Proclamation to Save Fairfield Lake State Park

WHEREAS, the beautiful Fairfield Lake State Park is truly an asset to the citizens of Freestone County and for the many tourists that come to use the facilities at the State Park; and

WHEREAS, our citizens utilize the diverse amount of activities available including camping in the 135 campsites across the park, backpacking, horseback riding on approximately 15 miles of day-use equestrian trails, 20 miles of hiking nature trails, nature study, bird watching, boating or paddling on the 2,400 acre lake, water skiing, jet skiing, kayaking, fishing, a swimming beach, and access to public hunting; and

WHEREAS, Fairfield Lake State Park recently earned the State Park of the Year award from Texas Parks and Wildlife. Fairfield Lake is the 3rd largest ShareLunker producer in the state of Texas, and it ranked as one of the top 10 lakes for bass fishing in Texas; and

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

WHEREAS, there are many recreation and education activities, such as out-of-school programs, youth sports and environmental education, that are critical to childhood development; such as hosting fishing clinics for children called the Kid Fish Derbies, Christmas in the Park, bass fishing tournaments, kayak fishing tournaments, scavenger hunts, outdoor cooking in Dutch Oven demonstrations, and many others; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation increases a community's economic prosperity though increased tourism, and the attraction and retention of businesses, with 82,000 people visiting Fairfield Lake State Park in the year 2022, as 80% of those visitors were tourists; and

WHEREAS, Freestone County recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Linda K. Grant, Freestone County Judge, that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Freestone County that Fairfield Lake State Park remain open and continue service to our citizens and the many tourists that visit.

Signed on the <u>30</u> day of January, 2023. Linda K Grant

Linda K. Grant

Freestone County Judge

Supporters of the Proclamation to Save Fairfield Lake State Park

Thank you for your consideration.	
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