

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the National Recreation and Parks Association and the Florida Recreation and Parks Association have designated each July as Parks and Recreation Month, recognizing that the health and wellness of individuals and cities are paramount, and parks and recreation are an integral part of communities throughout the United States, including Tampa, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, parks and recreation enhance the quality of life for residents by providing places of enjoyment through recreation and educational programming and leisure activities, and they allow opportunities for young people to live, grow, and develop to their full potential and for older citizens to maintain their health and continue positive life experiences, and parks and recreation strengthen neighborhood involvement, promote cultural diversity, and teach us about nature and our environment; and

**WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs, tournaments, and events boost the economy, enhance property values, attract new business, increase tourism, and reduce crime, and physical activities are encouraged by providing space for sports, hiking trails, swimming pools, special events and other lifestyle enhancements; and

**WHEREAS**, parks and recreation contribute to conservation efforts by providing for critical “green” infrastructure that collectively enhances community spaces and natural recreation areas, improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, produce habitat for wildlife, and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature; and

**WHEREAS**, during the National Parks and Recreation Month observance, it is important to recognize the contributions of the dedicated employees and volunteers in our parks and recreation facilities as they keep our parks clean and safe for us all, organize youth activities, provide educational programming on health, nutrition, first aid and fitness, advocate for more open space and better trails, and fundraise for local improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department’s is dedicated to celebrating diversity, culture, and tradition with a mission of providing and preserving quality parks and recreation opportunities for the nearly 400,000 residents and many visitors they serve, and it received the very prestigious **2021 National Gold Medal Award** in recognition of its excellence by the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim July 2022 as

## **“NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join us in recognizing the importance of Tampa’s parks and recreation facilities and to learn more about how to support the places that bring our community a higher quality of life, safer places to play, and healthy alternatives through recreation programming for everyone.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2022.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor