

#980184  
JUL 13, 1998

City of Gainesville, Florida  
Office of Mayor Paula M. DeLaney

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the use of our parks and participation in recreation programs add more balance to life, provide care of latch key children, increase communication skills, build self-esteem, teach vital life skills, and provide safe places to play; and

WHEREAS, the benefits provided by parks and recreation serve to boost the economy, enhance property values, attract new business, increase tourism, reduce crime, diminish gang violence, and curb employee absenteeism; and

WHEREAS, the productive use of leisure builds family unity, strengthens neighborhood involvement, offers opportunity for social interaction, creates a more educated community, develops creativity, and promotes sensitivity to cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, our parks and trails ensure ecological beauty, provide space to enjoy nature, help maintain clean air and water, and preserve plant and animal wildlife; and

WHEREAS, recreational activities build strong bodies, reduce health care costs, decrease insurance premiums, make people happier, and help residents live longer; and

WHEREAS, volunteers each year provide over 30,000 volunteer hours in serving our community through the Recreation & Parks Department; and

WHEREAS, the professional staff provides over 350 programs and activities, maintains over 100 recreational facilities and 1000 acres of park and city lands, and volunteers in numerous community and civic groups as well as their professional associations; and

WHEREAS, recreation, therapeutic recreation, and leisure education are essential to the rehabilitation of individuals who have become ill or disabled or who have demonstrated antisocial behavior; and