

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, a 10-minute walk-to-a-park goal contributes to healthy, livable communities for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, high-quality and accessible parks are anchors of equitable, economically thriving, safe, and vibrant American cities and have the power to transform communities; and

**WHEREAS**, cities that both prioritize existing parks and create new, life-enhancing ways for people to get outdoors and be active are directly serving local residents, their health, and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, parks have clear health, community, and environmental benefits, from creating space for physical activity and recreation, to strengthening community connections and building a sense of place and belonging, to regulating urban temperatures and offering protection from flood and stormwater; to providing cost savings and economic benefit to local economies; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the importance of parks and green spaces, there is a park equity divide across the U.S., where 1 in 3 U.S. residents - 100 million people, including 28 million children - do not have access to a quality park or green space within a 10-minute walk of home; and

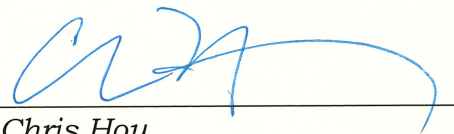
**WHEREAS**, this park equity divide is in part the result of decades of inequitable planning, practice, and policy decisions, and where complex social and historical contexts also contribute to many aspects of this park equity divide; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Chris Hoy, Mayor of the City of Salem, Oregon, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2023, as

### **NATIONAL WALK TO A PARK DAY**

in Salem and encourage everyone to walk to a park and enjoy the benefits of our green space and community.

DATED this ninth day of October, 2023.



Chris Hoy  
Mayor

