

**RESOLUTION 2016- \_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AFFIRMING VOLUSIA COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO THE MANAGEMENT OF GEMINI SPRINGS ADDITION AS CONSERVATION LANDS IN PERPETUITY; DECLARING THE IMPORTANCE OF GEMINI SPRINGS ADDITION TO THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT, WATER QUALITY, AND THE ECOLOGY OF THE REGION; RESTATING VOLUSIA COUNTY'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF THE GEMINI SPRINGS ADDITION FROM THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT SUBJECT TO A CONSERVATION EASEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER AND COUNTY CHAIR TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS TO ACCEPT TITLE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the County Council of Volusia County is committed to preserving its vital natural and water resources through a long history of acquiring and managing conservation lands; and

**WHEREAS**, Volusia County and the St. Johns River Water Management District have a strong and historic partnership in the acquisition and management of 97,262 acres of conservation lands within the county; and

**WHEREAS**, after an extensive review of its land holdings, the St. Johns River Water Management District approved its Land Assessment Implementation Plan in December 2012 that recommended donating 18,045 acres of land to Volusia County and retaining a conservation easement on those lands to insure that the lands are managed for conservation purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Council of Volusia County approved Resolution 2014-97 accepting the donation of the 18,045 acres from the St. Johns River Water Management District and directing staff to prepare conservation management plans, conservation easements, deeds, and any other documentation required to effectuate the transfer of title to the sole ownership of the county; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the properties is known as the Gemini Springs Addition, which was purchased as part of a regional mitigation plan for the impacts of the expansion of the Interstate 4 corridor and is to be managed as conservation lands in perpetuity; and

**WHEREAS**, acquisition of the Gemini Springs Addition created a large, contiguous conservation area that connected Gemini Springs Park to Lake Monroe Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the regional mitigation plan is to preserve the Gemini Springs Addition and to restore the hydrologic connections within the Lake Monroe floodplain to improve water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gemini Springs Addition is to be managed pursuant to state and federal environmental permits that require the enhancement and restoration of the wetland and upland natural communities and wildlife habitat with effective buffers from expected future urbanization; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of the long term management plan for the Gemini Springs Addition includes improving the function and quality of the upland communities; and

**WHEREAS**, an active Bald Eagle nest has recently been located on the uplands on the Gemini Springs Addition; and

**WHEREAS**, utilizing any portion of the Gemini Springs Addition to support development or redevelopment is contrary to the stated mitigation purpose of the property; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued management and preservation of the entire Gemini Springs Addition solely as conservation lands is imperative for the restoration of the site which will provide an invaluable benefit to the ecology of the region.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN OPEN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE THOMAS C. KELLY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 123 WEST INDIANA AVENUE, DELAND, FLORIDA, THIS 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2016 A.D., AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION I:** The Volusia County Council restates its position set forth in Resolution 2014-97 accepting the donation of the Gemini Springs Addition and restates its commitment that the property will be managed as conservation lands in perpetuity as required by the state and federal permits and the conservation easement reserved by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

**SECTION II:** The County Manager and County Chair are authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer of title of the Gemini Springs Addition to the County of Volusia.

**SECTION III:** The Volusia County Council does not support utilizing any portion of the Gemini Springs Addition for land development or redevelopment, including stormwater for transit oriented development around the DeBary Sunrail Station.

**SECTION IV:** This resolution shall be submitted to the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board.

**SECTION V:** This resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the County Council.

**DONE AND ORDERED IN OPEN MEETING.**

COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA

---

Jason P. Davis, Chair

ATTEST:

---

James T. Dinneen, County Manager