

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an essential part of communities throughout the United States and are especially important to the residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale; and

WHEREAS, our parks and recreation programs are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of the community and region; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy and 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 community; and

WHEREAS, our parks and recreational areas improve our water quality, protect our groundwater, prevent flooding, improve air quality, provide natural buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, our parks and 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, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of July 2013 as:

**PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH**

in the City of Fort Lauderdale and do encourage our citizens to celebrate healthy, active lifestyles by participating in their choice of recreation and park activities.

DATED this, the 2nd day of July, 2013

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John P. "Jack" Seiler  
Mayor

