

PRESS CONTACT

Amanda Rodriguez, Marketing Manager
arodriguez@grapevintexas.gov | 817.410.3919

The City of Grapevine Earns National Accreditation in Parks and Recreation

This mark of distinction recognizes commitment to highest level of service to the community.

GRAPEVINE, Texas – October 21, 2020 – Today, Grapevine Parks and Recreation joins the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This distinguished accomplishment was awarded during the 2020 NRPA Annual Conference: A Virtual Experience.

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. There are over 23,000 agencies in the United States who are eligible to apply for CAPRA accreditation. As of now, there are a total 183 agencies who are accredited, resulting in less than 1% of all agencies with accreditation.



The Grapevine Parks and Recreation Department has been working towards accreditation since 2018. As part of the accreditation process, Grapevine Parks and Recreation was required 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.

"Getting CAPRA accredited validates the quality of operations, management and service to the community here in Grapevine is the best in the industry. It's rewarding for our team to know they're doing the very best for the citizens day in and day out," says Kevin Mitchell, Director of Grapevine Parks and Recreation. "We're very proud to be awarded and this process of accreditation will help us be better overall."

The process for accreditation involves a formal application, self-assessment, a site visit by a team of trained visitors that result in a written report, and a hearing with the Commission to grant accreditation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's site visitations were held virtually, making the site visit process much more challenging than years past. Post accreditation, Grapevine Parks and Recreation must uphold the standards by submitting an annual report each year and will be reviewed again in 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 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.

About Grapevine Parks and Recreation

The Grapevine Parks and Recreation department aims to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Grapevine, through the stewardship of natural resources and the responsive provision of quality leisure opportunities. The Department believes in a healthy community and is committed to making Grapevine a healthier and happier place to live and play. By providing access to miles of connected trails, high quality parks, recreational programs, state-of-the-art facilities, protection of natural resources, educational opportunities and social services, Grapevine Parks and Recreation enriches the quality of life for residents and brings all members of the community together. For more information, visit GoGrapevine.com.

About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. With more than 60,000 members, NRPA advances this mission by investing in and championing the work of park and recreation professionals and advocates — the catalysts for positive change in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

###