

1 [Recreation and Parks Month - July 2016]

2

3 **Resolution declaring July 2016 as Recreation and Parks Month in the City and County**
4 **of San Francisco.**

5

6 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities
7 throughout this country, including the City and County of San Francisco; and

8 WHEREAS, Our parks and recreation centers are vitally important to the quality of life
9 in our City and neighborhoods, ensuring the health of all San Franciscans, and contributing to
10 the economic and environmental vitality of our community and region; and

11 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid
12 in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services, and improve the
13 mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department is proud to provide
15 opportunities for all our diverse and unique residents and visitors to gather, play, learn, relax,
16 and enjoy nature throughout the City; and

17 WHEREAS, 2015 was one of the most active and successful programmatic years with
18 over 60,000 unique registrations, 4,800 youth summer campers, 2,900 kids learning how to
19 swim, and 2,240 residents participating in senior-focused programming; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2007 the Recreation and Parks Commission established a scholarship
21 program in to help ensure San Francisco residents are not denied the benefits of public
22 recreation due to the inability to pay, allowing everyone the opportunity to take part in public
23 recreational programs and classes, which foster personal development, promote health and
24 wellness, and increase cultural unity; and

25

1 WHEREAS, In 2015 \$1,065,000 in scholarships was given to over 8,800 residents
2 registered in San Francisco Recreation and Parks programming; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s parks and recreation programs contribute greatly to the
4 City’s economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base,
5 increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

6 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation areas are fundamental to the environmental well-
7 being of our community; and

8 WHEREAS, Parks and natural recreation areas improve water quality, protect
9 groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative
10 buffers to development, support and nurture San Francisco’s bio-diversity and ecological
11 history, and protect habitat for wildlife; and

12 WHEREAS, Our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our
13 community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate
14 outdoors; and

15 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors is proud our public parks were rated among the
16 top five of the 40 largest U.S. cities in the Trust for Public Lands 2016 ParkScore Project,
17 citing San Francisco’s unparalleled park access, with 99% of residents living within a 10-
18 minute walk of a park; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the tremendous benefits
20 derived from parks and recreation resources in our City, and declares July 2016 as
21 Recreation and Parks Month in the City and County of San Francisco.