

# Durango Parks and Recreation Receives National Accreditation



The City of Durango Parks and Recreation Department has earned National Accreditation in Parks and Recreation, which is a mark of distinction that recognizes commitment to the highest level of service to the community. In September 2015, the Parks and Recreation Department joined the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies and departments 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).

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.

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As part of the accreditation process, the Parks and Recreation Department has to demonstrate compliance with 151 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures. The process for accreditation involves a formal application, self-assessments, a site visit by a team of trained visitors that results in a written report, and a hearing with the commissions to grant accreditation. Once accredited, the Department must uphold the standards by submitting an Annual Report and is reviewed again in five years.

The National Recreation and Park Association estimates that there are a total of 12,000 park and recreation agencies in the United States. There are currently 145 accredited agencies, seven of which are in Colorado. These accredited Parks and Recreation departments are referred to as the Best of the Best in the nation.

