



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACHIEVES PRESTIGIOUS ACCREDITATION

WINTER PARK, Fla., an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner (November 22, 2010) – The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has announced that the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Winter Park became one of only 95 park and recreation agencies accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) this year. This accomplishment was announced during the NRPA 2010 Congress & Exposition in Minneapolis, Minn.

In addition to being only one of 95 accredited parks and recreation agencies in the United States, the City of Winter Park is now distinguished as one of only three city/county government agencies in the state of Florida to have three accredited departments including Police, Fire-Rescue and Parks. The other two are the City of Largo and Broward County.

National accreditation through CAPRA is an extensive multi-year process which includes the completion of an application and detailed self-assessment report, a site visit by a committee of experienced park and recreation professionals, and a final assessment completed by the agency and the Commission. Accreditation requires agencies to respond to 144 standards representing elements of effective and efficient park and recreation operations. To become accredited, agencies must fully meet 36 standards deemed fundamental to a quality agency and at least 92 of the remaining standards.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. Accreditation is valid for a period of five years.

The Commission is comprised of representatives from NRPA, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the International City/County Management Association, the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, the Armed Forces Recreation Society, and the Council of State Executive Directors.

According to the Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Winter Park, John Holland, "The challenge of taking on the accreditation process itself is huge. The department's staff must buy into the process 100 percent or it is not possible. My staff not only proved they could do it, they proved they deserved it. The Parks & Recreation Department was already using best practices that not only met the CAPRA Standards but provided them with new and improved ideas. Winter Park residents can be proud of the fact that our department has accomplished a performance standard that is rare in the industry."

For additional information regarding the city's Parks & Recreation Department, please visit the city's official Web site at www.cityofwinterpark.org.

CITY OF WINTER PARK

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