

Resolution Prioritizing Salt Creek's Health, Historical Importance, Connection, and Significance to the Community." Passed unanimously by St. Petersburg City Council, November 18, 2022.

WHEREAS, Salt Creek is a historic, 1.5-mile stream nestled in an urban landscape that winds through various segments of nature, abandoned lots, working marinas, urban backyards, neighborhoods, and parks in South St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the City of St. Petersburg ("City") is a city that celebrates and protects its natural resources, including 82 lakes and numerous creeks; and

WHEREAS, Salt Creek is a brackish, tidal creek with historical, economic, cultural, and ecological significance; and

WHEREAS, Salt Creek was included in John Nolen's 1923 visionary green corridor plan that linked Downtown St. Petersburg to Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, and Nolen, a student of celebrated urban planner Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., was particularly acclaimed for incorporating the natural environment into our everyday urban experience; and

WHEREAS, Salt Creek, navigable for uneven stretches, originates from Lake Maggiore (where just downstream of its source there is a dam that regulates incursion of the saline tidal prism from Tampa Bay's flood tides into the lake); flows northeast through the Harbordale neighborhood to Bartlett Lake; traverses underneath bridges and through culverts as it eventually flows east under Thrill Hill bridge; and concludes its journey where its mouth meets Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, Lake Maggiore, named Salt Lake until 1925, was tidally influenced as part of the Tampa Bay estuary via Salt Creek until being dammed at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street South to keep fresh water in and marine life out; and

WHEREAS, Salt Creek functions as an integral feature in the City's stormwater system, draining a large portion of South St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, Salt Creek serves as a modern-day contemplation for how we navigate built and natural environs and protect everyday nature; and

WHEREAS, Salt Creek is the aqueous home to flora and fauna, with protected saltwater mangrove thickets and myriad fish species, and is the territorial ground of large alligators, both natural and legendary; and

WHEREAS, the sometimes hidden hydrology of Salt Creek is a critical part of the health of the watershed in South St. Petersburg and plays a vital role in storm mitigation and tidal surge that will matter even more as climate change impacts increase; and

WHEREAS, Salt Creek beckons exploration, adventure, and imagination for those

curious and determined and has untapped potential as a recreational asset in the City; and

WHEREAS, Salt Creek provides a chance to revitalize the community as we clean and restore our waterways and simultaneously appreciate nature's intrinsic value and the legacy of our natural environment; and

WHEREAS, Salt Creek has already been the source of considerable artistic, literary and cultural work, celebrating its unique beauty and singular charm; and

WHEREAS, appreciating the many roles of Salt Creek enriches the educational aspect of nearby Boyd Hill Nature Center; and

WHEREAS, today, the City celebrates the significance of Salt Creek and its function as an urban creek in our community; and

WHEREAS, the people of St. Petersburg recognize the commitment to important work ahead to protect this watershed, including, but not limited to, the provision of setbacks from proposed development pressures, preservation of greenspace, and thoughtful consideration of future infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Salt Creek was created in 2019 by a concerned community wishing to protect, explore, and value this historic waterbody's cultural and ecological aspects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of St. Petersburg, Florida, that Salt Creek's health, historical significance, connection, and significance to the community be prioritized in considerations given to development, capital improvements, or other activities in areas near or on the creek.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Petersburg City Council recognizes and appreciates the work of the Friends of Salt Creek as an essential resource and primary stakeholder in discussions that impact Salt Creek.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.