

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

Park and Recreation Month 2024

WHEREAS parks and recreation are integral parts of communities throughout the country, promoting health and wellness, improving the physical and mental health of people who live near parks; promoting time spent in nature, which positively impacts mental health by increasing cognitive performance and well-being, and alleviating illnesses such as depression, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimer's; and

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

WHEREAS parks 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 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 are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation are essential and adaptable infrastructure that makes our communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources, offering over 200 programs such as swim lessons, dance, gymnastics, day camps, nature programs and athletics leagues, with over 2,000 registered participants for the summer of 2024; and

WHEREAS special events in July include Sounds of Summer on July 13 at Tonsler Park featuring The Tara Mills Band, bluegrass and a free meal off the grill from 6-8 p.m.; and the Sunday Sundown events on July 21 from 12-2 p.m. at Washington Park featuring free and meals and free access to the pools;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Charlottesville City Council that July is recognized as Park and Recreation Month in the City of Charlottesville.

Signed and sealed this 1st day of July 2024.