

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE SOUTH RIVER WATER TRAIL  
FOR THE COUNTY OF NEWTON, GA

Recognizing the South River Watershed Alliance; developing and established water trails in Georgia; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Newton County value its natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities afforded by the South River; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the County will greatly benefit from the recreational and natural experiences provided by the water trail; and

WHEREAS, the South River Water Trail plans to make a 'hiking trail' on water as part of a growing statewide network of water trails that will provide access points for fishing, swimming, paddling, picnicking, and bird watching, which will open the door for people to enjoy scarce, valuable, and underutilized natural and public amenities; and

WHEREAS, there will be educational, scenic, cultural, and historic sites along or in close proximity to the South River, and greater use and enjoyment of all Georgia rivers will ensure a healthy future for surrounding ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Newton County has participated with (DeKalb, Rockdale, and Henry Counties to study and evaluate this water trail; and

WHEREAS, the South River Water Trail will extend 46 miles along the South River with four potential access or take-out points, and will add to a network of 15 established Georgia water trails stretching 1,055 miles; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Georgia and visitors from throughout the United States have for more than twenty (20) years regularly and openly enjoyed and exercised a right of passage by boat on Georgia's rivers, thereby establishing a public easement of passage on Georgia's rivers; and

WHEREAS, in Georgia alone, more than \$23 billion are spent on outdoor recreation, and the South River Water Trail and Georgia's 15 water trails would continue to contribute to the outdoor recreation industry that provides 6.1 million jobs in the United States, \$39.9 billion in federal tax revenue, and \$39.7 billion in state and local tax revenue.

WHEREAS, Newton County affirms and supports the water trail, beginning in DeKalb County and ending at the confluence with Jackson Lake to be of value and benefit to the citizens of Newton County and its neighboring counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Newton County, Georgia that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk is authorized and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the South River Watershed Alliance and water trail partnerships in Georgia.

S. R. 852

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