

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 2019

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alister Perkinson, Parks Administrator

SUBJECT: Supporting the James River Heritage Trail

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) released a draft concept plan for the James River Heritage Trail, a proposed network of communities that share its traditions, history and lifestyle to foster sustainable recreation and stewardship of treasured landscapes and local waters, trails, and byways. The proposed trail is a braided network of land trails and river access extending from the Chesapeake Bay to river's headwaters in the Allegheny Mountains, and will promote ecotourism, environmental education, history, and active lifestyles.

DCR is soliciting feedback and support from the localities that reside along the trail corridor, and James City County already has a significant inventory of trails and water access along the proposed route. James City County Parks and Recreation manages 13 miles of trails along the James River and its tributaries, and multiple parks with boating access to the James River, the Powhatan Creek Blueway, and the Chickahominy River.

Support of the James River Heritage Trail will increase visibility of the County's existing offerings, promote tourism, and potentially result in funding for trail improvement and interpretive signage in the future.

Staff recommends approval of the attached resolution to support the James River Heritage Trail.

AP/md
JRHeritageTrl-mem

Attachment