

The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 32 OF 2023

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania boasts of more than 6,200 local parks totaling 195,000 acres; 121 state parks, totaling 300,000 acres; 20 state forests, totaling 2.2 million acres; more than 12,000 miles of trails; 513,000 acres of Allegheny National Forest; 1.5 million acres of State Game Lands; 19 National Park sites; 12 Heritage Areas; and 3 National Wildlife Refuges; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation in Pennsylvania contributes more than \$2 billion annually in economic activity generated by local parks and recreation, supports nearly 15,000 jobs, develops local workforces, and boosts home values and property tax bases; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation programming and education activities are critical to childhood development as a leading provider of child care and out-of-school programming, youth sports, environmental education and cultural and arts programming; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation unites people and people groups, strengthening neighborhoods and communities by providing facilities and services that reflect and celebrate community character, heritage, culture, history, aesthetics and landscape; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation provides essential and adaptable infrastructure that builds resilient communities in the face of natural disasters and climate change through proven, cost-effective and sustainable environmental solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania supports the skilled work of park and recreation professionals to strengthen community cohesion and resiliency, connect people with nature and each other, and provide opportunities for healthful living, social equity and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania values the essential services that park and recreation professionals and volunteers perform to provide recreational and developmental enrichment for our children, youth, adults and seniors; and to ensure our parks and recreational facilities are clean, safe, and ready to use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Centre County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim **July 21, 2023** as **PARK AND RECREATION PROFESSIONALS DAY** in Centre County, and encourages all residents to show gratitude and appreciation to the professionals who help us to enjoy public lands.

ADOPTED this 18th day July 2023.



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Higgins

Mark Higgins, Chair

Amber Concepcion

Amber Concepcion

Steven G. Dershem

Steven G. Dershem

ATTEST:

John Franek Jr.
John Franek Jr, Administrator