

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Accreditation

Accreditation is a process for evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of agency operations by comparing practices to generally accepted professional standards.

CAPRA Re-Accreditation occurs every 5 years. 2015 will represent Bellevue's third Accreditation Process.

Parks & Community Services Board
February 10, 2015



ACCREDITATION... A CITYWIDE INITIATIVE

Agency Accreditation has been achieved by:

- **Parks Department**
- **Police Department**
- **Police Dispatch**
- **Utilities Department**
- **Fire Department**

Support departments are indirectly evaluated
through direct service departments

THE BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

- Meets Citywide initiatives of excellence
- Demonstrates Bellevue's standing as a national leader in the field of Parks, Recreation & Community Services
- Ensures the safety & well-being of participants through standardized practices
- Assists the Department by becoming more organized
- Enhances overall effectiveness, encourages efficiencies and reinforces accountability

CAPRA ACCREDITATION

Agency accreditation conferred by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)

The Commission includes:

- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA)
- American Association for Leisure and Recreation (AALR)
- International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
- National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACo)
- National League of Cities (NLC)

CAPRA ACCREDITATION DETAILS

- The National CAPRA accreditation process was first formalized in 1994
- As of 2014, 140 Parks & Recreation Agencies have obtained CAPRA accreditation
- In addition, over 20 agencies from across America are in the process of accreditation
- The City of Bellevue, City of Renton, and Tacoma Metro Parks are the only accredited agencies in Washington State

WHAT IS THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS?

- Preliminary Agency Application (completed)
- Agency Self-Assessment (in process)
 - 36 Fundamental Standards (100% Required)
 - 114 Compliance Standards (85% Required)
- Self-Assessment Report and Formal Application
- Visitation Team/Site Visit (3-4 days)
- CAPRA Commission confers, denies, or defers
- Typical Process takes 1½ to 2 Years

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- A standard is a statement of desirable practice as set forth by experienced and recognized professionals
- Standards are an indirect measure of effectiveness
- IF desirable standard is practiced, THEN a desired outcome is achieved

TEN CATEGORIES OF STANDARDS




- Agency Authority, Role & Responsibility
- Planning
- Organization & Administration
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Program & Service Management
- Facility & Land Use Management
- Security & Public Safety
- Risk Management
- Evaluation & Research

EXAMPLE STANDARD

2.4 Comprehensive Planning

There shall be a comprehensive park and recreation system plan, which is basically an inventory of existing conditions and recommendations for future programs and services, acquisition and development of areas and facilities, and administration. The plan shall be officially adopted by the appropriate governing body, updated regularly, and be linked with a capital improvement budget and phased development.

PARK BOARD ROLE

-  To understand and communicate the importance of agency accreditation
-  To act as ambassadors of the Department in accreditation efforts
-  To assist Department staff in policy/document endorsement – examples include:
 - Structural Maintenance Management Plan (March 10)
 - Security Plan (March 10)
 - Playground Safety Plan (March 10)
 - Recreation Plan (April 14)
 - Strategic Plan (April 14)
 - Community Relations & Marketing Plan (April 14)