



PA House and Senate recognizes July 19 as Park and Recreation Professionals Day

House Resolution No. 370
Senate Resolution No. 148
Adopted June 4, 2019

The Pennsylvania House and the Pennsylvania Senate on Tuesday each passed resolutions designating and celebrating July 19 as Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Professionals Day in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) was pleased to work on these resolutions with the four co-chairs of the recently formed Parks and Recreation Caucus in the General Assembly. Senator Tom Killion, R-Delaware, and Senator Judy Schwank, D-Berks, sponsored Senate Resolution 148. On the House side, Representative R. Lee James, R-Venango, and Representative Robert Freeman, D-Northampton, sponsored House Resolution 370. Both resolutions were unanimously approved.

Recognizing and celebrating July 19, 2019, as "Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Professionals Day."

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to 121 State parks, more than 6,000 local parks, various Federal parks and recreation facilities and numerous playgrounds, pools, beaches, campsites, marinas, picnic areas, athletic fields, skate parks, dog parks, festival venues, gardens, visitor centers, historic and cultural attractions and many other recreational facilities and amenities; and

**WHEREAS, The value and relative importance that Pennsylvanians place on State parks is demonstrated by the fact that while Pennsylvania is the 33rd largest state, only Alaska and California have more state park land; and*

WHEREAS, United States Census Bureau data confirms that there are nearly 8,000 full-time and part-time park and recreation employees working in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals, complemented by thousands of volunteers who serve on boards, committees, trails, friends and neighborhood groups, contribute significantly to the health, well-being, economic vitality and quality of life of citizens of this Commonwealth of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals bring life-enriching services to citizens of all ages and abilities, work to keep facilities clean, safe and ready to use, strengthen community cohesion and resiliency, connect people with nature and each other, develop and manage a wide range of public programming and provide and promote opportunities for healthy living, social equity and environmental sustainability; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House [and Senate] of Representatives recognize and celebrate July 19, 2019, as "Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Professionals Day" in this Commonwealth and extend its thanks and gratitude to park and recreation professionals and the essential services that they provide to our citizens and our communities.

**Language appearing in Senate resolution.*

