

Senator Birkholz offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution No. 208.**

A resolution to recognize July 2008 as National Park and Recreation Month.

Whereas, Celebrating the month of July as National Park and Recreation Month is a longstanding tradition first established in 1985; and

Whereas, Public parks and recreation programs are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all citizens, regardless of means, in communities throughout Michigan; and

Whereas, Physical activity and recreation is an essential part of keeping citizens healthy and fit, lowering health care costs, and raising a personal sense of well-being. Leisure activities in parks improve moods, reduce stress, and enhance a sense of wellness; and

Whereas, State and local parks conserve and protect public lands for the benefit and use of all citizens. Parks provide and protect vital green space in a fast-developing landscape; and

Whereas, Parks have true economic benefits such as improving the value of adjacent and nearby properties, attracting and keeping residents, and providing accessible venues for community activities. Parks and recreation areas are true economic engines that make communities livable and desirable; and

Whereas, Parks and recreation activities facilitate social interactions that are critical to building and maintaining community cohesion and pride; and

Whereas, Community recreation services provide children with a safe refuge and a place to play, which are important in reducing at-risk behaviors such as drug use and gang involvement; and

Whereas, Even as we observe National Park and Recreation Month, we recognize the vital contributions of parks and recreation employees and volunteers. These dedicated supporters ensure that parks and recreation facilities are safe and accessible places for all citizens to enjoy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we recognize July 2008 as National Park and Recreation Month. We call upon all parks and recreation supporters to join us in recognizing the importance of public parks and recreation to our high quality of life; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Recreation and Park Association as a token of our esteem.