

## RESOLUTION 2001-75

### SUPPORT FOR FLORIDA FOREVER AND ST. JOHNS COUNTY CONSERVATION PROJECTS

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida is to be commended for its achievements under Preservation 2000, a ten-year, non-regulatory program which successfully acquired and protected more than 1 million acres of Florida's remaining natural areas and obligated the \$3 billion pledged in 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Forever, as the successor program to Preservation 2000, has the vision to continue to protect Florida's natural environments for native species habitat, water resources and recreational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's rate of population growth and conversion of natural areas threatens the ecological function and viability of Florida's natural systems as well as its economically vital Eco-tourist industry; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Johns County is the seventh fastest growing County in the State of Florida diligently striving to maintain and sustain the quality of life through Growth Management Regulations (i.e., Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code) and through land acquisition for the citizens, tourist and future generations to enjoy in St. Johns County, the home of the United States oldest continually occupied City of St. Augustine; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Forever offers an opportunity for a continued partnership between St. Johns County and the State to protect environmental, historical and scenic valuable resource; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Johns County citizens have advanced land preservation, natural resource-based recreation and environmental education opportunities through the Land Acquisition and Management Program (L.A.M.P.); and

**WHEREAS**, the natural habitats and species that will be protected through acquisition of land within the St. Johns County's Coastal Scrub Ecosystem are of global significance and merit immediate protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tolomato, Guana and Matanzas River estuaries form a system of "bar-bounded" estuaries that extend south from Jacksonville in Duval County to below Marineland in Flagler County behind the barrier island system, the twenty fifth designated National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the NERR is the most productive clam harvesting area in the State which is also the feeding, nesting, resting area for migratory birds on the coastal fly way and the Matanzas Inlet is one of the last remaining "natural" inlets on Florida's East Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Johns County has an established partnership with the State in acquiring valuable park through the Florida Community Trust (FCT) in acquiring the Boyd (112 acres), Roth (2 acres) and Bennett (55 acres) properties and hopefully the Vaill Point Property (23 acres); and

**WHEREAS**, St. Johns County has also been an active partner with the State in acquiring approximately 4,800 acres of Guana River and 22,000 acres of Twelve Mile Swamp (Cummer Property) with C.A.R.L. funds and SJRWMD's funds; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida hereby recommend: That the state legislature make such appropriations necessary to fully fund Florida Forever for a period of ten years; and

**PASSED AND ENACTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2001.

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

By: Mary F. Kohnke  
Mary F. Kohnke, Chair

**ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Court**

By: Juanne King  
Deputy Clerk