

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

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

WHEREAS, the citizens value the YELLOW River for water quality and habitat protection; and

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

WHEREAS, providing access to the river is a desired goal of the County; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of NEWTON County and visitors from throughout the State of Georgia and the United States have for more than twenty (20) years regularly and openly enjoyed and exercised a right of passage by boat on the YELLOW River as it travels through NEWTON County, thereby establishing a public easement of passage on the river; and

WHEREAS, NEWTON County has participated with (Rockdale, Dekalb, Gwinnett) to study and evaluate this water trail; and

WHEREAS, this water trail is consistent with the comprehensive land use plan of NEWTON County for recreational facilities for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the County has previously supported activities that promote recreation on the river and has been a partner in the feasibility study for the water trail; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of NEWTON County have indicated their support for the water trail at (meetings or other events); and

WHEREAS, NEWTON County affirms and supports the water trail, beginning in Gwinnett 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.

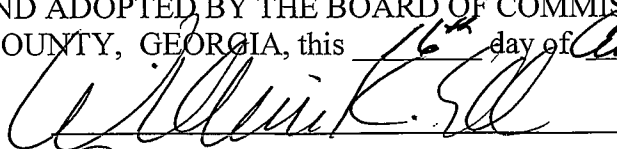
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioner of NEWTON County, Georgia;

Section 1: That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption; and

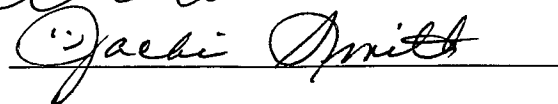
Section 2: That we hereby direct each department in the County to work together and separately to implement this plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSION OF  
NEWTONCOUNTY, GEORGIA, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 2016.

By:



Attest:



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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Newton County Board of Commissioners  
Covington, GA

August 9, 2016

As president of South River Watershed Alliance and on behalf of Debra Griffith, Yellow River Water Trail, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit for your consideration and approval the attached draft resolutions in support of the Yellow River Water Trail and South River Water Trail in Newton County. The jurisdictions through which these two rivers flow are important partners in this effort and play a central role in the success of both initiatives. Water trails strengthen connections that link downstream neighbors around a common goal - securing the future of our waterways and communities through working together.

Water trails are the water equivalent of a hiking trail that provides access points for recreational activities such as canoeing, kayaking, paddling, picnicking, and bird watching as well as provide access to educational, scenic, cultural, and historic sites along or in close proximity to the river. These activities will bring people into the area which will in turn attract businesses stimulating economic development.

Every opportunity I get, I remind anyone listening that the South River Water Trail is the future of the South River and believe the same is true of the Yellow River Water Trail and any river lucky enough to garner the type of community support required to make this endeavor a reality. Water is our most precious natural resource and urban areas are where most people live and rivers and streams are most threatened. The water trail designation will increase awareness and bring greater visibility to the Yellow and South Rivers. These water trails will provide recreational opportunities through canoeing and kayaking; environmental education and scenic, cultural, and historic venues for people to connect to these rivers and gain greater appreciation for their value. As more and more people are drawn to areas all along the rivers, prospects for economic development will significantly increase as well.

In 2012, there were about 600 water trails nationwide. According to a 2011 study by the Outdoor Industry Association, in Georgia alone, more than \$23 billion are spent on outdoor recreation, and the South River Water Trail and Georgia's 15 water trails will 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. These data confirm that water trails are a win-win any way we look at it.

I respectfully request that the Newton Commission take favorable action and approve the requested resolution of support for the South River Water Trail and Yellow River Water Trail. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Echols, Ph.D.  
President