

**STATE OF GEORGIA  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE, AND SECURITY OF THE  
TREUTLEN REGIONAL TRAIL AND TRAILHEADS THE SUBMISSION OF A  
GRANT APPLICATION TO THE GEORGIA OUTDOOR STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM (GOSP) FOR THE TREUTLEN REGIONAL TRAIL PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Effingham County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of Georgia Hi-Lo Trail and its local segment, the 10.8-mile Treutlen Regional Trail, as a regional asset that promotes outdoor recreation, health, tourism, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, Effingham County is committed to advancing the Treutlen Regional Trail, a vital segment of the Georgia Hi-Lo Trail, by extending the trail by 10.8 mile Treutlen Regional Trail and its three trailheads, including Atlas Park Trailhead, which provides opportunities for camping, boating, fishing, swimming, and wildlife viewing, in a manner that ensures long-term public benefit, safety, and environmental stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Effingham County Board of Commissioners commits to the following Maintenance, Management, and Safety Plan for the Treutlen Regional Trail and its facilities:

**Maintenance Plan**

Effingham County Public Works, in partnership with the Effingham County Recreation and Parks Department, will perform ongoing trail and facility maintenance to ensure the Treutlen Trail remains clean, safe, and accessible.

- **Routine Maintenance:** County staff will provide regular upkeep that includes leaf blowing, grass mowing, litter pickup, trail monitoring, and facilities management.
- **Staffing and Labor:** The County will dedicate 12 hours of staff labor per week for these maintenance activities, ensuring consistent attention to trail quality and user experience.

- **Annual Budget:** Effingham County will allocate an annual maintenance budget of \$12,480 to cover labor, materials, and operational supplies. In addition, a \$5,000 annual budget will be reserved for facilities improvements and repairs due to normal use and wear and tear.
- **Trailhead Upkeep:** Restroom facilities, parking areas, picnic shelters, and campsites will be cleaned and serviced regularly. Vegetation management and invasive species control will preserve the natural habitat and enhance visitor experience.
- **Sustainable Funding:** Maintenance activities will be supported through county operating funds, partnerships with the Georgia Hi-Lo Trail nonprofit, and volunteer service programs coordinated with local civic groups and schools.

### **Management Plan**

Effingham County will oversee the Treutlen Regional Trail through the Parks and Recreation Department, ensuring efficient operations and community engagement.

- **Staffing:** Designated County Parks personnel will manage the daily operations of the trail and coordinate volunteer maintenance days. Seasonal staff and community rangers will assist in monitoring and reporting trail conditions.
- **Partnerships:** Collaboration with Georgia Hi-Lo Trail, SORBA (Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association), and local tourism agencies will support trail promotion, programming, and stewardship.
- **Community Involvement:** “Adopt-a-Trail” and “Friends of the Treutlen Trail” volunteer programs will engage residents and organizations in trail upkeep, fostering long-term community ownership and pride.

### **Safety Plan**

Effingham County is committed to providing a safe, family-friendly outdoor environment through proactive monitoring, security infrastructure, and coordination with local law enforcement.

- **Patrols and Enforcement:** The Effingham County Sheriff’s Office will conduct routine patrols along the trail and at trailheads, with increased presence during high-use hours and weekends.

- Emergency Response: Clearly marked mileposts and trail maps will assist emergency services in rapid response. Staff will receive training in safety procedures and emergency communication protocols.
- Community Reporting: A “See Something, Say Something” reporting hotline and QR code system will allow users to easily report maintenance or safety concerns via smartphone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Effingham County pledges to preserve the Treutlen Regional Trail as a model of safe, sustainable, and community-centered recreation, ensuring its ongoing benefit to residents, visitors, and the greater Georgia Hi-Lo Trail corridor.

This resolution has been adopted on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA



By:   
Damon Rahn, Chairman  
Effingham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk