



# Dakota County

## Legislation Text

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File #: DC-3370, Version: 1

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**DEPARTMENT:** Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management

**FILE TYPE:** Consent Action

### TITLE

**Proclamation Of July As Park And Recreation Month And Proclamation Of July 19, 2024 As Park And Recreation Professionals Day**

### PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Proclaim the month of July as Park and Recreation Month and proclaim July 19, 2024, as Park and Recreation Professionals Day.

### SUMMARY

Since 1985, the United States has celebrated Park and Recreation Month in July to promote building strong, vibrant, and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation and to recognize the more than 160,000 full-time park and recreation professionals - along with hundreds of thousands of part-time and seasonal workers and volunteers - who maintain the country's local, state, and community parks.

Through efforts by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the U.S. House of Representatives passed an official resolution for Park and Recreation Month in 2009 and introduced the resolution in 2017 and 2018.

Park and recreation agencies nationwide are recognizing the month with summer programs, events, contests, commemorations, and celebrations.

The services that park and recreation professionals provide are vital to our communities by protecting open spaces and natural resources, helping fight obesity, improving mental health, and providing activities and resources for all people. Park and Recreation Month encourages everyone to reflect on the significant value park and recreation professionals bring to communities.

This year's Park and Recreation Month theme, "Where You Belong", celebrates the many ways park and recreation professionals across the country foster a sense of belonging in their community by providing welcoming and inclusive programs, essential services for all ages and abilities, and safe, accessible spaces to build meaningful connection. During Park and Recreation Month, NRPA encourages park and recreation agencies to showcase the ways in which they contribute to strong, vibrant, and resilient communities all year and how community members can support their local agency's work.

This July, with Board approval, Dakota County calls on the community to unite and share the many reasons why Dakota County Parks truly embodies the essence of belonging.

## RECOMMENDATION

To showcase the ways in which Dakota County Parks contribute to strong, vibrant, and resilient communities all year and recognize the skilled work of park and recreation professionals to strengthen community cohesion and resilience, connect people with nature and each other, and provide and promote opportunities for healthful living, social equity, and environmental sustainability, staff recommends the Dakota County Board of Commissioners proclaim July as Park and Recreation Month and proclaim July 19, 2024 as Park and Recreation Professionals Day.

## EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

None.

- None       Current budget       Other  
 Amendment Requested       New FTE(s) requested

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners recognizes that the parks and recreation field is a diverse and comprehensive system that improves personal, social, environmental, and economic health; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance and benefits of park and recreation services that enrich the lives of its citizens and help make the community a desirable place to live, work, and visit; and

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

WHEREAS, parks and recreation promote 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 outdoor activities, hiking trails, and many other activities designed to promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, park and recreation programming and education activities, such as outdoor education programming and environmental education, are critical to childhood development; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation is fundamental to the environmental well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation are essential and adaptable infrastructures that make communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change; and

WHEREAS, parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of the 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, Dakota County recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners supports the skilled work of park and recreation professionals to strengthen community cohesion and resilience, connect people with nature and each other, and provide and promote opportunities for healthful living, social equity, and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners values the essential services that park and recreation professionals and volunteers perform to provide recreational and developmental enrichment for the community's children, youth, adults and older adults; and to ensure our parks and recreational spaces are clean, safe, inclusive, welcoming and ready to use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners recognizes July as Park and Recreation Month in Dakota County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim July 19, 2024, as "Park and Recreation Professionals Day" in Dakota County.

### **PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION**

None.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment: Where You Belong Toolkit

### **BOARD GOALS**

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Great Place to Live         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Healthy Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Successful Place for Business and Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Public Service     |

### **CONTACT**

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