

**Resolution Supporting the Powhatan State Park**  
**From The Membership of Powhatan Tomorrow**

Whereas, Powhatan Tomorrow is a grassroots organization comprised of members from all areas of the county with a common interest in maintaining a vibrant and diverse community, a healthy environment and a vigorous economy that provides an enhanced quality of life for all residents; and

Whereas, our purpose is to preserve, protect and retain our rural character while promoting low impact economic development by actively participating in a comprehensive process where citizens, business/civic leaders, developers and our governing body all cooperate to achieve mutually beneficial community goals; and

Whereas, the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice entered into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to transfer some 1564 acres of property with 2.5 miles of James River frontage for the stated purpose of providing “water and land based outdoor recreational and educational opportunities while protecting and interpreting the unique natural, historical and cultural resources of the storied James River and the eastern Piedmont region of Virginia”; and

Whereas, a Master Plan for this Powhatan State Park was drafted, pursuant to the Code of Virginia, by an advisory committee comprised of Powhatan County residents, adjacent landowners, local government officials, public school representatives, the tourist industry, park user groups and local businesses with guidance from the public via input sessions; and

Whereas, said Plan states that the park will help to meet the need for open space areas for a growing population to enjoy traditional family oriented outdoor activities; and

Whereas, said Plan calls for a phased in implementation of park facilities including, but not limited to, day use/picnic areas, boat launch, multi-use and riverside trails, fishing nodes, a canoe campground, a park office, and ranger residences in Phase I; a group camp, equestrian camp, and visitor/education center in Phase II; and 18 cabins and 2 family lodges in Phase III; and

Whereas, the Master Plan also calls for enhancements to include: improvements to the Route 522/617 intersection, a 2.2 mile entrance road on park property, vegetative buffers and a safety zone between Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center and the park; and

Whereas, numerous citizens of Powhatan County are in favor of said park due to the potential quality of life, health, educational, environmental and economic benefits and many others have supported the park concept, while requesting an entrance other than the proposed entrance off of Route 617 (Old River Trail); and

Whereas, the Powhatan County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on December 8, 2003, calling “for a 1.10 mile segment of Route 617 (Old River Trail) located west of Rt. 665 (Country Road) to be designated a Rural Rustic Road” by the Virginia Department of Transportation, stating that the road was “in the Board’s six year plan for improvements to its secondary system of state highways”, and further requesting that the “road be hard surfaced and to the fullest extent prudent, be improved within the existing right of way and ditch-lines to preserve as much as possible the adjacent trees, vegetation, side slopes, and rural rustic character along the road in their current state”; and

Whereas, the Rural Rustic Road portion of Route 617 (Old River Trail) is west of and beyond the proposed state park entrance and will not affect the state park or change the major portion of Old River Trail since it is already built to secondary standards; and

Whereas, the Powhatan County Board of Supervisors recently asked the State to use the existing Beaumont Road for park access, or to make improvements to the Trail without using Powhatan’s six-year road funds; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia states “to the end that the people have clean air, pure water, and the use and enjoyment for recreation of adequate public lands, waters, and other natural resources, it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to conserve, develop, and utilize its natural resources, its public lands, and its historical sites and buildings”.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the membership of Powhatan Tomorrow calls upon ***elected and appointed state and local officials*** to take necessary and appropriate action to cooperatively resolve existing issues and jointly work to establish said Park for the benefit of our local citizens as well as for other residents of and visitors to the Commonwealth.

Maureen Moslow-Benway, Co-Chairperson

Joe Walton, Co-Chairperson

September 23, 2006