

RESOLUTION NO. 2009- 27

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING FUNDING BY THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE FOR THE FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM IN FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 AND URGING THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO SUPPORT FUNDING OF FLORIDA FOREVER.

RECITAL

WHEREAS, the Florida Forever program and its predecessor Preservation 2000 program have immeasurably contributed to environmental health, quality of life, recreation, and sustainability in Florida for this and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has acquired over one million acres throughout Florida since 2000 and allocates \$300 million annually to purchase and restore environmentally sensitive and outdoor recreation lands, and has done so through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water management districts, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and others in achieving its conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Water Management Districts, Division of Forestry and others, produces benefits that include clear air and water; healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat; improved water supply protection; and protected open spaces including greenway corridors, recreational and park lands, forest, water bodies, and preserved working landscapes that sustain the state's \$59 billion agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through the Florida Communities Trust, has assisted Florida's cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources, meeting the challenges of growth management, and providing recreational outdoor experiences in both urban and rural settings; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to save many of Florida's beaches, rivers, bays, forests, coral reefs and estuaries that provide the foundation for our \$65 billion tourism industry that attracts more than 80 million visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, More than 50 Florida local governments have enacted land acquisition financing programs in the past decades, and these conservation programs serve to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of State land conservation funding; and

WHEREAS, Floridians demand a high quality of life that includes green space, access to water, pastoral settings and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever and other land conservation programs must compete in land and housing market that escalated over the past two decades, while annual Florida Forever funding has remained at \$300 million; and

WHEREAS, research by the Florida Forever Coalition has documented that over \$20 billion is currently needed to purchase parks and recreational facilities, wildlife and wilderness areas, and open space for our state's increasing population; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that more than 70% of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever program; and

WHEREAS, Floridians' support for land conservation is further evidenced by the 68% of voters who voted in favor of Amendment 4, the land conservation easement constitutional amendment, on November 4, 2008, including 68% (right on the State average) in favor in St. Johns County as well; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County's two Blueway projects, The St. Johns River Blueway and the Northeast Florida Blueway, remain ranked in the 21 Highest Acquisition Priorities for Florida Forever; and

WHEREAS, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever have been essential to the longevity and success of the LAMP Program by providing nearly \$21 million in FCT funding towards properties preserved through this program; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has funded and provided \$54,646,096.70 (nearly 10,000 acres) in St. Johns County since 2000, in support of land conservation, parks, recreation areas, open space, and environmental protection for St. Johns County, these County projects are attached hereto on Exhibit "A", incorporated by reference and made a part hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, as follows:

Section 1. The above Recitals are incorporated by reference into the body of this Resolution and such Recitals are adopted as findings of fact.

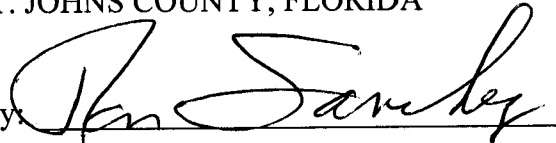
Section 2. That the Board supports funding be allocated to Florida Forever in fiscal year 2009-2010.

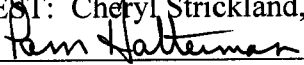
Section 3. That the Chair is authorized to send letters to the legislative delegation relaying this resolution and advocating funding for the Florida Forever Program.

Section 4. That this resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 17th day of February 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Ron Sanchez, Vice Chair

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk
By: 
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 2/18/09

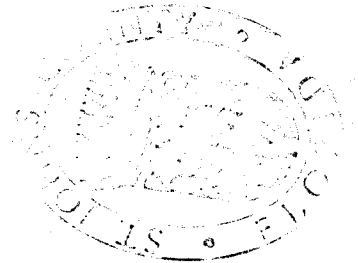


EXHIBIT "A"

**PROJECTS FUNDED AND AWARDED BY FLORIDA FOREVER SINCE 2000 IN
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

1.) Faver Dykes/Twelve Mile Swamp Exchange - Division of State Lands

Seller- Sylvan West Partnership, Ltd

Closed Acres- 226.15

Closed Price- \$809,000.00

Faver Dykes

Seller- Dupont

Closed Acres- 0.1

Closed Price- \$2,000

Northeast Florida Blueway

Seller- Gonzales/Corral

Closed Acres- 20

Closed Price- \$385,594.25

Seller- Greenberg, Michael John

Closed Acres- 54.60

Closed Price- \$146,000.00

Seller- Larson, Dwayne and Maria

Closed Acres- 14.20

Closed Price- \$58,000.00

Seller- Rayonier Timberlands Operating Company

Closed Acres- 8,465

Closed Price- \$29,934,356.00

Seller- Sodanno

Closed Acres- 11.40

Closed Price- \$285,000.00

Seller- Lastinger

Closed Acres- 0.3

Closed Price- \$339,480

Seller- Mercer

Closed Acres- 7.4

Closed Price- \$840,000

Seller- Mandel
Closed Acres- 1.1
Closed Price- \$365,000

St. Johns River Blueway
Seller- Lambert, William and Lucille
Closed Acres- 731.30
Closed Price- \$2,000,000.00

Seller-Warner
Closed Acres- 230.08
Closed Price- \$1,112,640.00

2.) West Augustine Regional Stormwater Pond - St. Johns River Water Management District

Seller- Wilson
Closed Acres- 42
Grant Award- \$975,000.00

3.) County Parks - Florida Communities Trust

Beluthahatchee Park
Closed Acres- 1.97
Grant Award- \$306,620.35

Canopy Shores
Closed Acres- 33
Grant Award- \$6,600,000.00

Fort Mose Historic Park
Closed Acres- 8
Grant Award- \$1,059,251.00

Nease Beachfront Park
Closed Acres- 4
Grant Award- \$911,028.75

Vaill Point Park
Closed Acres- 23
Grant Award- \$1,942,615.35

Vilano Beach Oceanfront Park
Closed Acres- 7
Grant Award- \$4,162,500.00

Mussallem Beachfront Park
Closed Acres- 8.3
Grant Award- \$2,412,011.00