

Senators Rocca and Bieda offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution No. 163.**

A resolution to recognize July 2012 as Parks and Recreation Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout the United States and Michigan; and

Whereas, Michigan's 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 have a mental or physical disability, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

Whereas, Parks and recreation services develop a sense of place, create vibrant communities, and provide the amenities necessary to attract and retain residents in the 21st century; and

Whereas, These vital programs increase economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, greater 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, improving water quality, protecting groundwater, preventing flooding, enhancing the quality of the air we breathe, providing vegetative buffers to development, and producing habitat for wildlife; and

Whereas, Michigan's parks and 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, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we recognize July 2012 as Parks and Recreation Month in the state of Michigan; and be it further

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