HLS 23RS-441

ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates May 16, 2023, as Parks and Recreation Day at the state capitol and July 2023 as Parks and Recreation Month in Louisiana

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To designate Tuesday, May 16, 2023, as Parks and Recreation Day at the state capitol and
3	to designate the month of July as Parks and Recreation Month in Louisiana.
4	WHEREAS, the National Recreation and Parks Association has announced "Where
5	Community Grows" as the 2023 theme of Parks and Recreation Month; and
6	WHEREAS, parks and recreation are essential to communities for health and
7	wellness, childhood development, driving economic opportunities, providing space for
8	people to connect and socialize, and providing adaptable infrastructure for resiliency in the
9	face of natural disasters and climate change; and
10	WHEREAS, local parks departments throughout Louisiana provide families with
11	space to gather and make memories, opportunities to introduce Louisiana children to
12	different sports and to nature, and other wholesome recreational activities outside of school
13	hours and during the summer; and
14	WHEREAS, parks and recreation add to the economic prosperity of communities by
15	increasing property values, expanding the local tax base, increasing tourism, attracting and
16	retaining businesses, and reducing crime; and
17	WHEREAS, local parks are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our
18	communities through conservation of wildlife habitats and nature; parks also provide green
19	infrastructure to mitigate the effects of localized flooding in communities; and

1	WHEREAS, parks across the state provided Louisiana residents with places to
2	exercise and enjoy fresh air during the COVID-19 pandemic when Governor John Bel
3	Edwards declared such activities essential during the statewide stay-at-home order; and
4	WHEREAS, personnel from local park and recreation departments and agencies from
5	all areas of Louisiana come to the capitol to promote the vital assets and services they offer
6	to their communities; two park systems in Louisiana are accredited through the National
7	Recreation and Park Association (NRPA): New Orleans Recreation Development
8	Commission and the capitol region's Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East
9	Baton Rouge, known as BREC; less than two percent of park systems in the United States
10	receive this accreditation; and
11	WHEREAS, BREC is a 2022 NRPA National Gold Medal Award winning park
12	system.
13	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14	recognize the great societal value of parks and recreation facilities and programs and their
15	importance in local communities across the United States; does hereby recognize and honor
16	the vital contributions of employees and volunteers in park and recreation facilities; and does
17	hereby designate May 16, 2023, as Parks and Recreation Day at the state capitol and the
18	month of July 2023 as Parks and Recreation Month in Louisiana.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
20	executive director of Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 41 Original

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Schexnayder

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