

THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

By Senate President SCUTARI, Assembly Speaker COUGHLIN, and All Members of the Legislature

- **WHEREAS**, In 2009, the United States House of Representatives designated July as National Park and Recreation Month to recognize the societal value that parks and recreational facilities have in communities throughout the country; and,
- WHEREAS, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey are pleased to acknowledge Park and Recreation Month within the Garden State, an appropriate time to reflect upon the immense value these open spaces offer us and the myriad ways they benefit us as individuals and as a society struggling to find serenity in an increasingly chaotic world; and,
- WHEREAS, Parks and recreation encourage physical activity by providing the means necessary to enjoy group sports as well as pursuits such as hiking, swimming, and bird watching, and for this State's youth, they offer limitless educational opportunities in furtherance of a future filled with hope and promise; and,
- **WHEREAS**, Widely touted for their positive effects on cognitive performance and overall wellbeing, parks and recreation promote time spent in nature and alleviate symptoms of depression, attention deficit disorder, and Alzheimer's disease; and,
- WHEREAS, Further acknowledged as an economic engine within a community for their ability to increase property values, enhance tourism, expand the local tax base, and attract and retain businesses, parks and recreation are fundamental to the environmental wellbeing of this State's towns and cities as they offset the carbon footprint left behind by rampant energy consumption; and,
- **WHEREAS**, Most importantly, parks and recreational facilities provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature, and in so doing, they contribute immeasurably to the success and prosperity of the Garden State; now, therefore, Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:
- That this Legislature hereby notes the significance of Park and Recreation Month and encourages all New Jerseyans to participate fittingly in its observance; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution be signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk.

Attest:

Linda Metzger Secretary of the Senate

Dana M. Burley Clerk of the General Assembly Nicholas P. Scutari
President of the Senate

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