

PURSUING  
EXCELLENCE

ACCREDITATION

2018

MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
**PARKS**

*To sustain and strengthen the legacy of the Milwaukee County Park System, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture is striving for excellence in operations, administration and service delivery. Having that excellence recognized by the national accreditation body (CAPRA) for park and recreation agencies ensures the careful and responsible management of the world-class parklands and facilities entrusted to us.*



John Dargle, Jr., CPRP  
Parks Director



National Recreation  
and Park Association



# Pursuing Excellence – Accreditation 2018

We strive to join the elite one percent—the group of agencies that have earned the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation.



## Our Aim Is Excellence

Every operational unit of the Parks Department is engaged in the pursuit of excellence. A new accreditation team is leading the charge, along with cross-functional work teams. As stewards of the largest park system in Wisconsin, we take our responsibility to the community and to future generations seriously. In fact, that is why accreditation is a component of our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. Through the accreditation process, we will meet the rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety, and services. Accreditation will assure policy makers, department staff, and the community that we are delivering a high level of quality in operations, management, and service.

## Excellence Defined

Excellence in parks and recreation management is defined by the CAPRA Standards for national accreditation. CAPRA provides the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies. Its authoritative assessment and outside peer review evaluate an agency's overall quality of administration and operations. As part of an initial two-year accreditation process, we will ultimately demonstrate compliance with 151 standards in 10 operational areas: (1) Agency Authority, Role and Responsibility; (2) Planning; (3) Organization and Administration; (4) Human Resources; (5) Financial Management; (6) Programs and Services Management; (7) Facilities and Land Use Management; (8) Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Security; (9) Risk Management; and (10) Evaluation, Research and Assessment. The process will identify opportunities for efficiencies, effectiveness, and accountability at every operational level. Once accredited, our agency must uphold these standards, report annually, and commit to re-accreditation as part of a five-year cycle.

For more information on accreditation, please visit [www.nrpa.org/CAPRA/](http://www.nrpa.org/CAPRA/) or feel free to contact our Accreditation Manager at (414) 257-4515.



## Raising The Bar

As the recipient of the National Recreation and Park Association's 2009 National Gold Medal, the Parks Department was recognized for our outward-facing service outcomes, such as long-range planning, resource management, environmental stewardship, and program development. Now we are raising the bar. As a commitment to continuous improvement, we are looking to the inward-facing analysis of the CAPRA accreditation process. Rather than pursuing a one-time award, we are committing to the ongoing pursuit of excellence which will sustain the legacy of the Milwaukee County Park System for years to come.