

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, May 16, 2023, as Parks and Recreation Day at the state capitol and to designate the month of July as Parks and Recreation Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the National Recreation and Parks Association has announced "Where Community Grows" as the 2023 theme of Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation are essential to communities for health and wellness, childhood development, driving economic opportunities, providing space for people to connect and socialize, and providing adaptable infrastructure for resiliency in the face of natural disasters and climate change; and

WHEREAS, local parks departments throughout Louisiana provide families with space to gather and make memories, opportunities to introduce Louisiana children to different sports and to nature, and other wholesome recreational activities outside of school hours and during the summer; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation add to the economic prosperity of communities by increasing property values, expanding the local tax base, increasing tourism, attracting and retaining businesses, and reducing crime; and

WHEREAS, local parks are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our communities through conservation of wildlife habitats and nature; parks also provide green infrastructure to mitigate the effects of localized flooding in communities; and

WHEREAS, parks across the state provided Louisiana residents with places to exercise and enjoy fresh air during the COVID-19 pandemic when Governor John Bel Edwards declared such activities essential during the statewide stay-at-home order; and

WHEREAS, personnel from local park and recreation departments and agencies from all areas of Louisiana come to the capitol to promote the vital assets and services they offer to their communities; two park systems in Louisiana are accredited through the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA): New Orleans Recreation Development Commission and the capitol region's Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, known as BREC; less than two percent of park systems in the United States receive this accreditation; and

WHEREAS, BREC is a 2022 NRPA National Gold Medal Award winning park system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the great societal value of parks and recreation facilities and programs and their importance in local communities across the United States; does hereby recognize and honor the vital contributions of employees and volunteers in park and recreation facilities; and does hereby designate May 16, 2023, as Parks and Recreation Day at the state capitol and the month of July 2023 as Parks and Recreation Month in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Recreation and Park Commission for the parish of East Baton Rouge.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE