

# PROCLAMATION

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month, underscoring the importance of parks and recreation programs to communities across the nation, the State of Florida, and Marion County; and

**WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs provide services that support public health, prevent chronic disease, and offer therapeutic recreation for individuals with mental or physical disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, access to nature improves mental and emotional well-being, while parks and natural areas preserve ecological beauty and offer safe spaces for children and adults to connect with the outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, recreational facilities promote active lifestyles by offering opportunities for sports, hiking, and other physical activities that strengthen community wellness; and

**WHEREAS**, youth-focused programming including out-of-school programs, youth sports, and environmental education is critical to healthy childhood development and lifelong learning; and

**WHEREAS**, parks and recreation investments enhance economic prosperity by increasing property values, expanding the local tax base, boosting tourism, attracting and retaining businesses, and reducing crime;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim **July, 2026** as

### “PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH”

**DULY PROCLAIMED** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of **July, 2026**.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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CARL ZALAK, III, CHAIRMAN

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MATT MCCLAIN, VICE CHAIR

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KATHY BRYANT, COMMISSIONER

**ATTEST:**

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MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

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GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

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CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER