RESOLUTION NO. 98-M-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY REGARDING THE WEST ORANGE TRAIL AND THE WEKIVA BASIN GEOPARK; PROVIDING FOR THE COMMITMENT TO A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN PHASE IV OF THE WEST ORANGE TRAIL; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE ORANGE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE DESIGN AND OPERATIONS OF PHASE IV; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Orange County citizens have an interest an concern for the protection of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Orange County citizens have an interest and concern for the provision of trails and greenways; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners has adopted the Bikeways, Trails and Greenways Master Plan of which the West Orange Trail is a primary network trail; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has declared the Central Florida Greenway System/Central Florida Loop Greenway as an official Florida Greenway, of which the West Orange Trail is a critical and integral link of this regional system; and

WHEREAS, Orange County citizens have directly benefited and will directly benefit from the construction and operation of the West Orange Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will allow Phase IV of the West Orange Trail to generally follow the perimeter of the Wekiva Basin Geopark; and

WHEREAS, it benefits the citizens, natural resources and wildlife of Central Florida by balancing the protection of the environment while encouraging outdoor education and recreation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the Orange County Board of County Commissioners hereby directs the Orange County Department of Parks and Recreation to adhere to the following parameters in the alignment, design, construction and operation of the West Orange Trail along the perimeter of the Wekiva Basin Geopark:

A. The alignment and design of the trail section along the perimeter of the Wekiva Basin Geopark shall be designed such that the wildlife and natural resources are protected to the greatest extent practical.

B. The operations and maintenance of the trail section along the perimeter of the Wekiva Basin Geopark shall be conducted to enhance and protect the State Park's natural resources and wildlife and minimize the impacts of human intrusion while allowing the enjoyment of Central Florida's natural resources.

C. The West Orange Trail shall not allow connection to internal trails within the State Park but instead will provide a spur trail along Welch Road to the main entrance to the Wekiwa Springs State Park.

D. Orange County shall be responsible for the maintenance of the West Orange Trail.

E. The West Orange Trail Phase IV shall be a demonstration project showing the partnership benefits of multiple government agencies, the benefits of balancing natural resource protection with the outdoor recreation needs of the citizens and the benefits of design that protects and enhances the environment.
Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.


ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Board of County Commissioners
BY: Linda W. Chapin
County Chairman

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners
By: Deputy Clerk