

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are integral to communities throughout the United States of America, including in the City of Mansfield; and

WHEREAS, Mansfield Parks & Recreation operates and maintains more than 1,100 acres of parkland, dozens of athletic fields and the Mansfield Activities Center, as well as six public-private partnership facilities; and

WHEREAS, Mansfield Parks & Recreation was awarded the Texas Recreation and Park Society's Gold Medal Award – the highest honor given to city park systems – in 2017, 2009 and 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Mansfield City Council in October 2020 adopted a 10-year master plan that details the City of Mansfield's parks and recreation offerings and outlines the future of parks and recreation in the city; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in Mansfield, ensuring the health of all residents, and contributing to the city's economic and environmental well-being; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; 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, parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of Mansfield and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mansfield in July 2021 will join other cities nationwide in sharing Our Park and Recreation Story by highlighting how Mansfield's parks and facilities have strengthened the city; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, people in the U.S. have celebrated Park and Recreation Month in July to promote building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael Evans, Mayor of the City of Mansfield, Texas, join with members of the City Council to hereby proclaim July 2021 as

PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

in Mansfield, and encourage residents and visitors of the city to take advantage of its excellent parks and facilities. As shown throughout the recent public health emergency, parks are essential services that keep our community safe, connected and healthy despite truly unprecedented circumstances.

The City of Mansfield is proud to have a parks system of the highest quality and is proud to honor it this month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereby set my hand and cause the official seal of the City of Mansfield to be affixed this 28th day of June, 2021.