



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs enhance our quality of life by contributing to a healthy lifestyle, increasing communication skills, building self esteem, teaching life skills and providing places for enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs boost the economy, enhance property values, attract new business, increase tourism and reduce crime; and

WHEREAS, recreation builds family unity, strengthens neighborhood involvement, offers opportunity for social interaction, enhances education, develops creativity, and promotes cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, our parks and trails ensure ecological beauty, provide space to enjoy nature, help maintain clean air and water and preserve plant and animal wildlife, and

WHEREAS, recreation, therapeutic recreation and leisure education are essential to the rehabilitation of individuals who have been ill or disabled; and

WHEREAS, during the 2007-2008 fiscal year more than 20.7 million people visited Florida's 161 state parks, contributing more than \$1 billion to Florida's economy and generating more than 20,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Florida recognizes the benefits derived from quality public and private recreation and park resources at the local and state level; and

WHEREAS, the National Recreation and Park Association and the Florida Recreation and Park Association designated July as Parks and Recreation Month;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing July 2009 as *Parks and Recreation Month*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I
have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Great Seal of
the State of Florida to be
affixed at Tallahassee, the
Capitol, this 25th day of June,
in the year two thousand nine.



Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in blue ink.

Governor