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Title:	PROCLAIM JULY 2017 AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH Staff Contact: Erik Strunk, Director, Public Facilities, Recreation and Special Events Presented By: Office of the Mayor Accepted By: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission				

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PROCLAIM JULY 2017 AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

Staff Contact: Erik Strunk, Director, Public Facilities, Recreation and Special Events
Presented By: Office of the Mayor
Accepted By: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Purpose and Policy Guidance

This is a request for City Council to proclaim the month of July 2017 as Parks and Recreation Month in Glendale and present a proclamation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the men and women of the Parks and Recreation Division.

Background

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has celebrated July as the official Parks and Recreation Month since 1985. It has been done in appreciation of professional and volunteer men and women who have worked to advance opportunities for all to recreate and enjoy active and passive parks and facilities that enrich the quality of life.

The Glendale Parks and Recreation Division consists of 41 employees who are responsible for programming and maintaining 119 different parks and related facilities including 55 neighborhood parks; 47.1 miles of trails, nine community parks; six regional parks; Thunderbird Conversation Park; four sports complexes; 23 retention basins; 22 special-use facilities; and shade structures, parks restrooms, sports courts and playground equipment. The division is also responsible for programming and activities through after school programs; the Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center; the Adult Center and our six community recreation centers/out of school time programs. Programs and activities also include aquatics; adaptive needs serving the disabled population; services for our senior community and other recreational activities for all ages and walks of life

through special interest classes. In October 2014, it received national accreditation status by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation.

This has been accomplished through the generosity of over 12,180 volunteer hours, the efforts of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the staff of the Public Facilities, Recreation and Special Events Department.

Community Benefit/Public Involvement

Parks and open spaces improve our health, strengthen our communities, and make our cities and neighborhoods more attractive places to live and work. Research shows that when people have access to parks, they exercise more. Physical activity has been shown to increase health and reduce the risk of a wide range of diseases and relieves symptoms of depression and anxiety, improves mood, and enhances psychological well-being.

Service to the community and providing quality parks and recreational programs has always been the focus of the Glendale Parks and Recreation Division.