

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**PASSED \_\_\_\_\_**

**A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Gainesville, Florida; supporting the State of Florida Legislature for the creation and funding of a successor program to the Florida Forever program; providing directions to the Clerk of the Commission; and providing an immediate effective date.**

**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 dollars annually to purchase environmentally sensitive and other 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 its partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Water Management Districts, and others, produces benefits that include clean air and water; healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat; improved water supply protection; and protected open spaces including greenway corridors, park lands, forests, and water bodies; 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, directing development away from coastal high hazard areas and floodplains; fostering a healthier lifestyle for Floridians; 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 3 billion dollar tourism industry that attract more than 70 million visitors each year; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Florida is experiencing rapid population growth, with approximately 1,100 new residents every day, and Floridians demand a high quality of life that includes green space, access to water, pastoral settings and recreational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Florever and other land conservation programs must compete in Florida's market of surging land and housing process; and

**WHEREAS**, the effectiveness of Florida Forever has diminished because of escalating land prices and the impacts of inflation; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding for the Florida Forever program will sunset in 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, research by the Florida Forever Coalition has found that over 20 billion dollars 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 2005 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that 78% of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever program; and

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of Florida Forever have included the Greenways Recreation Trail System, Little Hatchett Creek, Beville Creek, Sugarfoot Sink, and Cofrin Park in Gainesville, Florida.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA;**

**Section 1.** The City Commission of the City of Gainesville declares its support to the State of Florida Legislature for the creation and funding of a successor program to the Florida Forever program and requests its legislative delegation to advocate for the creation and funding of a successor program to Florida Forever.

**Section 2.** The Clerk of the Commission is authorized and directed to send copies of this Resolution to the members of the Alachua County Legislative Delegation and the Florida League of Cities.

**Section 3.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2006.

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Pegeen Hanrahan, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kurt Lannon,  
Clerk of the Commission

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Marion J. Radson, City Attorney