WHEREAS; for 125 years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) State Park System has provided high-quality outdoor recreation, educational experiences, natural resource stewardship, and other services for visitors throughout the state; and

WHEREAS; Interstate Park—the oldest state park in Wisconsin—was established in 1900, marking the formation of the Wisconsin State Park System, which has since grown to include state parks, forests, trails, and recreation areas comprised of over 307,000 acres of public land; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's 50 state parks exemplify the state's proud and rich history of conservation and protecting natural resources, and the Wisconsin State Park System welcomes more than 20 million visitors each year; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin State Park System recognizes the important work of its staff, partners, Friends Groups, and volunteers in supporting and furthering the mission of the DNR to preserve and promote public lands for generations to come and provide safe, accessible, and affordable spaces for all to enjoy year-round; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsinites are encouraged to participate in outdoor recreation offerings, such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, paddle sports, and more, to support their health and wellness through the Wisconsin State Park System's OutWiGo initiative; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites, outdoor enthusiasts, and the DNR in celebrating 125 years of the Wisconsin State Park System and commends everyone involved for their many contributions to recreation, tourism, and stewardship in the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim January 1 through December 31 2025 as

## WISCONSIN STATE PARK SYSTEM 125TH ANNIVERSARY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 13th day of December 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State