

## **Resolution to Improve Urban Areas by Encouraging Acquisition and Enhancement of Green Spaces and Other Ecological Restoration Projects**

WHEREAS, over 80% of the US population resides in cities, suburbs, and metropolitan areas, and

WHEREAS, residents of cities and suburbs often lack access to natural spaces within their communities and do not have opportunities to experience nature beyond urban areas, and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation was built on a dedication to sustainable land management and habitat protection, strong conservation values, and a deep appreciation for fish and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, supporting restoration projects in both urban and rural areas would demonstrate empathy for those who do not have the opportunity to experience wild places or wildlife regularly, and

WHEREAS, promoting the revival of natural areas and green spaces for various community uses will facilitate environmental education for citizens of all ages, especially young people and students, and

WHEREAS, establishing green spaces fosters the building of social capital, employment, intergenerational cooperation, and community resilience, and

WHEREAS, encouraging widespread ecological restoration and native tree plantings in urban areas will expand habitat space and increase species biodiversity for birds, various pollinators, and other wildlife, and

WHEREAS, cities that replace unused or overused impervious surfaces also work to improve soil and water quality, help protect waterways from pollution and erosion, and are, therefore, better adapted to future challenges associated with climate change such as storm water management and the heat island effect, and

WHEREAS, the role of natural spaces in urban areas has been historically undervalued and has been shown to provide a range of economic benefits such as boosting property values, increasing cost savings to cities faced with flooding, reducing crime rates and improving the physical and mental health of residents, thus reducing medical expenses, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WWF, at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, on April 20th-21st, 2018, provide support for current and become active in urban restoration projects to ensure that Wisconsin's outdoor heritage be passed on to children living in cities for future generations to come; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation encourage the revival of funding for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund to its previous full program budget of \$86 million to assist in land acquisition, grants, and serve as a tool for implementing ecological restoration in urban and rural areas.

Submitted by the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps by:

Kyle Lichtenberg  
Jessycah Andersen  
Annli Nakayama

Advisor: Marcia Caton Campbell  
Executive Director  
Center for Resilient Cities