

# Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Palm Bay, Florida

## Notice and Proclamation of GOPHER TORTOISE DAY

It is hereby proclaimed by Tracey Wright, Park Ranger/ Naturalist, of Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Palm Bay, Fl., that there be a day set aside for recognition of the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), and

**Whereas**, Gopher Tortoise Day will be observed annually Turkey Creek Sanctuary on April 10th, and

**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise has been living on the planet for 500,000 to 2 million years, and

**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise today is, in the State of Florida, protected and listed as Threatened, and in other parts of the Southeastern U.S., is Federally listed as Threatened, and

**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a Keystone Species, which means that if it were removed, the ecosystem that relies on its presence would drastically suffer, and

**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise's burrow provides habitat and refuge for more than 350 other commensal species, some of which are also listed as Threatened, and

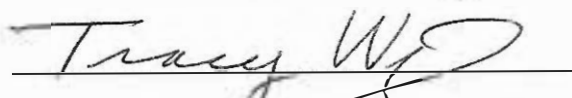
**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise's habitat needs protection and restoration, and

**Whereas**, having Gopher Tortoises and other species in Turkey Creek Sanctuary, helps to sustain the area's ecology; and provide people with a source to treasure and appreciate our wildlife and natural heritage.

**Now, Therefore**, I, Tracey Wright, Park Ranger/ Naturalist of Turkey Creek Sanctuary, urge all citizens to protect this species through education and awareness; and hereby proclaim April 10, 2022, as:

### GOPHER TORTOISE DAY

Notice and Proclamation hereby adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.

  
Tracey Wright, Park Ranger/ Naturalist