
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 379 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, THOMAS, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO,
DRISCOLL, GODSHALL, HENNESSEY, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON,
PASHINSKI, READSHAW, SOLOMON AND LONGIETTI, JUNE 6, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 6, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 12, 2017, as "Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Philadelphia's parks and recreational organizations
4 have made many contributions to the City of Philadelphia for
5 more than 100 years and continue to provide various activities
6 and opportunities to enrich the lives of city residents and
7 visitors; and

8 WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia has a storied and rich
9 history that includes Native Americans, Founding Fathers of the
10 United States, architectural masterpieces, museums, landmark
11 sculptures, gardens, industrial landscapes, farms, historical
12 cemeteries and the five public squares that were designed and
13 given to the city by William Penn; and

14 WHEREAS, Philadelphia first began offering parks and
15 recreational opportunities to city residents in 1867 under the
16 Fairmount Park System; and

17 WHEREAS, For several years, Philadelphia's parks and

1 recreational opportunities and resources were managed by two
2 distinct entities, first the Fairmount Park Commission and then,
3 beginning in 1951, the Philadelphia Department of Recreation;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The two organizations operated independently of each
6 other until their eventual merger in 2008, at which time the
7 Philadelphia City Council passed legislation that approved a
8 ballot referendum on the proposed merger of parks and recreation
9 resources; and

10 WHEREAS, On November 4, 2008, by a large majority of votes,
11 the referendum was passed and the Fairmount Park Commission and
12 the Philadelphia Department of Recreation were officially
13 merged; and

14 WHEREAS, Philadelphia's Parks and Recreation Department was
15 formally established on July 1, 2010; and

16 WHEREAS, Philadelphia's Parks and Recreation Department is
17 overseen by a 15-member commission that hosts meetings
18 throughout the City of Philadelphia and encourages the
19 participation of residents to continually develop the
20 department's vision, mission and goals; and

21 WHEREAS, While historic preservation and cultural resources
22 provide an economic stimulant for the city, Philadelphia's Parks
23 and Recreation Department offers residents other opportunities,
24 including access to outdoor spaces that total more than 10,000
25 acres, more than 215 miles of trails, community centers that
26 provide a safe environment in which educational programs are
27 offered, theater, mentoring programs, youth violence reduction
28 initiatives, services for disabled individuals, older adult
29 services, recycling opportunities, urban agriculture and various
30 physical recreational and sports activities; and

1 WHEREAS, Philadelphia's Parks and Recreation Department
2 stresses that clean, green, safe and well-used parks are
3 fundamental to the health and vitality of urban life; therefore
4 be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June
6 12, 2017, as "Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Day" in
7 Pennsylvania.