

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Lori Williams, Parks Director
INITIATED BY

Public Works Committee
SUBMITTED BY



Lori Williams, Parks Director
DRAFTED BY

May 23, 2017
DATE DRAFTED

PROCLAIMING JULY AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

1 **WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this
2 country, including Rock County; and
3
4 **WHEREAS**, our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality
5 of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and
6 environmental well-being of a community and region; and
7
8 **WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the
9 prevention of chronic disease, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and
10
11 **WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through
12 increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and
13 retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and
14
15 **WHEREAS**, parks and recreation areas are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our
16 community; and
17
18 **WHEREAS**, parks and natural recreation areas improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent
19 flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and
20 produce habitat for wildlife; and
21
22 **WHEREAS**, our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and
23 provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and
24
25 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month;
26 and
27
28 **WHEREAS**, Rock County recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.
29
30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
31 this 22nd day of June, 2017 does hereby designate July as Parks and Recreation Month in the
32 County of Rock.

17-6B-303

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Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Betty Jo Bussie 4/13/17

Betty Jo Bussie, Chair

Brent Fox

Brent Fox, Vice Chair

Eva M. Arnold

Eva M. Arnold

Brenton Driscoll

Brenton Driscoll

Rick Richard

Rick Richard

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tom Presny

Tom Presny

Absent

Floyd Finney

Dean Paynter

Dean Paynter

PROCLAIMING JULY AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

Executive Summary

Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. A program of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the America's Backyard initiative, the goal is to raise awareness of the vital impact that parks, recreation, and conservation have on communities across the United States.

Park and recreation services are vital for our communities — from protecting open space and natural resources, to helping fight obesity, to providing activities and resources for all walks of life — Park and Recreation Month encourages everyone to reflect on the exponential value parks and recreation bring to communities.

According to a 2015 study conducted by Penn State and commissioned by the National Recreation and Park Association, an overwhelming majority of Americans assert that they personally benefit from local parks and that their communities benefit from local parks.

- Americans are in agreement that NRPA's Three Pillars — Conservation, Health and Wellness and Social Equity — are chief priorities for local parks.
- Parks are a great value: 4 in 5 Americans concur that local parks are well worth the tax dollars spent on them.
- This passion for local parks has gone unabated over the past 25 years, even with dramatic demographic shifts in the United States and the ways technology transformed how we interact with others and entertain ourselves.

Support for local parks is widespread, spanning different age groups, income strata, household types and political affiliations.

This July we're celebrating 32 years of Park and Recreation Month and the power of play. Play is a vital part of our mental wellbeing, physical health and personal interactions. Play is important and it's going to happen in parks because local parks and recreation facilities are the accessible places for all people to play. Parks are ideally suited as the places where all people can play — regardless of ability. We invite you to "Get Your Play On" utilizing our fabulous Rock County Park system this July and all year long!