

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: October 15, 2025

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Toni Esparza, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services Department

Subject: PCS 2025 CAPRA Accreditation
For information only - no Board action requested

Background

Excellent public service is one of the City of Bellevue's core values. Five of the City of Bellevue's public facing departments have obtained national accreditation, providing an objective external measure of the city's consistency in best practices. Bellevue Parks & Community Services is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), which is renewed every five years.

Bellevue's Parks & Community Services Department was recently reaccredited CAPRA. Parks & Community Services initially received CAPRA accreditation in February 2005 and has been reaccredited every five years since then.

National accreditation is an extensive, multi-year process that consists of an application, self-assessment report, site visit and final evaluation by CAPRA. Accreditation measures Bellevue's quality of operations, management and service to the community.

This spring a team of reviewers from across the country awarded the department a perfect score of 154 out of 154 on rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

Site visitors noted the department's thorough and well-organized responses that made their jobs easy; beautiful and well-written plans that were enjoyable to read; integrated processes throughout our department and the city; in-depth expertise with people who are proud of their work; a clear commitment to thorough and thoughtful community outreach; and a value for the voice of our community.

Bellevue is the only parks and recreation department in the state that has been accredited since 2005. It is one of only three accredited agencies in WA and one of only 231 accredited agencies in the U.S.