



**Volunteers Needed to Assist with
Gopher Tortoise Burrow Survey
Boyd Hill Nature Preserve
(St. Petersburg, Florida)
March-April 2020**

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is home to the largest remaining population of gopher tortoises in the southern Pinellas Peninsula. Preserve visitors can easily watch this threatened species foraging in the uplands, as well as view their burrows. These burrows serve as important homes or refugia for at least 364 other species that occur throughout the tortoise's range.

A new gopher tortoise burrow survey will be conducted in the preserve's uplands during March-April 2020. Conducted by Heinrich Ecological Services, this survey will provide data resulting in the production of new distribution maps, an updated estimate of population size, and determination of tortoise density per management section. This information will be used by City staff to assess current habitat management strategies and guide future efforts related to this species. A large number of volunteers will be needed to complete this project. This is an opportunity for individuals to learn about the ecology of this threatened species, while participating in actual wildlife research.

Please contact george@heinrichecologicalservices.com or call (727) 599-1843 for additional information on this imperiled species, or how to become involved with this project.

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, Lake Maggiore Environmental Education Center
(1101 Country Club Way S., St. Petersburg, Florida)

