



Agenda Item: Discuss and Consider Recommendation to the Board of Trustees to Proclaim July as Park and Recreation Month

Background: Each year since 1985, across the nation, celebrations of Park and Recreation Month in July recognize the importance of parks and recreation in establishing and maintaining the quality of life for, and contributing to the physical, economic and environmental well-being of communities.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) describes the theme of 2022:

“At NRPA, We Rise Up for Parks and Recreation and all the professionals who build strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. This July, we are bringing attention to how important it is to rise up and support our field, because every day, park and recreation professionals rise up for their communities in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being.”

As the Park Board advances the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan, approved by the Board of Trustees in January this year, sharing the NRPA theme of “We Rise Up for Parks and Recreation” is an opportunity for the Parks and Amenities Committee to officially acknowledge the importance of our own parks and recreation system and the benefits provided to all we serve.

Parks and Recreation provide essential services and benefits to all who visit our parks, including:

- time spent in nature which positively impacts mental health and increases cognitive performance
- physical activities and active lifestyles
- popular sports and activities such as hiking trails, swimming, yoga, paddle boarding, fishing
- educational programs and environmental awareness
- economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction
- environmental stewardship and the ecological health and well-being of our island
- infrastructure resilient in the face of natural disasters
- natural beauty to which all are invited to access and connect with

Staff Recommendation: Staff suggests the Parks and Amenities Committee ask the Board of Trustees to designate July as Parks and Recreation Month.

Funding Source (if applicable): N/A