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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Celebrate Earth Day helping gopher tortoises at Betty Steflik Preserve

**April 4, 2024** – What better way to celebrate Earth Day than spending time at Betty Steflik Preserve with Flagler County Parks and Recreation, the City of Flagler Beach, the local University of Florida IFAS Extension office, the Florida Master Gardner Volunteers, and Flagler Volunteer Services.

“There will be opportunities to learn about the vegetation in the preserve, and opportunities to get your hands dirty,” said Parks and Recreation Manager Frank Barbuti. “One of our endeavors will be to remove invasive Brazilian Pepper from the hiking trail.”

Plans for the day also include planting a forage garden for the preserve’s gopher tortoise population.

Those who are interested in participating in any of the day’s events are encouraged to [register](#) in advance, and must be at least 16 years old. Volunteers should also dress for the weather – sun, showers, heat. Community service hours for school and college are accepted.

Registrants should meet at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, at Betty Steflik Preserve, 815 Moody Lane, Flagler Beach. For more information, contact Vikki Geisel, 386-313-4016 or [vgeisel@flaglercounty.gov](mailto:vgeisel@flaglercounty.gov).

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