

CHARACTERISTICS OF, FINDINGS OF FACT, AND DECLARATION OF POLICY FOR SCENIC HIGHWAYS

A. William Bartram Scenic Highway

The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida hereby finds and determines that:

1. A portion of State Road 13 from Julington Creek to SR 207, near the St. Johns River in St. Johns County was designated a part of the William Bartram Scenic Highway by the 1980 Florida Legislature (Laws of Florida Chapter 80-427); the portion of road between Julington Creek and State Road 207 being hereinafter referred to as the William Bartram Scenic Highway or Highway. The preservation of the scenic and historic characteristics of this area affects the public economic welfare. Because much of this highway is a two-lane road, the uncontrolled proliferation of signs and similar structures presents an additional visual distraction to motorists and thus affects the public safety, as well as being a detraction from the scenic and historic character of the Highway and its intersecting roads. The preservation of the scenic and aesthetic characteristics of the William Bartram Scenic Highway and certain of its intersecting roads is justified on the basis of conserving the value of property and encouraging the most appropriate use of land. There are known historic and pre-historic resources along the Highway. Along with maintaining the scenic quality of the William Bartram Scenic Highway, it is important to maintain its cultural integrity and preserve its cultural resources. Any development which disturbs archaeological sites destroys their significance as cultural resources, shall be restricted and regulated. Regulation of outdoor advertising, signs and satellite dishes along the William Bartram Scenic Highway and certain of its intersecting roads is therefore the proper subject for adoption under a County Ordinance under the authority of Section I, Article VIII of the Florida Constitution, Florida Statute, Chapter 125, especially Section 125.01 and Florida Statute Section 479.155.
2. For the purposes of Sign placement, there is a need for those roads between Julington Creek and State Road 207 that intersect the William Bartram Scenic Highway for 2500 feet from its centerline in either direction follow the same guidelines in order to remain compatible with the scenic Highway, for aesthetic quality and to maintain the established integrity and stability of the Corridor as hereafter defined, for visual continuity at the intersections, and to promote the safety of persons and vehicles at these intersections.

B. International Golf Parkway (formally known as Nine-Mile Road)

The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida hereby finds and determines the following:

1. International Golf Parkway (formally known as Nine-Mile Road) was named Nine-Mile Road because its early eastern terminus at Kings Road was nine miles from St. Augustine. Kings Road was built in 1775 and is located near the present US 1. Between US 1 and SR 16, the road passes through portions of Twelve Mile Swamp and crosses land granted to the Indian trading firm of Panton Leslie and Co. by the British Crown, sometime after 1763. In 1813, the same tract of 10,000 acres was passed to Antonio Huertas through a grant from the Spanish governor, Sebastian Kindelan. From the early 1800s the pine flatwoods bordering the road were used for turpentine production and cattle grazing. Recently, archaeologists found two spear points, along the road, indicating human presence in area, approximately 2000-5000 years ago. (Information and data supplied by the St. Johns County Commission in cooperation with the St. Augustine Historical Society, 1996).
2. In 1994, the Board of County Commissioners declared that portion of International Golf Parkway (formally known as Nine-Mile Road) that passes through Twelve Mile Swamp as a St. Johns County Scenic Roadway, finding that the road encompasses a wide variety of scenic land and water vistas, that provide natural views to the motoring public. In 1998, the Board of County Commissioners further recognized International Golf Parkway (formally known as Nine-Mile Road) by the placement of two (2) plaques which state its historical significance.

C. Scenic & Historic A1A Scenic Highway and National Scenic Coastal Byway

The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida hereby finds and determines the following:

Scenic and Historic A1A is a beautiful coastal scenic and historic highway which extends approximately 52 miles from the Duval /St. Johns County line to the St. Johns /Flagler County line.

In 1997 the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 97- 43 requesting the Florida Department of Transportation designate SR A1A through St. Johns County as a Scenic Highway. Based on the Florida Department of Transportation Scenic Highway criteria SR A1A has outstanding examples of intrinsic resources that include natural, archaeological, historic, scenic, recreational and cultural resources and was officially designated as a State of Florida Scenic Highway and National Scenic Byway in 2002.

Scenic & Historic A1A provides magnificent and varied scenic views of both the ocean and adjacent estuaries. These views can be observed along the roadway from Ponte Vedra to Marineland. The roadway is defined by dunes and beaches flanked by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the extensive estuarine marshes on the west. The Guana State Park is located along A1A, which provides views of unspoiled natural areas.

There are numerous Federal, State and County Parks and Open Space throughout the Scenic and Historic A1A. Recreational activities that can be enjoyed along the roadway include sightseeing, walking, hiking, biking, birding, boating, fishing, surfing and golf and tennis. In addition, cultural opportunities can be enjoyed throughout the year.

Preservation of the SR A1A intrinsic resources is important to the County; therefore, the uncontrolled proliferation of signs and similar structures presents visual distraction to the scenic and historic character of the National Scenic Byway. The St. Johns County Land Development Code regulates outdoor advertising, signs and satellite dishes.