

The City of Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department has earned national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The formal announcement was made on October 7, 2013 at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Congress and Exposition in Houston Texas. The City of Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department is the 7<sup>th</sup> accredited agency in the State of Georgia and only one of 119 agencies in the country to receive national accreditation, which confirms an agency's commitment to quality and efficiency.

CAPRA recognizes park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service while providing assurance to the public that the agency meets national standards of best practice. CAPRA's standards for national accreditation provide an authoritative assessment tool for park and recreation agencies. Through compliance with the standards of excellence, CAPRA accreditation assures that an agency has been independently evaluated against established benchmarks as delivering a high level of quality.

National accreditation is a rigorous and extensive process, which the City of Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department worked towards for four years. Accreditation is based on an agency's compliance with the 144 standards for national accreditation. To achieve accreditation, an agency must comply with all 36 fundamental standards and at least 85 percent of the remaining 108 standards. The City of Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department successfully met 138 standards.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies. Accreditation is a five-year cycle that includes three phases: development of the agency self-assessment report, the on-site visitation, and the Commission's review and decision. Within each of the four years between on-site visits, the City of Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department must submit an annual report that addresses its continued compliance with the accreditation standards.



## **Overview of the Agency Accreditation Process**

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) standards for national accreditation provides an authoritative assessment tool for park and recreation agencies. Through compliance with the standards of excellence, CAPRA accreditation assures policy makers, department staff, the general public and taxpayers that an accredited park and recreation agency has been independently evaluated against established benchmarks as delivering a high level of quality.

Every park and recreation agency, whatever its focus or field of operation, is rightfully

concerned with the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations. With the importance of park and recreation programs and services to the quality of life, each agency has an essential role in the lives of the people it serves. CAPRA accreditation is a quality assurance and quality improvement process demonstrating an agency's commitment to its employees, volunteers, patrons and community.

Accreditation is based on an agency's compliance with the 144 standards for national accreditation. To achieve accreditation, an agency must comply with all 36 Fundamental Standards and at least 85 percent of the remaining 108 standards.

CAPRA accreditation is a five-year cycle that includes three phases: development of the agency self-assessment report, the on-site visitation, and the Commission's review and decision. The on-site visitation follows the agency's development of its self-assessment report. If accreditation is granted by the Commission at its meeting following the on-site visit, the agency will develop a new self-assessment report and be revisited every five years. Within each of the four years between on-site visits, the agency will submit an annual report that addresses its continued compliance with the accreditation standards.

The steps involved in the accreditation process are as follows:

1. Preliminary Application
2. Formal Accreditation Application and Self-Assessment
3. Visitation/On Site Evaluation
4. Accreditation
5. Annual Report

## **About the Commission**

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies is a 13-member board composed of representatives from:

- American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (4 representatives)
- National Recreation and Park Association (4 representatives)
- International City/Council Management Association (1 representative)
- Council of State Executive Directors (1 representative)
- American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation (1 representative)
- National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (1 representative)
- Armed Forces Recreation Society (1 representative)

The Commission is administratively sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association, but acts with independence and under its own authority in determining accreditation standards and conferring accreditation of applicant agencies.

For more information, please visit the National Recreation and Parks Association website at [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org).

