Whereas: Parks and recreation programs are vitally important to establishing and

maintaining the quality of life in our community; and

Whereas: These programs provide places for people of all ages and cultures to gather,

celebrate and volunteer their time and talents to make a difference; and

Whereas: Parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities and aid in the

prevention of chronic disease, and improve the mental and emotional health of all

residents; and

Whereas: People with disabilities benefit from opportunities and choices for recreation,

socialization and learning to fully participate in the life of our community; and

Whereas: Parks and recreation programs can also contribute to a community's economic

prosperity through property values and tourism, the attraction and retention of

businesses and crime reduction; and

Whereas: Our parks and natural areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and

provide a place to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

Whereas: Bellevue's parks, trails and natural areas saw a significant increase in use during

the pandemic, as residents sought opportunities to stay active and healthy; and

Whereas: As a "city in a park," Bellevue's parks and natural recreation areas are fundamental

to our community's environmental well-being by improving air and water quality, protecting groundwater, preventing flooding and providing habitat for wildlife.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **July 2023** as:

Parks and Recreation Month

in Bellevue, and urge everyone to enjoy and recognize the many benefits of our parks, natural areas, trails and recreation facilities.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue