

HR 8013

2026

House Resolution

A resolution designating February 4, 2026, as "Florida State Parks Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Florida's state park system manages and protects 176 parks, trails, and historic sites that span over 818,000 acres, including 100 miles of white sand beaches, and

WHEREAS, Florida's state parks generated an estimated \$3.6 billion in economic impact and \$234 million in sales tax revenue while attracting more than 28 million visitors and supporting 49,910 jobs in fiscal year 2024-2025, and

WHEREAS, Florida's state park system is the only four-time winner of the National Recreation and Park Association's Gold Medal for Excellence in the Field of Parks and Recreation Management, and was one of three finalists for the gold medal in 2025, and

WHEREAS, Florida's state parks are known for outdoor recreation, including hiking, camping, swimming, paddling, fishing, horseback riding, and many other activities, and

WHEREAS, Florida's state parks inspire thousands of volunteers, as well as multiple dedicated, statewide citizen support organizations such as the statewide Florida State Parks Foundation, and

WHEREAS, beloved native wildlife, including Florida panthers, manatees, sea turtles, black bears, alligators, and

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26 many species of birds, find critical habitat in lands and waters
27 managed by Florida's state park system, and

28 WHEREAS, seventy-five of Florida's 176 state parks lie
29 within the footprint of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, with many
30 more located nearby, and

31 WHEREAS, the year 2025 marked 25 years of Florida Forever,
32 the landmark conservation program that has protected more than 1
33 million acres of lands across this state for the benefit of
34 people and nature, and

35 WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to acquire or expand
36 dozens of Florida's state parks to increase opportunities for
37 outdoor recreation and preserve crucial habitat, NOW, THEREFORE,

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39 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
40 Florida:

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42 That February 4, 2026, is designated as "Florida State
43 Parks Day" in Florida.