

RESOLUTION 97-200

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY SUPPORTING THE EXISTING FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE DESIGNATION OF THE WILLIAM BARTRAM SCENIC HIGHWAY; RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE EASTERN SHORELINE OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER; RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO MANAGE AND PROTECT THESE SCENIC, HISTORICAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUPPORTING FORMATION OF A CORRIDOR ADVOCACY GROUP ASSIGNED TO PURSUE ELIGIBILITY OF THE ROADWAY AS A SCENIC HIGHWAY UNDER THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S SCENIC HIGHWAYS PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, William Bartram was the first native born American naturalist to achieve international acclaim; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of William Bartram's travels took him along the St. Johns River where he made many excursions into the wilderness along the banks recording the area's trees, flora, fauna, and native inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the 1980 Legislature passed an Act, Chapter 80-427, House Bill 987, designating a portion of roadway in St. Johns County as the William Bartram Scenic Highway, and directing the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers; and

WHEREAS, this Act provided that a portion of State Road 13 from Julington Creek to State Road 207 alongside the St. Johns River in St. Johns County is designated as the William Bartram Scenic Highway; and

WHEREAS, the Francisco Phillipe Fatio's Plantation established in 1771 in the area of Switzerland Point is rich in archeological and historical heritage; and

WHEREAS, the historical oaks of Switzerland, where citizen's voiced their concern to Governor Martinez to save the trees was significant of people coming together as a community; and

WHEREAS, rapid growth and increased traffic has had a major impact on the natural resources of the designated scenic highway from intersection of State Road 13 and Race Track Road continuing South to Roberts Road; and

WHEREAS, the remaining designated highway is an excellent representation of Florida and promotes a heightened awareness of our state's exceptional resources and provides windows into Florida's heritage of beauty; and

WHEREAS, preservation and protection of the designated highway is urgently needed for present and future generations to enjoy and experience.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners supports the 1980 legislative designation of the William Bartram Scenic Highway, and;


THAT the Board of County Commissioners supports appropriate protection of the scenic, historical, and natural resources located on and near the William Bartram Scenic Highway, and;

THAT the Board of County Commissioners will support a Corridor Advocacy Group which will facilitate the process of obtaining Scenic Highway designation under the Florida Department of Transportation's newly established program, and;

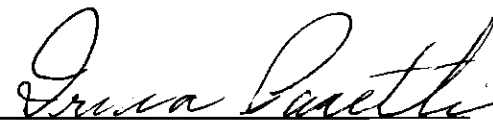
THAT the Board of County Commissioners will conduct workshops for the purpose of developing appropriate County Ordinances for preservation of the scenic, natural and historic resources on and near the William Bartram Scenic Highway.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida, this 23rd day of December, 1997.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY: 
Moses A. Floyd, Chairman

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland
Clerk of the Circuit Court

BY: 
Deputy Clerk