

Date of Hearing: June 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 223 (Rogers) – As Introduced June 9, 2026

SUBJECT: “Parks Make Life Better!®” Month.

SUMMARY: Declares the month of July 2026 as “Parks Make Life Better!®” Month; and, recognizes the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Park and recreation entities, through cultural and inclusive program offerings, provide communities of color with the opportunity to explore the past and celebrate the future.
- 2) Parks build communities by eliminating economic, social, ethnic, and racial barriers through the sharing and experiencing of common spaces at no cost.
- 3) Parks and recreation promote physical, emotional, and mental health and wellness through organized and self-directed fitness, play, and activity, and help prevent health problems.
- 4) Parks and recreational programs create memorable experiences through youth sports and enrichment activities, teen centers and programs, senior activity centers, adult fitness and enrichment programs, free community events, and beyond.
- 5) Parks and recreational programs foster social cohesiveness in communities by celebrating diversity, providing spaces to peacefully gather, modeling compassion, promoting social equity, connecting social networks, and ensuring all people have access to those benefits.
- 6) Parks and recreational programs increase mental and emotional health, as evidenced by studies that have found that individuals living close to parks have lower levels of stress and depression.
- 7) Parks and recreation sustain, and are stewards of, our natural resources by protecting habitats and open space, connecting people to nature, and promoting the ecological function of parkland. They emphasize the importance of nature and teaching future generations to value nature and the outdoors as part of their development.
- 8) Parks and recreational programs are versatile and innovative in providing vital services to communities through local, national, or global emergencies, while also adhering to guidelines set forth by governing agencies.
- 9) Parks and recreational facilities provide more affordable options for many communities without easy access to state parks.
- 10) The California Park & Recreation Society has released a statewide public awareness campaign, “Parks Make Life Better!®”, to inform the public of the many benefits of using parks, facilities, programs, and services.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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