

Madam Chair, commissioners, fellow residents...

It's my pleasure to join you in designating the month of July as Park and Recreation month.

Our parks system is one of the jewels of our community, and one of the largest county park systems in the United States.

These are more than just playgrounds and athletic fields, but they are also sports-development, and summer-camp programs for our children...

programs designed to keep our seniors and people with disabilities active...

And educational nature centers and nature preserves with environmental restoration efforts to protect and preserve our resources.

They also include the renowned Zoo Miami and the Deering Estate at Cutler together with the Crandon Tennis Center which is home to the Sony Open.

Parks are also golf courses, beaches, marinas, campgrounds, and pools...

Parks are where we as a community gather with our families and friends to enjoy and celebrate the great outdoors, and the natural beauty of our community.

Finally, great Parks are also key economic drivers in a competitive economy. Park tourism generates \$1.4 Billion annually in revenue to Miami-Dade County. And over 10,000 jobs are generated from park and recreation activities, 64% of which are in the private sector.

Our nation has celebrated national park and Recreation month since 1985, and today we join the National Recreation and Park Association and the Florida Recreation and Park Association in designating July as Park and Recreation Month here in Miami-Dade County.

Let me thank the director and staff of our Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces department for their dedication our parks, and let me present this proclamation naming July "Parks and Recreation Month."

Thank you!