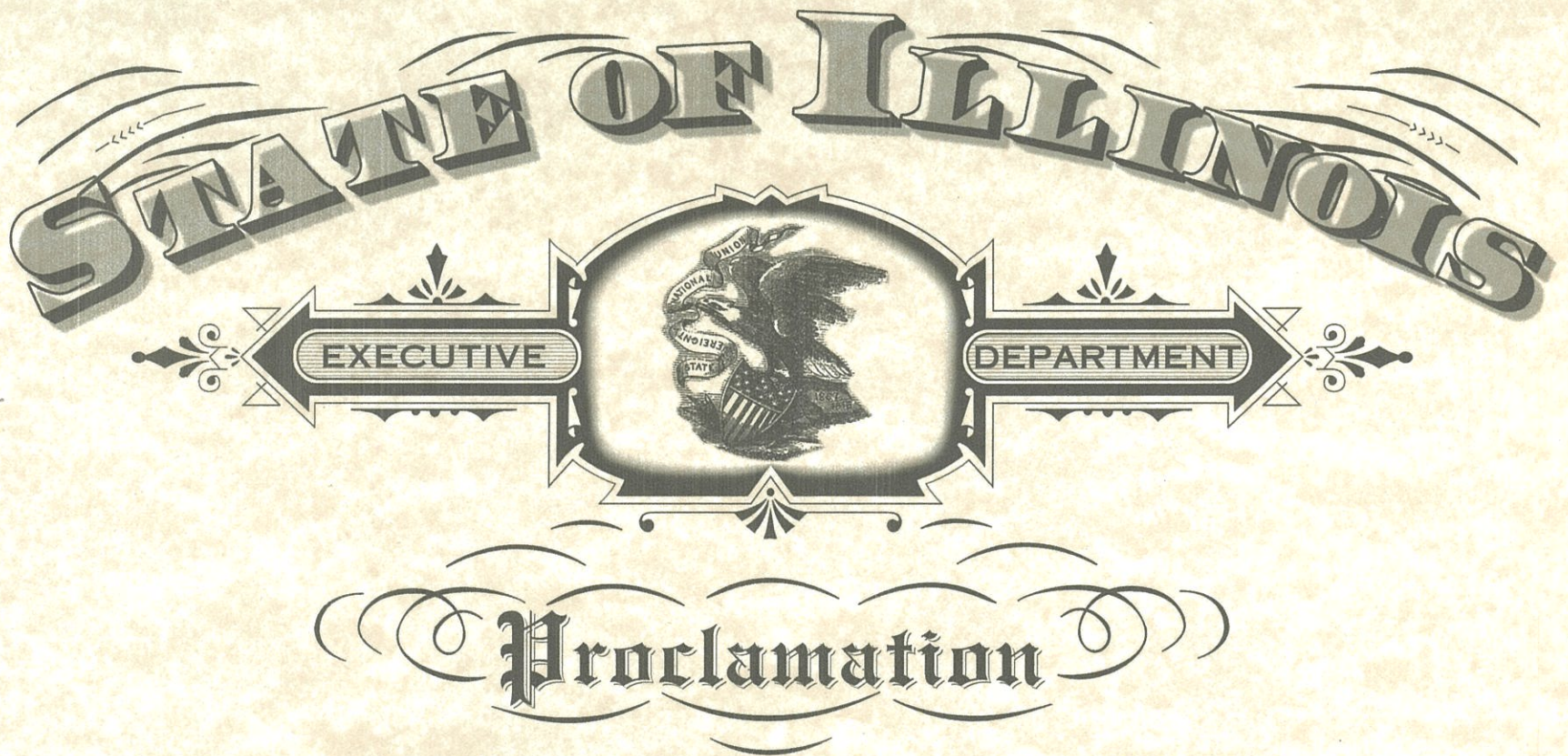




WHEREAS, Illinois is home to a nationally recognized system of park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, recreation, and special recreation agencies – local units of government that have served their communities with distinction, providing the residents of Illinois with beautiful parks and outstanding recreational programming for more than a century; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois park, recreation, and conservation agencies provide abundant programs, services, facilities, and outdoor spaces that greatly improve physical and mental health, enhance youth development, and promote environmental stewardship while instilling a strong sense of community in residents regardless of age, race, or socioeconomic status; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois park and recreation agencies play a critical role in conserving natural resources, protecting wildlife habitats, and restoring native ecosystems while also helping children and families develop a lifelong appreciation for the natural world through early, meaningful experiences in prairies, woodlands, waterfronts, and other preserved open spaces; and,

WHEREAS, parks and recreation are essential to the well-being and economic vitality of Illinois communities through the creation of nearly 60,000 jobs (over half of which employ Illinois youth), increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Association of Park Districts collaborates with a membership of more than 2,100 elected and appointed park commissioners and professional staff representing nearly 400 agencies in championing a sense of community and belonging through statewide opportunities to connect and share the importance of parks in uniting residents and igniting civic engagement; and,

WHEREAS, July is designated nationally as Park and Recreation Month and is also celebrated by the Illinois Association of Park Districts to commemorate the positive impact of park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, recreation, and special recreation agencies with a special focus on the array of specialized programs, services, and facilities they provide to make this great state a better place to live, work, and recreate;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim July 2025 as **Park and Recreation Month** in Illinois and encourage everyone to celebrate and support their local park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, recreation, and special recreation agencies for the vital role they play in building stronger, healthier, and more connected communities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-SEVENTH *day of* JUNE, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-FIVE, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and SIXTH.

Alexi Giannouch
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR