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Public Records of  
St. Johns County, FL  
Clerk# 99002267  
O.R. 1379 PG 211  
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**DECLARATION OF  
COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS  
FOR STONEGATE**

**THIS DECLARATION** is made on the date hereinafter set forth by St. Johns Developers, LTD., a Florida limited partnership, hereinafter referred to as "Declarant".

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, Declarant is the owner of all those certain properties in St. Johns County, Florida, being more particularly described as:

**SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND BY THIS REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF**

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Declarant hereby declares that all of the properties described above shall be held, sold, and conveyed subject to the following easements, restrictions, covenants, agreements and conditions, which are for the purpose of protecting the value and desirability of, and which shall run with, the real property and be binding on all parties having any right, title or interest in the described properties or any part thereof, their heirs, successors, and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of each owner thereof. Any person accepting a deed to any portion of the property shall be deemed to have agreed to all of the easements, restrictions, covenants and agreements as set forth herein.

**ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS**

1. "Association" shall mean and refer to The Stonegate Homeowners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not for profit, its successors and assigns.
2. "Owner" shall mean and refer to the record owner, whether one or more persons or entities, of a fee simple title to any lot which is a part of the properties, including contract sellers, but excluding those having such interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation.

3. "Properties" and "Property" shall mean and refer to that certain real property hereinabove described and such additions thereto as may hereafter be brought within the jurisdiction of the Association.

4. "Future Development Property" shall mean and refer to properties adjacent or contiguous to the Property which may be annexed to the Property as Declarant may determine. Annexation shall be accomplished by Declarant recording an amendment to this Declaration describing the Property to be annexed and any special or different restrictions which may apply to any particular property so annexed.

5. "Common Areas" shall mean all real property (including the improvements thereto) owned by the Association for the common use and enjoyment of the owners. The Declarant may hereafter convey portions of the properties to the Association to constitute additional common Areas but shall have no obligation to do so.

6. "Lot" shall mean and refer to the building plots of land shown upon the recorded subdivision plat of the properties described above. "Lot" shall also mean and refer to tracts or metes and bounds parcels used or intended to be used for construction of one single family home.

7. "Declarant" shall mean and refer to St. Johns Developers, LTD., and any person or entity to whom Declarant shall assign its rights and duties under this agreement.

8. "Surface Water or Stormwater Management System" means a system which is designed and constructed or implemented to control discharges which are necessitated by rainfall events, incorporating methods to collect, convey, store, absorb, inhibit, treat, use or reuse water to prevent or reduce flooding, overdrainage, environmental degradation, and water pollution or otherwise affect the quantity and quality of discharges from the system, as permitted pursuant to Chapters 40C-4, 40C-40, or 40C-42, F.A.C.

9. "Builder" shall mean and refer to any individual or entity duly licensed and qualified in the State of Florida for the construction of residential dwellings who purchases

a Lot or Lots in the subdivision for the sole purpose of constructing a residential dwelling for sale to an Owner.

10. "Plat" shall mean and refer to that certain real property described in the recorded subdivision plat or plats of the Properties as recorded in Plat Book \_\_\_\_\_, pages \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, of the public records of St. Johns County, Florida. This definition shall be expanded to include any Future Development Property described in any platted property which is annexed as hereinafter provided.

11. "Lake" shall be defined as any areas designated on the Plat as "Retention/Detention Area, Lake, Lake Stormwater Management Facility" or any other areas within the Property that are intended for the treatment, retention, detention, or storage of stormwater. This definition may also include any naturally occurring lakes or ponds within the Property.

## ARTICLE II - PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. Owner's Easements of Enjoyment. Every owner and the Association shall have a right and easement of enjoyment in and to any Common Area which shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to every lot, subject to the following provisions:

- (a) the right of the Association to charge reasonable admission and other fees for the use of any recreational facility hereafter situated upon any Common Area;
- (b) the right of the Association to establish rules and regulations for limiting the use (s) of the common area;
- (c) the right of the Association to suspend the voting rights and right to use of any recreational facilities, if any, as to any owner for any period during which any assessment against such owner's lot remains unpaid and for a period not to exceed to days for any infraction of the Association's published rules and regulations;
- (d) the right of the Association to dedicate or transfer all or part of the Common Area to any public agency, authority, or utility for such purposes and subject to such

conditions as may be agreed to by its members. No such dedication or transfer shall be effective unless an instrument agreeing to such dedication or transfer is signed by two-thirds of all votes eligible to be cast.

2. Delegation of Use. Any owner may delegate, in accordance with the by-laws, such owner's right of enjoyment to the Common Area and facilities to the members of such owner's family, tenants, or contract purchasers who reside on the property.

### ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

1. Assessment. Every owner of a lot which is subject to assessment shall be a member of the Association. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any lot which is subject to assessment.

2. Membership. The Association shall have two classes of voting membership:  
CLASS A - Class A members shall be all owners, with the exception of the Declarant, and shall be entitled to one vote for each lot owned. When more than one person holds an interest in any lot, all such persons shall be members. The vote for such lot shall be exercised as they determine, but in no event shall more than one vote be cast with respect to any lot.

CLASS B - The Class B member shall be the Declarant and shall have \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) votes. Upon the annexation of any Future Development Property, the number of votes of the Class B member may be increased by stating the new number of votes in the amendment annexing the additional property. The Class B membership shall cease and be converted to Class A membership on the happening of either of the following events, whichever occurs earlier:

- a) when the Declarant has conveyed one hundred percent (100%) of the lots in the Property or Future Development Property; or
- b) when Declarant request that Class B membership be converted to Class A membership.

#### ARTICLE IV - COVENANT FOR MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS

1. Creation of the Lien and Personal Obligation for Assessments. The Declarant, for each lot owned within the Properties, hereby covenants, and each owner of any lot by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay to the Association: 1) annual assessments or charges, and (2) special assessments for capital improvements or maintenance, such assessments to be established and collected as hereinafter provided. The annual and special assessments, together with interest, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees, shall be a charge on the land and shall be a continuing lien upon the lot against which each such assessment is made. Each such assessment, together with interest, costs and reasonable attorney's fees, shall also be the personal obligation of the person who was the owner of such property at the time when the assessment fell due. The personal obligation for delinquent assessments shall not pass to such owner's successors in title unless expressly assumed by them, but the lien shall survive any conveyance of title.

2. Purpose of Assessments. The assessments levied by the Association shall be used exclusively to promote the recreation, health, safety and welfare of the residents in the Properties; for the improvement and maintenance of the common areas; and for the improvement and maintenance of the perimeter fence, entranceway and islands in roadways, if any; for the improvement and maintenance of the storm and/or surface water management system, including, but not limited to a monthly inspection of the drainage structures which shall at all times be free of leaves and debris. The Association shall be responsible for the maintenance, operation and repair of the surface water and/or stormwater management system and shall have the right of utilize the private easements shown on the plat for such propose. Maintenance of the surface water or stormwater management system(s) shall mean the exercise of practices which allow the systems to provide drainage, water storage,

conveyance or other surface water or stormwater management capabilities as permitted by the St. Johns River Water Management District. The Association shall be responsible for such maintenance and operation. Any repair or reconstruction of the surface water or stormwater management system shall be as permitted, or if modified as approved by the St. Johns River Water Management district. The Association shall execute any minutes or other documents required to cause the permit(s) to be transferred to it from the Declarant, and accepting complete responsibility for the St. Johns River Water Management district permits for the Property.

3. Maximum Annual Assessment. Until January 1 of the year immediately following the conveyance of the first lot to an owner, the maximum assessment shall be \$50.00 per year per lot.

a) From and after January 1 of the year immediately following the conveyance of the first lot to an owner, the maximum assessment may be increased each year but not more than 20% above the maximum assessment for the previous year without a vote of the membership.

b) From and after January 1 of the year immediately following the conveyance of the first lot to an owner, the maximum assessment may be increased more than 20% by two-thirds vote of the members who are voting in person or by proxy, at a meeting duly called for such purpose.

c) The Board of Directors shall fix the assessment annually at amounts not in excess of the maximum.

4. Special Assessments for Capital Improvements. In addition to the annual assessments authorized above, the Association may levy, in any assessment year, a special assessment applicable to that year only for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of any construction, re-construction, repair or replacement of a capital improvement upon any common area, including fixtures and personal property related thereto; provided

that any such special assessment shall have the assent of two-thirds of the votes of members who are voting in person or by proxy at a meeting duly called for such purpose.

5. Notice and Quorum for any Action Authorized Under Section 3 and 4.

Written notice of any meeting called for the purpose of taking any action authorized under Section 3 or 4 shall be sent to all members not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days in advance of the meeting. At the first such meeting called, the presence of members or of proxies entitled to cast 60% of all the votes shall constitute a quorum. If the required quorum is not present, another meeting may be called subject to the same notice requirement, and the required quorum at the subsequent meeting shall be one-half of the required quorum at the preceding meeting. No such subsequent meeting shall be held more than 60 days following the preceding meeting.

6. Uniform Rate of Assessment. Both annual and special assessments must be fixed at a uniform rate for all lots and may be collected on a quarterly basis or as determined by the Board of Directors.

7. Date of Commencement of Annual Assessments. Due Dates: The annual assessments provided for herein shall commence as to all lots on the date of the recording of this Declaration in the public records of St. Johns County, Florida. No lot owned by the declarant or a Builder shall be subject to any assessment until a residence has been constructed thereon and occupied. Model homes are specifically exempt. The first annual assessment shall be adjusted according to the number of months remaining in the calendar year. The Board of Directors shall fix the amount of the annual assessment against each lot at least 30 days in advance of each annual assessment period.

Written notice of the annual assessment shall be sent to every owner at the lot address subject thereto. Failure of any Lot Owner to receive said assessment notice shall not be a defense to non-payment of same. The due dates shall be established by the Board of Directors. The Association shall, upon demand, and for a reasonable charge, furnish a

certificate signed by an officer of the Association setting forth whether or not the assessments on a specified lot have been paid. A properly executed certificate of the Association as to the status of assessments on a lot is binding upon the Association as of the date of its issuance.

8. Effect of Nonpayment of Assessments: Remedies of the Association.

Any assessment not paid within 30 days after the due date shall bear interest from the due date at the rate of 18% per annum. The association may bring an action at law against the owner personally obligated to pay the same, or foreclose the lien against the property involved, or both. No owner may waive or otherwise escape liability for the assessments provided for herein by non-use of the common area or abandonment of such owner's lot.

9. Subordination of the Lien to Mortgages. The lien for the assessments provided for herein shall be subordinate to the lien of any institutional first mortgage. Sale or transfer of any lot shall not affect the assessment lien. However, the sale or transfer of any lot pursuant to mortgage foreclosure or any proceeding in lieu thereof, shall extinguish the lien of such assessment as to payments which became due prior to such sale or transfer. No sale or transfer shall relieve such lot from liability for any assessments thereafter becoming due or from the lien thereof.

## ARTICLE V - LAND USE AND BUILDING TYPE

1. Land Use and Building Type. No one other than Declarant shall use any lot except for residential purposes. Unless otherwise specifically allowed or permitted under these covenants, no structure shall be erected, altered, placed, or permitted to remain on any lot other than one detached single-family dwelling not to exceed two stories in height. No outbuilding or other structure at any time situate on said land shall be used as a hospital, sanitarium, church, charitable, religious or philanthropic institution, or for business or



manufacturing purposes, and no duplex residence, garage apartment or apartment house shall be erected or placed on or allowed to occupy said land.

2. Declarant's Right to Resubdivide, Replat or Assign. Declarant shall have the right to resubdivide or replat any of the said land owned by it. In the event any of said land is resubdivided or replatted for rights-of-way for roads, streets or easements, none of the restrictions contained herein shall apply to the portions thereof used for such purposes. Declarant shall have the right to assign to any person or corporation its rights and duties under these covenants.

3. Storm/Surface Water Management. The St. Johns River Water Management District has jurisdiction over this subdivision and has issued Stormwater discharge Permit No. 4-109-0153M-ERP authorizing construction and operation of a storm and/or surface water management system to serve the subdivision. No alteration to any part of the aforementioned system, including but not limited to, storm drainage retention/detention areas, swales and pipes, will be allowed without the written consent of declarant and the St. Johns River Water Management district. All clearing, grading and other construction activities must comply with the terms and conditions of the said permit. Specifically, the owners of lots requiring rear lot water treatment pursuant to the terms of the permit shall be responsible for the continuing maintenance and compliance with said permit. In the event that any Owner fails to comply with the terms of the permit, the Association shall have the right to enter upon the premises to bring any Lot into compliance and levy a special assessment against the Lot for any costs incurred as a result thereof.

4. Sidewalks. When a dwelling is constructed on any lot, but in any event no later than twenty-four (24) months from the initial purchase of any lot, the lot owner must also construct a sidewalk on that lot if a sidewalk is shown on the city or county approved engineering plan for the subdivision. All sidewalks must conform to city or county standards.

5. Garage. Each home shall have an attached two car garage. No garage shall be permanently enclosed or converted to another use. All garages shall contain at least 400 square feet of usable space appropriate for parking automobiles. All garages must have doors which shall be maintained in a useful condition and shall be kept closed when not in use. Carports will not be permitted.

6. Outbuildings. No outbuilding shall be erected, placed or altered on any lot without the prior approval of the Architectural Control Committee.

7. Approval of Structure. No residence, structure, wall or swimming pool shall be erected, placed or altered on any lot until the construction plans and specifications and a plan showing the location of the structure have been approved by the Architectural Control Committee as to quality of workmanship and materials, harmony of external design with existing structures, and as to location of improvements with respect to topography and finished grade elevation. No exposed block or built up roof will be permitted in the construction of any dwelling. No wooden shingles shall be allowed unless fire-retardant. Approval shall be as provided in paragraph 25 below. No outbuildings or drives, walks fences, walls or swimming pools shall be erected or constructed on any lot prior to the erection or construction of a permanent residence thereon. No fence, wall, bulkhead, dock or structure of any kind will be permitted below the top of the slope of the lake bank as shown on the final survey on waterfront lots without the prior approval of the Architectural Control Committee. Said approval shall be in writing and shall specify the exact nature, size, location and appearance of any such exception. The decision to grant such exception is discretionary with the Architectural Control Committee and shall be capable of being withdrawn should the terms and conditions set forth by the Architectural Control Committee not be complied with by the lot owner to whom such exception is granted. The decision to grant such exception is discretionary with the Architectural Control Committee.

and the decision to not grant such an exception shall not be subject to judicial review.

8. Dwelling Size. Unless specifically approved in writing by the Architectural Control Committee, no dwelling shall be permitted on any lot unless the ground floor area of the main structure, exclusive of one-story open porches and garages, shall contain at least 1,200 square feet for a one-story dwelling and at least 1,000 square for the ground floor of a dwelling of more than one story, with at least 1,200 square feet for both stories combined. The Architectural Control Committee shall be empowered to allow a 20% variance in the above mentioned square footages.

9. Building Location. The location of the building on the lot shall conform to the zoning requirements of the appropriate zoning authorities as currently existing or as hereinafter amended by St. Johns County. Proposed variances shall require the prior approval of the Declarant as well as the appropriate zoning authorities.

10. Lot Area. No dwelling shall be erected or placed on any lot having an area of less than that allowed under applicable zoning regulations or variance and exceptions to said regulation approved by Declarant. Lots shown on the plat shall be deemed to be in compliance with this provision.

11. Nuisances. No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on upon any lot, nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or may become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood.

12. Recreational and Commercial Vehicles. No commercial vehicles, boats or trailers of any type shall be permitted to be placed on any lot subject to these covenants, unless such shall be placed or parked in a fenced side yard or fenced rear yard of a lot and screened from view of passing motorists and neighboring lots, but not placed in the side yard of a corner lot on the side abutting a street. No wheeled vehicles of any kind or any other offensive objects may be kept or parked in a state of disrepair between the paved road and residential structures. No automobiles trailers, or boats shall be parked in the roadways or

on the right-of-way adjoining the lots. For purposes of this paragraph, a vehicle which is a 3/4 ton or less truck used as transportation to and from the lot owner's employment shall not be considered a commercial vehicle. No travel trailers or motorized homes shall be permitted unless specifically approved by the Architectural Review Committee.

13. Temporary Structures. No structure of a temporary character, trailer, tent, motorized home, shack garage, barn or other outbuilding shall be used on any lot at any time as a residence either temporarily or permanently.

14. No Subdivision. No Lot located within the Property shall be subdivided to constitute more than one building plot.

15. Mailboxes. No individual lot owner shall cause to be constructed any mailbox facility other than those provided by the Declarant.

16. Fences. All fences shall be constructed of and shall have a permanent appearance of natural wood unless otherwise approved by the Architectural control Committee. All fences must be approved by the Architectural Control Committee prior to installation. No fence shall be installed which restricts or prohibits ingress and egress as granted by easements herein. No fence or wall shall be erected, placed or altered on any lot nearer to any street than the rear of the house or the side of the house in the case of a corner lot unless approved by the Architectural Control Committee and in no event shall any fence exceed a maximum height of six (6) feet or be lower than a minimum height of five (5) feet unless approved by such committee. All fences shall be constructed and maintained to present a pleasing appearing as to quality of workmanship and materials, harmony of external design with existing structures and as to location with respect to topography and finished grade elevation. It shall be within the sole and exclusive purview of the Architectural Control Committee to make the determination as to whether or not a fence is pleasing in

appearance as provided herein. Chain link fences shall not be permitted. Declarant reserves the right to release areas such as sewer lift stations, playgrounds, etc., from the above fence restrictions.

17. Signs. No sign of any kind shall be displayed to the public view on any lot without the prior written approval of the Architectural Control Committee except one sign of not more than two square feet advertising the property for sale, or after one (1) year from the closing date on the Lot, one sign of not more than two (2) square feet advertising the property for rent. Signs used by a builder to advertise the property during the construction and sales period must be approved by the Architectural control Committee prior to being displayed. The entranceway identification sign shall be exempt from this provision and shall remain for the enjoyment of the owners of all Lots. The Architectural Control Committee shall have the right to promulgate standards for the quality, size, appearance, location and type of all signs to be displayed to public view.

18. Clotheslines. There shall not be permitted any exterior clotheslines on any lots.

19. Oil and Mining Operations. No oil drilling, oil development operations, oil refining, quarrying or mining operations of any kind shall be permitted upon or in any lot, nor shall oil wells, tanks, tunnels, mineral excavation or shafts be permitted upon or in any lot. No derrick or other structure designed for use in boring for oil or natural gas shall be erected, maintained or permitted upon any lot.

20. Livestock and Poultry. No animals, livestock or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred or kept on any lot, except that dogs, cats or other household pets in reasonable numbers may be kept provided they are not kept, bred or maintained for any commercial use and do not create safety, health or nuisance problems.

21. Exterior Appearance and Maintenance. Every house and lot shall be maintained so as to present a pleasing appearance. Window coverings and decorations shall be of conventional materials, e.g. draperies, blinds or shutters. Windows shall not be covered with aluminum foil, paper, or the like. Lawns shall be maintained in a neat manner. Houses shall be kept in reasonable repair and excessive visible deterioration shall not be allowed.

22. Garbage and Refuse Disposal. No lot shall be used or maintained as a dumping ground for rubbish, trash, garbage or other waste. Rubbish, trash, garbage or other waste shall be kept in closed sanitary containers constructed of metal or rigid plastic. All equipment for the storage or disposal of such material shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition and shall not be visible from the street except on scheduled garbage pick up days.

23. Motorists' Vision to Remain Unobstructed. The Declarant shall have the right, but not the obligation, to remove or require the removal of any fence, wall, hedge, shrub, bush, tree or other thing, natural or artificial, placed or located on any lot, if the location of same will, in the sole judgment and opinion of the Declarant, obstruct the vision of motorists upon any of the streets.

24. Landscaping. The mass indiscriminate cutting down of trees is expressly prohibited without the written consent of the Architectural Control Committee, EXCEPT those areas where building and other improvements shall be located; i.e. homes, patios, driveways, parking and recreational areas, or due to Lot fill or drainage requirements, etc. Also, selective cutting and thinning for lawns and other general improvements shall be permitted. All disturbed areas on any lot must be seeded or covered with sod or mulch and maintained to present a pleasing appearance and to prevent the growth of weeds. It is the responsibility of each lot owner whose lot abuts a lake to maintain the lake bank to the waters' edge. It is the responsibility of each lot owner to seed or sod and maintain the area

between his property line and the street. It is the responsibility of each lot owner to prevent erosion on all areas of his lot, including easements, by sodding, seeding and mulching, or other methods which may be deemed appropriate. At the time a dwelling is constructed on any lot which abuts a Lake, it is the responsibility of the Builder to sod the Lake bank to the waters' edge.

25. Architectural Control Committee.

a) Membership. The Architectural Control Committee shall be composed of three (3) persons appointed by Declarant. A majority of the committee may designate a representative to act for it. In the event of the death or resignation of any member of the committee, the remaining members shall have full authority to designate a successor.

Neither the members of the committee nor its designated representative shall be entitled to any compensation for services performed pursuant to this covenant. So long as Declarant owns any lots in the Property or Future Development Property, Declarant shall have the right to appoint the members of such committee. At any time after Declarant has sold all lots or has waived, in writing, its right to appoint such committee members, the Association shall have the power and right to elect the members of the committee, to change the membership of the committee or to withdraw from the committee or restore to it any of its powers and duties.

b) Procedure. The committee's approval or disapproval as required in these covenants shall be in writing. In the event the committee, or its designated representative, fails to approve or disapprove within thirty (30) days after the plans and specifications have been submitted to it, approval will not be required and the requirements of the related covenants shall be deemed to have been fully complied with.

26. Utility Lines. All water, sewer, electrical, telephone, television, gas and other utility lines shall be placed underground. No antennas of any kind shall be placed on any lot. Satellite dishes are approved to be constructed on lots within the Property only if the

following criteria are met. Satellite dishes must be placed in a side or rear yard and fenced or otherwise screened from view so that is not visible from outside of the lot, including front and side streets, roads, common areas, neighboring lots or vacant land. Satellite dishes cannot exceed 39" in diameter and cannot exceed a height, including any poles or additional installation structures, of five (5) feet.

27. Air Conditioning Units. No air conditioning units may be installed in any window. Air conditioning units shall be minimum of five feet (5') from the property lines.

28. Roadways. No one, other than Declarant, shall use any lot or any portion thereof for roadway purposes and no one, other than declarant, shall construct a driveway upon any lot except to serve the lot upon which it is constructed. Unless approved in writing by the Architectural Control Committee, only one driveway per lot, said driveway serving the garage on the lot, shall be permitted.

29. Utility Provisions. St. Johns County Utility Department, or its successors has the sole and exclusive right to provide all water and sewage facilities and service to the property described herein. No well of any kind shall be dug or drilled on any one of the lots or tracts to provide water for use within the structures to be built. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing the digging of a well to be used exclusively for use in the yard and garden of any lot or tract or to be used exclusively for irrigation. All sewage from any building must be disposed of through its sewage lines and through the sewage lines and disposal plant owned or controlled by St. Johns County Utility Department or its successors or assigns. No water from air conditioning systems, ice machines, swimming pools, or any other form of condensate water shall be disposed of through the lines of sewer system. St. Johns County Utility Department, has a non-exclusive perpetual and unobstructed easement and right in and to, over and under property as described in this Declaration and the plat of



the Property for the purposes of ingress, egress and installation and/or repair of water and sewage facilities.

30. Drainage and Utility Easements. The Declarant hereby reserves unto itself and grants to the Association a perpetual, non-exclusive, alienable and releasable privilege and right on, across and under the ground to construct, maintain and use electric, telephone, wires, cables, conduits, sewer, water mains and pipes, drainage swales or pipes, and other suitable equipment for the conveyance and use of electricity, telephone, water or other public conveniences or utilities on, in or over a 7.5 foot strip at the back and side of each Lot as well as the private easements on the plat. A release of the 7.5 strip easement reserved by Declarant is hereby granted where any portion of a dwelling constructed by Declarant or a Builder encroaches onto said 7.5 foot strip easement. The Declarant shall have the unrestricted right and power to release said easement. The granting of easements as contained in this paragraph shall be subordinate to the Declarant's right to assign said easement to St. Johns County or other parties should the Declarant desire to assign said easement rights. Additionally, said easements as granted in this paragraph shall be subordinate to the restrictions of the Conservation Easement areas wherever these easements fall into such areas.

31. Enforcement. Any person owning any portion of the above described lands or the St. Johns River Water Management District, its successors or assigns, may institute proceedings at law or in equity against any person or persons violating or attempting to violate any covenants or, in the case of the St. Johns River Water Management District, the provisions contained in this Declaration which relate to the maintenance, operation and repair of the surface water or stormwater management system, either to restrain any existing or threatened violation or to recover damages. Additionally, the Association shall have the authority and responsibility to enforce the provisions of the Declaration.

32. Severability. Invalidation of any one of these covenants by judgment or court order shall in no wise affect any of the other provisions hereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

33. Indemnification. The owner or owners of all lots abutting the storm drainage retention/detention areas within the Property shall, by virtue of having acquired said lots subject to these covenants and restrictions, be deemed to have assumed all of the obligations and responsibilities of Declarant as set forth in the Plat and have agreed to indemnify Declarant and save Declarant harmless from suits, actions, damages and liability and expense in connection with loss of life, bodily or personal injury, or property damage, or any other damage arising from or out of any occurrence in, upon or at or from the storm drainage retention/detention areas as shown on the Plat, or any part thereof, or occasioned wholly or in part by any act or omission of owners, owners' agents, contractors, employees, servants, licensees, or concessionaires with the property.

34. Reservation for Subdivision Improvements. St.. Johns Developers. LTD. reserves the right to enter any lot for the purpose of completing or correcting subdivision improvements as required by agencies of the City, County, State or Federal government.

35. Amendment. The covenants and restrictions of this Declaration shall run with and bind the land for a term of thirty (30) years from the date this Declaration is recorded, after which time they shall be automatically extended for successive period of ten (10) years. The Declarant reserves and shall have the sole right to: a) amend these covenants and restrictions so long as the Declarant owns at least one (1) lot within the subdivision; b) to amend these covenants and restrictions at any time if, in the discretion of the Declarant, such amendment is necessary to comply with the aforementioned St.. Johns River Water Management District permit; c) to waive as to any lot any provisions of the covenants and

restrictions; and d) to release any building plot from any part of the covenants and restrictions which have been violated (including, without limiting the foregoing, violations of building restriction lines and provisions hereof relating thereto) if Declarant, in its sole opinion, deems such violations to be insubstantial violations or if Declarant, in its sole opinion, deems such violations necessary for construction and/or sales. Declarant may assign its right to release such violations. Subject to the above rights reserved by the Declarant, this Declaration may be amended by an instrument signed by not less than 66% of the lot owners, EXCEPT that the covenants herein contained pertaining to (1) the required maintaining of an owners association or (2) to the surface water or stormwater management system, beyond maintenance of its original condition, including the water management portions of the common areas, if any, may not be amended without the prior approval of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

36. Legal Action on Violation. If any person, firm or corporation, or other entity shall violate or attempt to violate any of these covenants and restrictions, it shall be lawful for the Declarant or the Association or any person or persons owning any lot on said land (a) to proceed at law for the recovery of damages against those so violating or attempting to violate any of such covenants and restrictions; and (b) to maintain a proceed in equity against those so violating or attempting to violate any such covenants and restrictions, for the purpose of preventing or enjoining all or any of such violations aor attempted violations. The remedies contained in this paragraph shall be construed as cumulative of all other remedies now or hereafter provided by law. The failure of declarant, its successors or assigns, to enforce any covenant or restriction or any obligation, right, power, privilege, authority, or reservation herein contained, however long continued, shall in no event be deemed as a waiver of the right to enforce the same thereafter as to the same breach or violation thereof occurring prior to or subsequent thereto. Lot owners found in violation of these restrictions

shall be obliged to pay attorney's fees to the successful plaintiff in all actions seeking to prevent, correct or enjoin such violations or in damage suits thereon. All restrictions herein contained shall be deemed several and independent.

37. Conservation Easement. The Declarant hereby reserves unto itself, its successors and assigns, a perpetual, non-exclusive easement (the "Conservation Easement") over and across all areas noted on the Plat as Conservation Easement. "Conservation Easement" shall mean and refer to all of such areas so designated on the Plat.

No right-of-access by the general public to the Property or any portion thereof is conveyed by this easement.

This easement, and all terms and conditions hereof, shall run with the land and be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, successors, assigns, and personal representatives of the Declarant and the St.. Johns River Water Management District.

The Declarant, its successors and assigns, and the St.. Johns River Water Management District shall have the right to enter upon the Conservation Easement Areas at all reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, to assure compliance with the prohibitions and restrictions hereinafter set forth.

The Association, its successors and assigns, and the Owner of any Lot upon which there is located any Conservation Easement Area, shall be responsible for the periodic removal of trash and other debris which may accumulate on such easement area.

This easement may be amended or canceled, or portions of the property released herefrom, only by written instrument duly recorded in the public records of St.. Johns County, Florida, and executed by the Declarant and the St.. Johns River Water Management District or their respective heirs, successors, assigns and personal representatives.

The purpose of this Conservation Easement is to preserve the land predominately in its natural state pursuant to the following description of "Prohibited Activities; and "Permitted Activities:

- a) The following activities shall constitute prohibited activities on the Conservation Easement area (the "Prohibited Activities"):
- i) Construction or placing of buildings, roads, utilities, or other structures on or above the ground.
  - ii) Dumping or placing of soil or other substance or material as landfill, or dumping or placing of trash, waste or unsightly or offensive materials.
  - iii) Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs or other vegetation.
  - iv) Excavation, dredging or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock, or other material in such a manner as to affect the surface.
  - v) Any surface use which does not permit the Conservation Easement area to remain predominantly in its natural condition.
  - vi) Any activity detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation.

b) The following activities shall constitute permitted activities (the "Permitted Activities"):

- i) Any activities and improvements required or permitted under St.. Johns River Water Management District Permit No. 4-109-0153M-ERP.

38. Undisturbed Natural Treatment Easement. There shall be set aside a permanent undisturbed natural treatment easement (the "Undisturbed Natural treatment Easement") over that portion of the properties shown on the plat(s) as "Undisturbed Natural Treatment Easement". This Undisturbed Natural Treatment Easement is a part of the surface water management system permitted by the St.. Johns River Water Management District. The purpose of this Undisturbed Natural Treatment Easement is to detain and treat

stormwater prior to drainage offsite. The following activities are prohibited within this Undisturbed Natural Treatment Easement: filling or excavation, planting, sodding or removing vegetation, irrigation, or construction of fences which impede the flow of surface water.

39. Vegetative Natural Buffer Easement. The Declarant hereby reserves unto itself, its successors and assigns, a perpetual, non-exclusive easement (the "Vegetative Natural Buffer Easement") over and across all areas noted on the Plat as Vegetative Natural Buffer Easement. "Vegetative Natural Buffer Easement" shall mean and refer to all of such areas so designated on the Plat.

No right-of-access by the general public to the Property or any portion thereof is conveyed by this easement.

This easement, and all terms and conditions hereof, shall run with the land and be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, successors, assigns, and personal representatives of the Declarant and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

The Declarant, its successors and assigns, and the St. Johns River Water Management District shall have the right to enter upon the vegetative Natural Buffer Easement Areas at all reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, to assure compliance with the prohibitions and restrictions hereinafter set forth.

The Association, its successors and assigns, and the Owner of any Lot upon which there is located any Vegetative Natural Buffer Easement Area, shall be responsible for the periodic removal of trash and other debris which may accumulate on such easement area.

This easement may be amended or canceled, or portions of the property released herefrom, only by written instrument duly recorded in the public records of St. Johns County, Florida, and executed by the Declarant and the St. Johns River Water Management District or their respective heirs, successors, assigns and personal representatives.

The purpose of this Vegetative Natural Buffer Easement is to preserve the land

predominately in its natural state pursuant to the following description of "Prohibited Activities" and "Permitted Activities":

a) The following activities shall constitute prohibited activities on the Vegetative Natural Buffer Easement Area (the "Prohibited Activities"):

i) Construction or placing of buildings, roads, utilities, or other structures on or above the ground.

ii) Dumping or placing of soil or other substance or material as landfill, or dumping or placing of trash, waste or unsightly or offensive materials.

iii) Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs or other vegetation.

iv) Excavation, dredging or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock, or other material in such a manner as to affect the surface.

v) Any surface use which does not permit the Vegetative Natural Buffer Easement area to remain predominately in its natural condition.

vi) Any activity detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation.

b) The following activities shall constitute permitted activities (the "Permitted Activities"):

i) Any activities and improvements required or upland buffer easement permitted under St. Johns River Water Management District Permit No. 4-109-0153M-ERP.

40. Landscape/Buffer/Berm/Sign/Drainage Easement. Declarant hereby reserves unto itself and grants unto to the Association and their assigns a Buffer/Berm/Sign/Drainage Easement over the area as noted on the Plat. Declarant reserves the right in its sole option to construct an earth berm within the easement to maintain the trees and vegetation within the easement and to utilize the easement for signage/drainage swales and/or pipes. No one other than Declarant or the Association may alter the signage,

drainage, topography, berm or vegetation within said easement without prior written permission from Declarant or the Association or their assigns.

41. Environmental Permits. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the St. Johns River Water Management District, have issued permits for the development of the property hereinabove described. The Permit Numbers are as follows: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers #199502588(AK), and the St. Johns River Water Management District #4-109-0153M-ERP, collectively known and as herein referred to as the "Permits". For any of the Permits that delineates any wetland line, whether it be federal or state, the owner, by acceptance of the deed of conveyance hereby agrees to comply with any of such lines as delineated by any of the above referenced Permits. Any construction on any Lot subject to the terms and conditions of these Covenants shall be in compliance with the Aforementioned Permits and there shall be no construction allowed waterward of any jurisdictional line unless authorized by the appropriate permit, as aforementioned, or as allowed by any subsequent permit. In addition to any construction being authorized by the Permits themselves, any construction waterward of any jurisdictional line shall also be authorized in writing by the Declarant. The requirement for authorization by Declarant shall only be required so long as the Declarant owns lots in the subdivision. The aforementioned Permits allow certain construction of improvements for the subdivision development. The period of time allowed for said construction is contained more particularly in the above referenced Permits, However, by acceptance of the deed of conveyance any Lot Owner agrees to accept the transfer of the portion of each Permit which relates to the Lot owned by said Lot Owner. By acceptance of the deed of conveyance by the Lot Owner, the Lot Owner agrees to comply with each and every obligation, limitation and prohibition as more particularly described in said Permit. The transfer of these Permits as contemplated by the language herein contained in this paragraph and the liabilities



associated with compliance with the terms and conditions shall be the liability and obligation of each and every Lot Owner upon the transfer of title to each Lot Owner."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Declarant has executed this instrument this 18<sup>th</sup> day of JAN., 1999.

Signed, sealed and delivered  
in the presence of:

St. Johns Developers, LTD.,  
a Florida limited partnership

By: Robert T. Held, Sr.  
Robert T. Held, Sr., its General Partner

Louise L. Held

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 1999, by Robert T. Held, Sr., as President of St. Johns Developers, LTD., a Florida corporation, as General Partner of St. Johns Developers, LTD., a Florida limited partnership, on behalf of the corporation. He is personally know to me.



Kathryn L. Sanchez  
MY COMMISSION # CC719537 EXPIRES  
February 24, 2002  
BONDED THRU TROY FARM INSURANCE, INC.

Kathryn L. Sanchez  
Notary Public, State of Florida