

October XX, 2019

To whom it may concern,

We, the undersigned organizations, express our support for the creation and designation of the Rancocas Creek as a National Water Trail. The State of New Jersey, Burlington County, non-profit, and community organizations are working together to create a National Water Trail that flows through Burlington County.

The National Water Trails System is a distinctive national network of exemplary water trails that are cooperatively supported and sustained. More specifically, the National Water Trails System has been established to protect and restore America's rivers, shorelines, and waterways and conserve natural areas along waterways. Additionally, NWTS increase access to outdoor recreation on shorelines and waterways.

The Rancocas Creek originating in the NJ Pine Barrens National Reserve and throughout its 360 square mile watershed is the capstone of New Jersey heritage, history and culture, as well as opens public access to many wonderful environments, ecosystems and natural areas not seen anywhere else in New Jersey. The Rancocas is a wonderful candidate for designation as a National Water Trail. The Rancocas provides the following:

- Multiple public access points to exemplary paddling throughout the proposed water trail
- Instills values of outdoor ethics and stewardship
- Year-round recreation that facilitates safe kayaking
- Promotes community and visitor awareness
- Distinguishes year-round public access that promotes water quality

By designating the Rancocas Creek as a National Water Trail, this waterway will be represented as a national system of exemplary water trails, become a catalyst for protecting and restoring the health of local waterways and surrounding lands, and further bridge shared best management practices to protect clean water.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

[List of organizations here](#)

Cc

Governor Phil Murphy

Senator Bob Menendez

Senator Cory Booker

