

RESOLUTION 2010- 85

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY TO THE FLORIDA FOREVER ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RANKING OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY IN THE TOP TIER FOR ACQUISITION**

**WHEREAS**, the St. Johns River Blueway Florida Forever Project forms a Blueway connection from Julington Creek in Duval County to Deep Creek at the St. Johns/Putnam County border that provides ecological, historical, archaeological and cultural connections between the present and the past; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Johns River Blueway was recommended by the Acquisition and Restoration Council in 2002 and 2003 as a Category A project and ratified by the Governor and Cabinet; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Johns River Blueway was ranked as a top tier project in 2007 by the Acquisition and Restoration Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Johns River Blueway protects the last remaining shorelines of the St. Johns River, a nationally recognized American Heritage River; and

**WHEREAS**, much of the St. Johns River Blueway is within the Lower St. Johns River Basin Program area, initiated in 1988 with the basic strategy of protecting and restoring both the water quality of the river and its associated natural systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the natural and historical value of the area is reflected in the establishment of numerous state and locally managed areas adjacent to the Northeast Florida Blueway, including Julington-Durbin Preserve, Watson Island State Forest, Deep Creek Conservation Area and Yarborough Conservation Area; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Johns County has acquired properties along the Blueway, including but not limited to Jack Wright Island, Trout Creek Park, Wards Creek, Palmo Park, Turnbull Creek, Tatum Deep Creek, Beluthahatchee Park and Alpine Groves (both in partnership with the Florida Communities Trust); and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Johns River Blueway complements the Federal, State and Local initiatives to preserve and protect the natural resources and water quality along the St. Johns River; and

**WHEREAS**, acquisition of lands in the St. Johns River Blueway Florida Forever Project is an essential component in the protection of the ecological integrity and the riverine environment of St. Johns County and the quality of life of its visitors and citizens, now and for future generations.

**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 urges the Florida Forever Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) to rank the St. Johns River Blueway in the top tier on the Florida Forever Board of Trustees Acquisition List.

**Section 3.** That the Board Chair is authorized to send letters to the legislative delegation relaying this resolution and advocating for keeping the Blueway project ranked in the top tier of Florida Forever acquisition projects.

**Section 4.** To the extent that there are typographical and/or administrative errors and/or omissions that do not change the tone, tenor, or context of this Resolution, then this Resolution may be revised with subsequent approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Section 5.** That this Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Ron Sanchez  
Ron Sanchez, Chair

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

RENDITION DATE 4/7/2010

By: Cheryl Strickland  
Deputy Clerk