

Prepared by:

**Return recorded original to:
Office of General Counsel
St. Johns River Water Management District
4049 Reid Street / Highway 100 West
Palatka, FL 32177**

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

THIS CONSERVATION EASEMENT is made this ____ day of _____, 200_ by _____ having an address at _____ ("Grantor"), in favor of the ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, a public body existing under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, having a mailing address at 4049 Reid Street / Highway 100 West, Palatka, Florida 32177 ("Grantee").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Grantor solely owns in fee simple certain real property in _____ County, Florida, more particularly described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated by this reference as (the "Property");

WHEREAS, Grantor grants this conservation easement as a condition of permit #_____ issued by Grantee, solely to off-set adverse impacts to natural resources, fish and wildlife, and wetland functions; and

WHEREAS, Grantor desires to preserve the Property in its natural condition in perpetuity;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above and the mutual covenants, terms, conditions and restrictions contained herein, and pursuant to the provisions of section 704.06, Florida Statutes, Grantor hereby voluntarily grants and conveys to Grantee a conservation easement in perpetuity over the Property of the nature and character and to the extent hereinafter set forth (the "Conservation Easement"). Grantor fully warrants title to said Property, and will warrant and defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Conservation Easement is to assure that the Property will be retained forever in its existing natural condition and to prevent any use of the Property that will impair or interfere with the environmental value of the Property.

2. Prohibited Uses. Any activity on or use of the Property inconsistent with the purpose of this Conservation Easement is prohibited. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following activities and uses are expressly prohibited:

(a) Construction or placing buildings, roads, signs, billboards or other advertising, utilities or other structures on or above the ground.

(b) Dumping or placing soil or other substance or material as landfill or dumping or placing of trash, waste or unsightly or offensive materials.

(c) Removing trimming or destroying trees, shrubs, or other vegetation.

(d) Excavating, dredging or removing loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock or other material substances in such a manner as to affect the surface.

(e) Surface use, except for purposes that permit the land or water area to remain predominantly in its natural condition.

(f) Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation.

(g) Acts or uses detrimental to such retention of land or water areas.

(h) Acts or uses detrimental to the preservation of the structural integrity or physical appearance of sites or properties of historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural significance.

3. Reserved Rights. Grantor reserves unto itself, and its successors and assigns, all rights accruing from its ownership of the Property, including the right to engage in or permit or invite others to engage in all uses of the Property, that are not expressly prohibited herein and are not inconsistent with the purpose of this Conservation Easement.

4. Rights of Grantee. To accomplish the purposes stated herein, Grantor conveys the following rights to Grantee:

(a) To enter upon and inspect the Property in a reasonable manner and at reasonable times to determine if Grantor or its successors and assigns are complying with the covenants and prohibitions contained in this Conservation Easement.

(b) To proceed at law or in equity to enforce the provisions of this Conservation Easement and the covenants set forth herein, to prevent the occurrence of any of the prohibited activities set forth herein, and require the restoration of areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any activity inconsistent with this Conservation Easement.

5. Grantee's Discretion. Grantee may enforce the terms of this Conservation Easement at its discretion, but if Grantor breaches any term of this Conservation Easement and Grantee does not exercise its rights under this Conservation Easement, Grantee's forbearance shall not be construed to be a waiver by Grantee of such term, or of any subsequent breach of the same, or any other term of this Conservation Easement, or of any of the Grantee's rights under this Conservation Easement. No delay or omission by Grantee in the exercise of any right or remedy upon any breach by Grantor shall impair such right or remedy or be construed as a waiver. Grantee shall not be obligated to Grantor, or to any other person or entity, to enforce the provisions of this Conservation Easement.

6. Grantee's Liability. Grantor will assume all liability for any injury or damage to the person or property of third parties which may occur on the Property arising from Grantor's ownership of the Property. Neither Grantor, nor any person or entity claiming by or through Grantor, shall hold Grantee liable for any damage or injury to person or personal property which may occur on the Property.

7. Acts Beyond Grantor's Control. Nothing contained in this Conservation Easement shall be construed to entitle Grantee to bring any action against Grantor for any injury to or change in the Property resulting from natural causes beyond Grantor's control, including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm and earth movement, or from any necessary action taken by Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate or mitigate significant injury to the Property or to persons resulting from such causes.

8. Recordation. Grantor shall record this Conservation Easement in timely fashion in the Official Records of _____ County, Florida, and shall rerecord it at any time Grantee may require to preserve its rights. Grantor shall pay all recording costs and taxes necessary to record this Conservation Easement in the public records. Grantor will hold Grantee harmless from any recording costs or taxes necessary to record this Conservation Easement in the public records.

9. Successors. The covenants, terms, conditions and restrictions of this Conservation Easement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective personal representatives, heirs, successors and assigns and shall continue as a servitude running in perpetuity with the Property.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Grantor has executed this Conservation Easement on the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in our presence as witnesses:

GRANTOR:

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 200_, by _____, who did not take an oath.

Notary Public, State of Florida
at Large.

My Commission Expires:

Serial No. _____

Personally known _____ OR produced identification _____. Identification produced _____.

CONSENT AND JOINDER OF MORTGAGEE

The undersigned, _____ (mortgagee), the mortgagee under that certain _____ (title of mortgage document) dated _____ and recorded at Official Records Book ____, page ____, of _____ County, Florida, (if any assignments, specify) hereby consents and joins in the foregoing Deed of Conservation Easement, and subordinates its mortgage lien encumbering all or any part of the Property (as described in the foregoing Deed of Conservation Easement) to the Deed of Conservation Easement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Consent and Joinder is executed by the undersigned this _____ day of _____, 200__.

Witnesses:

Mortgagee

Name: _____

BY: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 200__, by _____, who did not take an oath.

Notary Public, State of Florida
at Large.

My Commission Expires:

Serial No. _____

Personally known _____ OR produced identification _____. Identification produced _____.