorporates data gathered about the site and input from stakeholders and the public; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted the Comprehensive Plan in November 2017, which places a high priority on conservation of natural areas, provision of recreational opportunities and access to open space, regional trail connections, and improved river access; and

WHEREAS, development of official land and paddle trails in the State Natural Area is an important segment in the Haw River Trail Corridor proposed in the Haw River Trail Partnership Memorandum of Understanding signed by Chatham County in 2006 and renewed in 2011; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners supports the Lower Haw Trails Plan and urges NC State Parks to adopt this Plan as a priority implementation project to be funded by the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF.) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be forwarded to NC State Parks, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, North Carolina General Assembly leadership, our local legislative delegation and Governor Roy Cooper.

Adopted by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on August 20, 2018

Diana Hales, Chair
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners