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 while improving the mental and emotional health of all

residents; and

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

socialization and fully participating 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 are treasured community assets; 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 2024** as:

Parks and Recreation Month

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

Lynne Robinson, Mayor City of Bellevue