

RESOLUTION 19-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DUNEDIN, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION OF AND FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND; PROVIDING FOR READING BY TITLE ONLY; AND BY PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), established by Congress in 1964, is one of the most successful government programs in preserving our country's precious natural and cultural resources and improving equitable access to the outdoors in urban and rural communities, which is essential to Florida's health, culture, jobs and economic opportunities and the future of our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, LWCF has been instrumental in creating opportunities for Floridians in urban, suburban, and rural areas to get outdoors. Over the past 54 years, LWCF funds have provided more than \$1 billion to protect Florida's outdoor places, promote water resources and healthy ecosystems, and increase sporting access and opportunity. LWCF has been a critical tool in conserving Florida's national, state and local parks and historic sites; national wildlife refuges; watersheds and rivers; forests; wildlife areas; trails and ballfields; and

WHEREAS, LWCF is based on the simple premise that, as we extract natural resources that belong to our nation – offshore oil and gas – we should, in turn, protect and invest in onshore and coastal resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, although the LWCF takes a portion of royalties from offshore oil and gas development and invests that money in protecting America's public lands and waterways for future generations - be that an iconic national park or an urban playground, the City of Dunedin does not support the issuance of oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) nor does it support off-shore drilling for gas or oil; and

WHEREAS, though LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million annually, this cap has been met only twice during the program's nearly five decades of existence and, instead of being fully funded, nearly every year Congress diverts much of this funding to purposes other than conserving our most important lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, despite receiving only a fraction of its intended funding over the last 54 years, LWCF has led to the protection of land in every state and nearly every county in America, has improved access to these public lands, and has provided

matching grants for the creation of more than 41,000 state and local park projects; and

WHEREAS, LWCF supports and maintains the economic assets that our federal, state and local public lands and waterways represent. Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling and other outdoor recreation activities contribute a total of \$58.6 billion annually to Florida's economy and supports 485,000 jobs, which generates \$17.9 billion in wages and salaries and adds \$3.5 billion to state and local tax bases. (source: Outdoor Industry Association, 2017). Whether manufacturing, retail or service - related, many of these jobs are sustainable resource or tourism - based jobs and cannot be exported; and

WHEREAS, LWCF funds have been essential to protecting Florida's wildlife and habitat; hundreds of millions of LWCF dollars have been used for the restoration of Everglades National Park, Everglades National Wildlife Refuge, Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, Osceola National Forest, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Florida National Scenic Trail, among others. The LWCF not only helps fund Florida's iconic national parks and wildlife preserves, but also sporting access, including fishing piers and boat ramps across the state; and

WHEREAS, Florida has received more than 500 LWCF grants to local governments and state parks, totaling over \$131 million and impacting every county in Florida; and

WHEREAS, over the last 54 years in Dunedin, the LWCF funding has contributed to the enhancement of Caladesi Island, Honeymoon Island I, Honeymoon Island II Haw Creek Preserve, Curlew Creek Park and Weaver Park; and

WHEREAS, parks, trails, and recreation projects dependent upon LWCF funding contribute to the health, well-being and quality of life of Florida families; and

WHEREAS, the LWCF was initially authorized by the President and Congress over 50 years ago and expired on September 30, 2018.

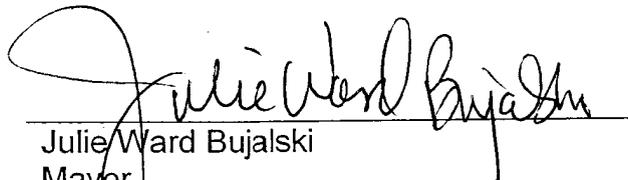
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUNEDIN, FLORIDA, IN SESSION DULY AND REGULARLY ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1: That the City Commission expresses its support of the reauthorization of and full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, given the important contributions it makes to our nation's and Florida's economic well-being.

SECTION 2: That a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the entire Florida Congressional Delegation to show support for the permanent reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

SECTION 3: That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUNEDIN, FLORIDA, THIS 10th day of January, 2019.


Julie Ward Bujalski
Mayor

ATTEST:


Denise M. Kirkpatrick
City Clerk