



**RESOLUTION TITLE:     SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF THE SOUTH FORK  
PASSAGE STATE TRAIL AND ITS INCLUSION IN THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS SYSTEM**

- WHEREAS,     on March 18, 2025, Senate Bill 329 was filed with the North Carolina General Assembly to authorize the creation of the South Fork Passage State Trail and add it to the State Parks System; and,
- WHEREAS,     North Carolina's State Trails program offers abundant opportunities to experience some of the state's most magnificent landscapes; and,
- WHEREAS,     the South Fork Corridor, which runs from Catawba County through Lincoln County to Gaston County, uniquely ties our communities together; and,
- WHEREAS,     the South Fork of the Catawba River flows through Gaston County and is recognized for its significant historical, ecological, and recreational value, including its role in regional industrial history and proximity to landmarks such as Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Goat Island Park, and George Poston Park; and,
- WHEREAS,     the proposed South Fork Passage State Trail would span approximately 60 miles of interconnected paddle, hiking, and biking trails, including sections already established within Gaston County; and,
- WHEREAS,     the creation of the South Fork Passage State Trail would improve the quality of life for current residents and attract new economic opportunities to our community; and,
- WHEREAS,     the proposed trail project aligns with ongoing efforts in Gaston County to expand and improve outdoor recreation options for residents and visitors and supports the broader goals of the Carolina Thread Trail and local park initiatives.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners supports the creation and inclusion of the South Fork Passage State Trail in the North Carolina State Parks System, as it is intended to provide better connectivity and outdoor recreation opportunities for Gaston County residents and visitors.

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**I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:**

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