

Proclamation

Recognizing July 2024 as Parks and Recreation Month



WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Monroe, Washington; and

WHEREAS, our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the physical health of all residents, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all residents; and

WHEREAS, parks and natural recreation areas improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and

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

WHEREAS, Imagine Monroe aspires that the City of Monroe is and will continue to be a *"lively center surrounded by nature.... A place of beauty..."* where *"our parks, waterways, and environment are healthy and accessible for everyone to enjoy...."* where *"we strengthen connections through gathering spaces"* that create *"a safe place for all"* to call home and to belong; and

WHEREAS, the National Recreation and Park Association's 2024 Parks and Recreation Month theme is "Where You Belong," which celebrates the many ways park and recreation professionals across the country foster a sense of belonging in their community by providing welcoming and inclusive programs, essential services for all ages and abilities, and safe, accessible spaces to build meaningful connections.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize the month of July 2024 as

PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

and encourage residents, businesses, and visitors to seek out City of Monroe parks facilities and participate in recreational events.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas".

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor