

Gopher Tortoise Day Proclamation

WHEREAS, Gopher Tortoise Day was adopted in 2016 by the Gopher Tortoise Council to increase appreciation and conservation support for the species, and

WHEREAS, Gopher Tortoise Day will be observed annually in the Town of Lake Park, Florida on April 10th, and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise has been living on earth for 500,000 to 2 million years, and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise today is the official tortoise of the state of Florida and is protected in Florida as a Threatened species, and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species, and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise's burrow protects more than 350 species, some of which are also listed as Threatened, and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise's habitat needs protection, and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise habitat at the Lake Park Scrub Natural Area, which is managed by Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management, help to sustain the area ecology and provide residents and visitors an opportunity to observe this rare species in its native habitat and provide a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Roger Michaud, Mayor of The Town of Lake Park, do hereby proclaim April 10th as:

GOPHER TORTOISE DAY

in the Town of Lake Park Florida and urge all citizens to protect this species by doing and learning more about them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the official Seal of The Town of Lake Park, Florida to be affixed the 2nd day of April, 2025.

Mayor Roger Michaud

Town Clerk Vivian Mendez