



National Recreation and Park Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PARK AND RECREATION ACCREDITATION PROGRAM REACHES 100 MILESTONE

The Nation's Only Accreditation for Park and Recreation Agencies Measures Quality and Service

ASHBURN, VA – Dec. 8, 2011 – More than 100 park and recreation agencies across the country are now accredited through the Commission for the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) announced. CAPRA accreditation is a mark of distinction and indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

“Accreditation proves you are one of the best – that your agency seeks to excel and you are working in accordance with approved professional practices,” says Tara Fitzpatrick-Navarro, vice president of membership and professional development at NRPA. “With more than 100 agencies accredited, we are encouraged by the fact that agencies recognize the essential necessity and the inherent benefit accreditation brings not only to the agency itself but to the community served by parks and recreation.”

To achieve CAPRA accreditation, park and recreation agencies must demonstrate compliance with 144 recognized standards and, as part of the accreditation process, document all policies and procedures. Often the process helps identify efficiencies and heighten areas of accountability, all of which translate into higher quality service and operation.

The process for accreditation involves self-assessments, a formal application, a site visit by a team of trained visitors that results in a written report, and a semi-annual meeting of the commission to grant accreditation. Once accredited, the agency must uphold the standards and is reviewed again in five years.

Accreditation is available to all entities administering park and recreation systems, including municipalities, townships, counties, special districts, regional authorities, councils of government, schools and military installations. For more information about CAPRA accreditation or to review the standards and application forms go to www.NRPA.org/CAPRA. A complete list of accredited agencies is also available on the [NRPA website](http://www.NRPA.org).

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrec-magazine.org.

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