

## **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO RE-AUTHORIZE AND REVITALIZE THE 2000 FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM**

- WHEREAS, The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) since organizing in 1924, has recognized the environmental, economic, recreation, and conservation need to preserve and protect Florida's vanishing natural lands that are a State asset that belong to all of Florida's citizens;
- WHEREAS, Environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to a region of the State, are disappearing at an alarming rate of hundreds of acres a day;
- WHEREAS, Conservation and protection of important ecosystems, landscapes and forests are necessary to protect significant surface water, groundwater, coastal, recreational, timber, or fish and wildlife resources which cannot be accomplished through local and state regulatory programs;
- WHEREAS, It is critical that land that promotes water resource development that benefits and enhances natural systems and the subsequent health of all citizens be acquired;
- WHEREAS, The need to provide additional areas for recreational trails, greenways, parks and other outdoor recreation activities has increased due to population growth;
- WHEREAS, Report (Number 2008-123) prepared by the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation provides history and background information of Land Acquisition in Florida and several options for development of a successor Florida Forever program, was submitted to the 2008 Florida Senate for their information and consideration;
- WHEREAS, A Proposal to Increase and Improve Florida Forever has been submitted to the 2008 Florida Legislature by the members of the Florida Forever Coalition; and
- WHEREAS, The State of Florida has a successful history of acquisition of conservation lands that began in the 1960's with the establishment of a \$20 million bond program to acquire recreational lands; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Delegates assembled in Convention April 2-3, 2008 at the Hilton Pensacola in Pensacola Beach commend Florida's Governors and Legislators for their vision in adopting successful land acquisition programs - Conservation and Recreational Lands Program (CARL), the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL), Preservation 2000 (P2000) and the Florida Forever Program;

RESOLVED, That the FFGC 2008 Convention Delegates voice their strong support for a timely re-authorization and revitalization of the Florida Forever land acquisition program to meet current and future conservation, environmental and recreation challenges;

RESOLVED, That the FFGC urges the 2008 Legislature to appropriately enact legislation that would adequately increase funding and improve the State's landmark Florida Forever land acquisition program for a minimum of an additional 10 years using cash and bond revenue generated from the Documentary Stamp Tax generated from real estate transactions and land sales;

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be sent to Governor Charlie Crist, and Cabinet Members Jeff Kottkamp, Lieutenant Governor; Bill McCollum, Attorney General; Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer; and Charles Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture;

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be sent to Ken Pruitt, President of the Senate; and Senator Burt Saunders, Environmental Preservation & Conservation Chairman;

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be sent to Representative Marco Rubio, Speaker of the House; Representative Stan Mayfield, Environment & Natural Resources Council Chairman, and Representative Will Kendrick, Conservation and State Lands Chairman.

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Jo Ann T. Guise  
FFGC Resolutions Chairman

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Margaret "Cinny" O'Donnell  
FFGC President

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Janice Hamlin  
FFGC Recording Secretary

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Marion Hilliard  
Government Agency Liaison

April 3, 2008

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Pat Carver, President  
FFGC Environmental Consultants Council

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Date Signed