



CITY OF
TUCSON



NEWS RELEASE

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FRED GRAY ELECTED TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

Fred Gray, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Tucson, has been elected to the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. Gray was inducted recently at the Academy's annual meeting during the National Recreation and Park Association Congress.

The Academy is a group of distinguished practitioners and educators who are leaders in the field of park and recreation. They must have served for at least 15 years in a high level of administration in a park and recreation agency, or as a recognized educator in parks and recreation administration, or they must manage a park and recreation department for an agency with a population of more than 500,000. They also must have demonstrated outstanding ability in administration, management or education in the profession; displayed broad interest with a direct service benefit to the advancement of public parks and recreation; or assumed leadership with a keen desire to contribute to the advancement of the field. The Academy is limited to 125 active members.

Established in 1980, the Academy was formed to advance knowledge related to the administration of recreation and parks; encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators to enhance the practice of park and recreation administration; promote broader public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation to the public good; and conduct research, publish scholarly papers and/or sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration.

“The Class of 2015 is a great addition,” said 2015 President William Scalzo of Phoenix, Arizona. “We have a diverse group – all with superior career experience and a dedication to improving the quality of life through the provision of high-quality parks and recreation opportunities.”

More information on the Academy is available at www.aapra.org. A biography and photo of Gray are attached.

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If participants require an accommodation or materials in accessible format or require a foreign language interpreter or materials in a language other than English for any event, please call Tucson Parks and Recreation, 791-4873, at least five business days in advance

Fred H. Gray, Jr., CPRP has been the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Tucson, Arizona since 2004. He is responsible for the management and operation of a large, CAPRA-accredited municipal parks and recreation department consisting of 4,000 acres of park land, 128 parks, 19 recreation centers, 27 swimming pools, three tennis centers, a nationally-accredited zoo, and Hi Corbett Field, the home of the University of Arizona baseball team. The department has approximately 480 employees and a \$42 million combined operating/capital budget.

Previously, Gray was the Deputy Director of Park and Recreation in Mecklenburg County, NC; and the Director of Recreation for the City of Belmont, NC. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Parks Administration from North Carolina State University and is a member of Rho Phi Alpha, an honorary Recreation and Parks fraternity.

