

***WHEREAS***, it is one of the responsibilities of the Mayor of the City of Westerville to recognize occasions of outstanding significance; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country

WHEREAS our parks and recreation services are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, 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 citizens; 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 crime reduction; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation areas are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; 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 the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS City of Westerville recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources; NOW THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Cocuzzi, Mayor of the City of Westerville, Ohio, do hereby proclaim the month of July 2013 as

***“PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH”***

and encourage all citizens of Westerville to celebrate with citizens of other communities throughout the nation by recognizing that parks and recreation services are essential to the quality of life, not only in July, but all through the year.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused my seal to be affixed this 18th day of June, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Thirteen.

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Kathleen Cocuzzi, Mayor