



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

2022

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, parks and recreation are integral parts of communities throughout this country, and fundamental to the environmental well-being of the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation promote health and wellness, improving the physical and mental health of people who visit parks; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation activities promote time spent in nature, which positively impacts mental health by increasing cognitive performance and well-being, and alleviating illnesses such as depression, anxiety, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation encourage physical activities by providing space for popular sports, hiking trails, swimming pools, paddling and many other activities designed to promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, park and recreation programming and education activities, such as out-of-school time programming, youth sports and environmental education, are critical to childhood development; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation opportunities 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 essential and adaptable infrastructure that make our communities more resilient in the face of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our state and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS, our North Carolina state parks recorded a new record of 22.8 million visitors in 2021, as well as local parks in our state providing over 37,000 jobs ranking North Carolina as 10th in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month, and the State of North Carolina recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim July, 2022, as **"PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this first day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.