



Proclamation

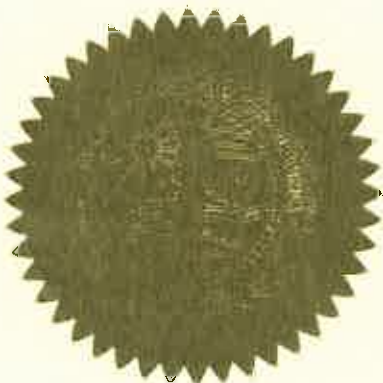
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) global pandemic, remains essential and an integral part of the City of Virginia Beach in supporting the community's physical and mental health by providing vital services, facilities and programs; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation provided Essential Child Care Services for essential workers on the frontline of the pandemic; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation mobilized to continue to keep open and maintain parks, natural areas, open space and trails for self-directed activity; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation created diverse virtual program and event experiences to engage the community and members; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation Community Recreation Centers served as blood drive donation, and polling location; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation's commitment to Social Equity provides the City of Virginia Beach with 287 parks and park facilities, seven community recreation centers, 7,069 acres of parkland and open space; and*
- Whereas:** *Sixty-one percent of the community resides within a half-mile walk to a park; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation maintains all City grounds and 343 miles of roadways; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation programs, facilities and services are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our community, ensuring the health of all citizens, programming active and passive activities for citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of our community; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation is an integral part of our Council's vision, and contributes to the achievement of the goals in the Sustainability Plan, and supports the Urban Forest Management Plan; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation provides environmental initiatives that help improve water quality, assist with storm water and sea level rise, improve the quality of the air we breathe, and produce habitat for wildlife; and*
- Whereas:** *Parks and Recreation provides a place for all generations to play, explore, connect and reconnect through leisure experiences, nature and the outdoors; and*
- Whereas:** *The Parks and Recreation Department is a CAPRA Accredited agency.*

Now Therefore, I Robert M. Dyer, Mayor of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, do hereby proclaim:

July 2020 Parks and Recreation Month

In Virginia Beach, and I encourage all citizens, city members and civic organizations to join me in supporting our Parks and Recreation programs by visiting a community recreation center, park or natural area.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, to be affixed this first day of July, Two Thousand Twenty.



Robert M. "Bobby" Dyer
Mayor