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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **TUCSON EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION IN PARKS AND RECREATION**

On Sept. 14, 2015, the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation was recognized again for excellence in the field of parks and recreation management by achieving national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The Tucson Parks and Recreation Department originally was accredited by CAPRA in October 2010, and as a requirement of agency accreditation, must go through a review process every five years.

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. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

National accreditation is an extensive multi-year process and requires significant commitment from department staff. As part of the accreditation process, Tucson Parks and Recreation had to demonstrate compliance with 151 recognized standards and 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 to benefit the community. To achieve accreditation, an agency must fully meet 37 standards deemed fundamental to a quality agency and at least 85 percent of the remaining 114 standards (97). The City of Tucson fully met all of the 151 standards. The department is one of 145 accredited parks and recreation agencies in the United States and one of seven in Arizona. Through compliance with the standards of excellence, CAPRA accreditation assures policy makers, department staff, 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.

"I want to congratulate the entire staff for their commitment and dedication in achieving this much deserved recognition," said Tucson Parks and Recreation Director Fred Gray. "Attaining national re-accreditation is confirmation of their continued efforts to provide quality facilities, programs and services throughout the community." Tucson Parks and Recreation continues to demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and its ability to address the leisure needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff, and elected officials.

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 Academy for Leisure Sciences, the Armed Forces Recreation Network and the Council of State Executive Directors. For more information about CAPRA accreditation, visit [www.nrpa.org/CAPRA](http://www.nrpa.org/CAPRA).

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Parks and Recreation Department at (520) 791-4873 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Parks and Recreation de Tucson al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación..



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