RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JULY 2022 AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

WHEREAS, parks and recreation are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Bellingham, Whatcom Country; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation promote health and wellness, improving the physical and mental health of people who live near parks; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation promote time spent in nature, which positively impacts mental health by increasing cognitive performance and well-being, and alleviating illnesses such as depression, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation encourage physical activities by providing space for popular sports, hiking trails, swimming pools and many other activities designed to promote healthy and active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation are a leading provider of free, subsidized or low-cost services and education for all ages and abilities, and maintains open public access to natural and developed public spaces throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, park and recreation programming and education activities, such as out-of-school time programming, youth sports and environmental education, are critical to childhood development; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation 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 are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation are essential and adaptable infrastructure that makes our communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change; 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 Bellingham recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

PARK & RECREATION MONTH RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF **BELLINGHAM:** July 2022 is designated Parks & Recreation Month in the City of Bellingham. PASSED by the Council this 11th day of July, 2022. **APPROVED** by me this ______ day of ATTEST: Finance Director APPROVED AS TO FORM: Office of the City Attorney