

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND APPROVE THE BROAD RIVER WATER TRAIL

WHEREAS the Broad River flows across OGLETHORPE County from the northwest to the southeast;

WHEREAS the Broad River is one of Georgia's last free-flowing rivers and is known for its historical importance and relatively unspoiled nature, with numerous shoals and mild rapids as it winds through farmlands and forest lands to its confluence with the Savannah River at Clarke Hill Reservoir. The National Park Service, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Georgia Natural Heritage Program have all noted the pristine character of the Broad River and its outstanding ecological and recreational importance to Northeast Georgia.

WHEREAS the citizens of OGLETHORPE County value this outstanding natural resource, its clean and abundant water, the outdoor recreational opportunities afforded by the River, and protection of riverside habitat and protected watersheds;

WHEREAS the citizens of OGLETHORPE County have approved SPLOST funding and other county funding for recreational county facilities promoting parks and recreation, indicating their interest in and support of recreation, parks, and greenspace;

WHEREAS the citizens of OGLETHORPE County and visitors from throughout the State of Georgia and the United States have for more than twenty (20) years regularly and openly enjoyed the Broad River by boat as it travels through OGLETHORPE County;

WHEREAS the Broad River Water Trail promotes recreational use of the River in areas with public access and passage, and is consistent with the goals and recommendations of the OGLETHORPE County Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS the Watson Mill Bridge State Park, and existence of official and unofficial launch sites in the County and neighboring counties afford citizens access to the River, with many more sites in the planning stage;

WHEREAS the citizens of Elbert, Franklin, Lincoln, Madison, Oglethorpe, and Wilkes Counties all share in this valuable resource and have provided for River access;

WHEREAS the Broad River watershed consists of the land area drained by the Broad River and its main tributaries, the Hudson River and the North, Middle and South Forks of the Broad River, and includes the counties of Clarke, Banks, Elbert, Franklin, Habersham, Hart, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Oglethorpe, Stephens, and Wilkes;

WHEREAS numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations have worked throughout the years to protect and promote the Broad River;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of OGLETHORPE County, Georgia, that regular and open travel by boat and recreational use by the public of the Broad River in OGLETHORPE County is hereby recognized and accepted by the Board of Commissioners on behalf of the citizens of OGLETHORPE County, and visitors from

throughout the State of Georgia and the United States; and to the extent a public easement of passage has been established by prior usage, the County accepts dedication of such easement;

FURTHER that

- 1) The concept of the Broad River Water Trail as outlined by the website www.broadriverwatertrail.org, as it exists on the date hereinbelow, is approved and hereby incorporated by reference;
- 2) This Resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption;
- 3) We direct each department of County government to work individually, together, and with other governments and organizations to implement this Broad River Water Trail.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE OGLETHORPE COUNTY, GEORGIA, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THIS 6th DAY OF JANUARY, 2014.

So Resolved, Passed and Approved this 6th day of January, 2014, at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of OGLETHORPE County, Georgia .

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
OGLETHORPE COUNTY

By: Billy Pittard
Billy Pittard, Chairman

Attest: Amy Forrester
Amy Forrester, Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

W. V. Jeff 1/7/14
COUNTY ATTORNEY