

Intro. Res. No. 1190-2009

Laid on Table 3/3/2009

Introduced by Presiding Officer, on request of the County Executive and Legislators Schneiderman, Vilorio-Fisher

RESOLUTION NO. 209 -2009, AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, INC.

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy, Inc., a not-for-profit organization having its principal office at 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, Virginia, has a mission which includes preserving plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and water they need to survive; and

WHEREAS, the County, acting through its duly constituted Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, owns, operates and maintains a County parks system which contains wildlife habitats, ecosystems, and endangered or threatened species; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy desires to enter into a cooperative management agreement with the County to advise on management goals related to the maintenance or restoration of wildlife habitats, ecosystems, and endangered or threatened species and to conduct environmental management functions, such as prescribed burns; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy further desires to enter into such an agreement with the County in order to undertake scientific, educational, and ecological management activities necessary for the protection of the natural features contained in and upon County Parklands, and the County desires to enter into an agreement with The Nature Conservancy for the operation of said activities; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation shall have the authority, at any time, to approve or discontinue any activity undertaken by The Nature Conservancy in association with such an agreement; now, therefore be it

1st **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation, Conservation is authorized, empowered, and directed, pursuant to Section 28-4(D) of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER, to enter into a Cooperative Management Agreement for ten (10) years with The Nature Conservancy, Inc., to provide a framework for it to advise on the aforementioned management goals, to conduct environmental management functions, and to undertake scientific, educational, and ecological management activities necessary for the protection of the natural features contained in and upon County Parklands; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"), New York Environmental Conservation Law, Article 8, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action, pursuant to Volume 6 of New York Code of Rules and Regulations ("NYCRR") §617.5(c)(20), in that the resolution concerns routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment and, since this is a Type II action, the County Legislature has no further responsibilities under SEQRA.

DATED: March 24, 2009

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steve Levy
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: March 27, 2009