



# Suwannee River League of Cities

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October 12, 2016

Ms. Liz Sparks  
Paddling Trail Coordinator, Office of Greenways & Trails  
Division of Recreation & Parks  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Letter of Support for Designation of Suwannee River as National Water Trail

Dear Ms. Sparks,

On behalf of the Suwannee River Basin Outdoor Recreation Compact, I am delighted to lend our enthusiastic support to the efforts of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails application to the Department of the Interior for designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

The original Suwannee River Wilderness Trail (SRWT) was established in 2003 and has been an exemplary alliance of private and public partners coordinating innovative management practices to protect natural, historic and cultural resources. The SRWT begins at the town of White Springs and flows 171 miles through eight riparian counties to end at the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf of Mexico. Creation of the Suwannee National Water Trail will extend the river's designation northward to include the headwaters of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Georgia and will increase the distance of the trail for a total of 235 miles. Public partners in the state of Georgia are wholeheartedly supportive of this endeavor.

Abundant natural resources, rich history, and cultural heritage combined with endless recreation opportunities make the Suwannee River an outstanding candidate for this prestigious designation. National Water Trail designation will increase awareness of the river, provide economic benefits to local communities and provide an opportunity to educate the public about the significance of supporting conservation of natural resources.

We strongly support designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen B. Miller".

Helen B. Miller  
Chair, Suwannee River Basin Outdoor Recreation Compact  
President, Suwannee River League of Cities

Suwannee River League of Cities  
3200 Commonwealth Blvd; Suite 7  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

14 September 2016

Ms. Liz Sparks  
Paddling Trail Coordinator  
Office of Greenways & Trails  
Division of Recreation & Parks  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Letter of Support and Consent for Public Access

Dear Ms. Sparks,

I am contacting you as Chairman on behalf of Hamilton County TDC to enthusiastically support the efforts of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails application to the Department of the Interior for designating the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

The original Suwannee River Wilderness Trail (SRWT) was established in 2003 and has been an exemplary alliance of private and public partners coordinating innovative management practices to protect natural, historic and cultural resources. The SRWT begins at the town of White Springs and flows 171 miles through eight riparian counties to end at the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf of Mexico. Creation of the Suwannee National Water Trail will extend the river's designation northward to include the headwaters of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Georgia and will increase the distance of the trail for a total of 235 miles. Public partners in the state of Georgia are wholeheartedly supportive of this endeavor.

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The Suwannee River has multiple public boat access sites in Hamilton County that are encompassed by the scope of the project maintained by Hamilton County. We offer this support and approve of these sites being included in the requested designation with the understanding that they will not be restricted nor regulated in any manner by this requested designation.

We strongly support designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

Sincerely,

Randy Ogburn  
Chairman





September 7, 2016

P.O. Box 373  
Suwannee, FL 32692

Ms. Liz Sparks, Paddling Trail Coordinator

Office of Greenway & Trail

Division of Recreation & Parks

Department of Environmental Protection

3900 Commonwealth Blvd, MS 795

Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Re: Letter of Support for Designation of Suwannee River as National Water Trail

Dear Ms. Sparks:

On behalf of the members of the Suwannee River Chamber of Commerce, we wish to robustly support the efforts of the Florida Dep, Office of Greenways & Trails in their application to the Department of Interior for designation of the famous SUWANNEE RIVER as a National Water Trail.

The Suwannee River Wilderness Trail was established here in 2003, and has been an example of the progress that can be accomplished through private and public partners, with innovative management practices. Creation of the Suwannee National Water Trail will extend the river's designation northward to include the headwaters of the Okefenokee in southwest Georgia, and will increase the distance of the trail for a total of 235 miles.

Abundant natural resources, the rich history combined with the cultural heritage will produce endless recreational opportunities on the Suwannee River. It will also increase awareness of the river and the economic benefits of many small businesses along the route.

We support designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

Ray Reissner, President

Suwannee River Chamber of Commerce

September 7, 2016



Ms. Liz Sparks, Paddling Trail Coordinator

Office of Greenway & Trail

Division of Recreation & Parks

Department of Environmental Protection

3900 Commonwealth Blvd, MS 795

Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Re: Letter of Support for Designation of Suwannee River as National Water Trail

Dear Ms. Sparks:

On behalf of the officer & members of the Dixie County Chamber of Commerce, we wish to robustly support the efforts of the Florida Dep, Office of Greenways & Trails in their application to the Department of Interior for designation of the famous SUWANNEE RIVER as a National Water Trail.

The Suwannee River Wilderness Trail was established here in 2003, and has been an example of the progress that can be accomplished through private and public partners, with innovative management practices. Creation of the Suwannee National Water Trail will extend the river's designation northward to include the headwaters of the Okeefenokee in southwest Georgia, and will increase the distance of the trail for a total of 235 miles.

Abundant natural resources, the rich history combined with the cultural heritage will produce endless recreational opportunities on the Suwannee River. It will also increase awareness of the river and the economic benefits of many small businesses along the route.

We support designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Galloway", is written over a blue ink scribble.

Tom Galloway, President

*A great place to Live, Work and Play!*

P O Box 547, Cross City, FL 32628 | [www.DixieChamber.org](http://www.DixieChamber.org)





23 West Plant Avenue • Homerville, Georgia 31634 • (912) 487-2360

September 15, 2016

Ms. Liz Sparks  
Paddling Trail Coordinator  
Office of Greenways & Trails  
Division of Recreation & Parks  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee FL 32399-3000

RE: Letter of Support for Designation of Suwannee River as National Water Trail

Dear Ms. Sparks,

I am contacting you as President of the Clinch County Chamber of Commerce to enthusiastically support the efforts of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails applying to the Department of Interior for designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

The original Suwannee River Wilderness Trail (SRWT) was established in 2003 and has been an exemplary alliance of private and public partners coordinating innovative management practices to protect natural, historic and cultural resources. The SWRT begins at the town of White Springs and flows 171 miles through eight riparian counties to end at the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf of Mexico. Creation of the Suwannee National Water Trail will extend the river's designation northward to include the headwaters of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Georgia and will increase the distance of the trail for a total of 235 miles. Public partners in the state of Georgia are wholeheartedly supportive of the endeavor.

Abundant natural resources, rich history, and cultural heritage combined with endless recreation opportunities make the Suwannee River an outstanding candidate for the prestigious designation. National Water Trail designation will increase awareness of the river, provide economic benefits to local communities and provide an opportunity to educate the public about the significance of supporting conservation of natural resources.

We strongly support designation of the Suwannee River as a National Water Trail.

Sincerely,

James E. Douglas, Jr.