



CITY OF MERIDIAN

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This July, Meridian Residents Invited to a Play Date with City Officials *Month-long celebration highlights essential value of local parks and recreation*

MERIDIAN, MS – [July 5, 2017] – Summer is here, which means it's time to get your play on. This July, discover the power of play with The City of Meridian as they celebrate Parks and Recreation Month. A variety of fun activities are planned for residents of all ages and abilities — including bingo, basketball, line dancing, golf, and more.

The City of Meridian is celebrating Parks and Recreation Month, an initiative of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and all the ways parks and recreation has the power to transform our daily lives. From providing us places to play, get fit and stay healthy to fostering new relationships and forging a connection with nature, our close-to-home community park and recreation facilities provide essential services and improve quality of life.

“We want to impact our community through health and wellness activities, social equity, conservation, and special events to tie to the celebration of Parks and Recreation Month,” said Kelvin McGruder, City of Meridian Parks and Recreation Director.

The City of Meridian will celebrate Parks and Recreation Month through activities scheduled at the Meridian Activity Center, basketball at the Velma Young Center, and events held at Lakeview Golf Course.

NRPA is celebrating the month by hosting a weekly contest encouraging people to show them why play is so important in their lives. Visit www.nrpa.org/July for more information on how to participate. Entries can be submitted via the hashtag #NRPAPlayChallenge. NRPA also encourages all people that support parks and recreation to share why they think play is so important with the hashtag #PlayOnJuly.

To learn more about Parks and Recreation Month, visit www.meridianms.org and www.nrpa.org/July.

About The National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Americans have access to parks and recreation for health, conservation and social equity. Through its network of nearly 60,000 recreation and park professionals and advocates, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

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