

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of Kansas communities throughout this state; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life throughout Kansas, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of communities and the region; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation professionals build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally and physically disabled, and improve 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 recreation areas are fundamental to the environmental well-being of the community; 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, 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 recreate outdoors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim July 15th, 2022 as

## Parks and Recreation Professionals Day

in the state of Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, A.D. 2022

BY THE GOVERNOR

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State

