

# PROCLAMATION

## DESIGNATION OF JULY AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of the quality of life in communities throughout this country, including the City of Menasha; and,

WHEREAS, our parks and recreation are vitally important to ensure the health of our citizens, and contribute to the economic and environmental well-being of the city and the 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, the City of Menasha recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donald Merkes, Mayor of the City of Menasha, do hereby proclaim the month of July as **PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH** in the City of Menasha.



Dated this 20th day of June, 2011

Donald Merkes, Mayor