

**A PROCLAMATION DECLARING JULY AS NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH IN THE CITY OF ELGIN**

**WHEREAS**, parks and recreation is an integral part of communities throughout this country, including the City of Elgin and surrounding Bastrop County; and

**WHEREAS**, parks and recreation is vitally important to establishing and maintaining quality of life, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elgin has five city parks, the oldest established in 1913 by the Women's New Century Club; parkland and open space encompasses over 120 acres including sports courts, fields, playgrounds, swimming pool, walking paths, pond, concession stands, and picnic areas, the Elgin Recreation Center/Emergency Shelter and Morris public pool; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elgin Parks & Recreation Department supports the community by implementing award winning programs and events recognized at the State and Local levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elgin Parks & Recreation Department partners with local non-profit organizations to support the health and wellbeing of all members of our community; these partners include, but are not limited to, Down Home Ranch, Ranch House Recovery, Advocacy Outreach, Chariot, Elgin Nursing Home; and

**WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses; 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 that provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

**WHEREAS**, City of Elgin, Texas recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Mayor of the City of Elgin, do proclaim July 2022 as National Park and Recreation Month, and call upon the people of Elgin to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance.

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Theresa Y. McShan, Mayor