

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The US House of Representatives has designated July as Parks & Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS: Parks and recreation programs are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our community; and

WHEREAS: Parks and recreation programs partner with the community, providing places for people 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, provide therapeutic recreation services for the disabled, and improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

WHEREAS: Parks and recreation programs enhance a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, increased 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 for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS: Bellevue has long been seen as a *City in a Park*, and parks and natural recreation areas are fundamental not only to the ecological beauty of our community, but also to its environmental wellbeing by improving air and water quality, protecting groundwater, preventing flooding, and providing vegetative buffers and habitat for wildlife.

Now, therefore, I, John Stokes, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **July 2016** as:

Parks & Recreation Month

in Bellevue, and urge everyone to enjoy and recognize the many benefits of Bellevue's parks and recreation facilities and programs.

John Stokes
Mayor