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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation programs are an integral 3 part of communities throughout this country, including the 4 State of Illinois; and

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

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

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

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

- 1 WHEREAS, Parks and natural recreation areas improve water 2 quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the 3 quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to 4 development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the 6 ecological beauty of our communities and provide a place for 7 children and adults to connect with nature and recreate 8 outdoors; therefore, be it
- 9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
  10 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
  11 we declare July 2021 as Parks and Recreation Month; and be it
  12 further
- RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Illinois Park and Recreation Association, the Illinois Association of Park Districts, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the National Park and Recreation Association.