

**RESOLUTION #17-020R**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE STATE LEGISLATURE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN THE 2017/2018 BUDGET.**

**WHEREAS**, there are environmentally sensitive natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational access throughout Osceola County and Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's remarkable biological diversity and its natural systems are the fundamental basis of its quality of life and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, population and development impacts are expected to grow over the next two decades and land conservation is an accepted way to buffer the impacts of growth on natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection states "Florida Forever is Florida's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving natural resources and renewing Florida's commitment to conserve the state's natural and cultural heritage"; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2014 an Amendment to Article X, Section 28 of the Florida Constitution was approved for the purpose of acquiring and managing environmentally sensitive lands; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the request of Osceola County that the Legislature implement the 2014 Amendment in a manner that provides significant funding opportunities for acquiring conservation lands; and

**WHEREAS**, these lands need to be acquired and preserved by fee simple acquisition, conservation easement, or purchase of development rights to protect our future prosperity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA THAT:**

Osceola County respectfully requests that the Florida state legislature significantly increase funding for the acquisition of conservation lands and conservation easements in the 2017/2018 budget;

And be it resolved that Osceola County considers the acquisition, protection and management of environmentally sensitive lands to be a crucial public benefit to the future of this County and the State of Florida.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED after motion, second and majority vote favoring the same,  
this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair/Vice-Chair

ATTEST:  
OSCEOLA COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Diana McWallis  
Clerk/Deputy Clerk to the Board



As authorized for execution at the Board of  
County Commissioners meeting of:

February 20, 2017

Resolution #17-020R