

**MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP
BURLINGTON COUNTY**

RESOLUTION 2017-9-13

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON,
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
RANCOCAS CREEK NATIONAL WATER TRAIL: A WATER TRAIL IN SOUTHERN
NEW JERSEY THAT RUNS FROM THE PINE BARREN HEADWATERS TO THE
DELAWARE RIVER TIDEWATERS THAT INSPIRES EXPLORATION, ENHANCES
UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAS HERITAGE AND ELEVATES THE
STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATURAL TREASURE THAT IS THE RANCOCAS CREEK**

WHEREAS, westward flowing from headwaters of the Pinelands National Preserve to the Delaware River, the Rancocas Creek has been a vital and historic part of Burlington County, the State of New Jersey, the Greater Delaware Valley and our Nation since the 1600's and whereas the Rancocas Creek (tidal and non-tidal) and/or its tributaries and headwaters fall within and connect the boundaries of the Rancocas Creek watershed; and

WHEREAS, volunteerism, citizen awareness, grass-root activities and the Clean Water Act of 1972 has made the water quality of the Rancocas Creek the cleanest since colonial times, and

WHEREAS, local residents, parks, governments, businesses and visitors enjoy discovering multi-use recreation on the Rancocas Creek and its tributaries and such uses are significantly increasing; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Interior, National Park Service is considering designating the Rancocas Creek as a National Water Trail and the New Jersey State Parks and Forest endorse the Rancocas Creek National Water Trail; and

WHEREAS, Rancocas Pathways, Inc., a non-profit organization was formed to develop and manage the application process of the Rancocas Creek National Water Trail and also that of an interactive website, social media platform and connected heritage portal that will be used as a template by water trails around the country; and

WHEREAS, both formal and informal partnerships, collaborations and associations among a diverse coalition of local, community and statewide organizations are encouraged; it is known that many drops form a single water drop; and

WHEREAS, THE Rancocas Creek National Water Trail steering committee promotes Conservation, Stewardship; Diversity of Recreational Opportunities; Safety; Active Kids and Families in Health Communities; Respect, Science, Cultural Heritage; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution supports the Rancocas Creek as an instrument of economic vitality and inexpensive fun.

WHEREAS, let it be known that the RCNWT SC promotes volunteer and community-centric Water Trail Maintenance, and Water Trail Management Best Management Practices that enhance water quality as one of the many drops that forms the Vision of the Rancocas Creek National Water Trail, a Garden State Natural Treasure, Hidden in Plain View.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey at their regular meeting held on September 27, 2017 hereby supports the designation of the Rancocas Creek as a multi-use National Water Trail.

MOTION:

SECOND:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

I, **LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR**, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, do hereby CERTIFY the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey at a meeting held on September 27, 2017, at the Mansfield Township Municipal Complex at 7:30 p.m.

LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk