

Resolution of the University of South Florida Faculty Senate in Support of Maintaining the ca 500-acre plot of land designated the USF Forest Preserve as a Conservation Area, Wildlife Corridor, Natural Classroom and Research Site.

Whereas, the USF Forest Preserve is dominated by wetlands, which are protected by the State of Florida;

Whereas, the USF Forest Preserve contains ecologically important sandhill habitat, which is severely threatened both locally and nationally;

Whereas, the USF Forest Preserve is home to several endangered and threatened animal and plant species;

Whereas, the USF Forest Preserve contains several known Native American archaeological sites with human burials and other cultural heritage protected by the State of Florida;

Whereas, the USF Forest Preserve provides critical ecological functions such as purification of water entering the Hillsborough River (a State-designated Outstanding Florida Water), and serves as a carbon sink that counteracts global warming; and is also an integral component of a wildlife corridor that connects with the Green Swamp (the headwaters of the Hillsborough River);

Whereas, the intact network of numerous characteristic Florida ecosystem types across the Forest Preserve landscape gives rise to the Preserve's natural, cultural, teaching, and research values;

Whereas, the USF Forest Preserve is