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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and

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WHEREAS, Parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

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WHEREAS, Parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

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WHEREAS, Park districts, forest preserves, and conservation, recreation, and special recreation agencies are

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1 significant statewide employers of youth, with more than half
2 of their nearly 57,000 employees being under the age of 25; and

3 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation areas are fundamental to the
4 environmental well-being of our communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Parks and natural recreation areas improve water
6 quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the
7 quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to
8 development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and

9 WHEREAS, Our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the
10 ecological beauty of our communities and provide a place for
11 children and adults to connect with nature and recreate
12 outdoors; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare July 2024 as
15 Parks and Recreation Month; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to the Illinois Association of Park Districts, the
18 Illinois Park and Recreation Association, the National
19 Recreation and Park Association, and the Illinois Department
20 of National Resources.