

**No. R-98. House concurrent resolution designating July 2017 as Parks and Recreation Month in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.73)

Offered by: All members of the House

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Branagan, Bray, Brooks, Champion, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Degree, Flory, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Mullin, Nitka, Pearson, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr, Westman, and White

Whereas, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including the State of Vermont, and

Whereas, Vermont's parks and recreation programs are important in establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our local communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of the State, and

Whereas, parks and recreation programs help build healthy and active communities, contribute to the prevention of chronic disease, assist in the provision of therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and contribute to the improvement of the mental and emotional health of all citizens, and

Whereas, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction, and

Whereas, parks and natural recreation areas improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, Vermont's parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our State and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and to recreate outdoors, and

Whereas, in 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 288, designating July as National Park and Recreation Month, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates the month of July, 2017 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association.