

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CO-APPLICATION BETWEEN ASHE COUNTY AND THE NEW RIVER CONSERVANCY FOR A GREAT TRAILS STATE PROGRAM GRANT TO DEVELOP A PUBLIC RIVER ACCESS ON THE NORTH FORK OF THE NEW RIVER

WHEREAS, the North Fork of the New River is a valuable natural and recreational resource, and public access to this section of the river is limited; and

WHEREAS, the New River Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the New River while expanding responsible public access and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Ashe County and the New River Conservancy have a demonstrated record of successful collaboration, including the development of the NC Highway 163 River Access on the South Fork of the New River, which is now a well-utilized public facility; and

WHEREAS, the New River Conservancy has been awarded funding through the North Carolina Great Trails State Program to support the New River Paddle Trail Expansion, including acquisition and development of a new river access site at Deep Ford Road to be transferred to Ashe County for public use; and

WHEREAS, Ashe County desires to partner with the New River Conservancy as a co-applicant to support the construction of a much-needed public access point along the North Fork of the New River, expanding recreational opportunities, improving river safety, and supporting outdoor tourism and conservation efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ashe County Board of Commissioners that:

1. Ashe County hereby supports and agrees to serve as a co-applicant with the New River Conservancy for grant funding to develop a public river access point along the North Fork of the New River at Deep Ford Rd.
2. Ashe County affirms its intent to accept ownership, operation, and long-term maintenance of the river access site upon completion, consistent with grant requirements and applicable laws.
3. The Board recognizes the success of prior joint projects with the New River Conservancy, including the Highway 163 River Access, and supports continued collaboration to expand the New River Paddle Trail.
4. The Ashe County Manager or designee is authorized to execute documents and provide assurances necessary to support the grant application and project implementation, subject to Board approval as required.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Todd McNeill
Chair, Ashe County Board of Commissioners
ATTEST:
Missy Seivers
Clerk to the Board