

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

CAPRA National Accreditation

2020



Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Accreditation

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

Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) Re-Accreditation occurs every five years. 2020 will represent Bellevue's fourth Accreditation Cycle.

**Parks & Community Services Board
January 2020**



Accreditation... A City-Wide Initiative

Agency Accreditation has been achieved by:

- **Parks & Community Services Department**
- **Police Department**
- **Utilities Department**
- **Transportation Department**
- **Fire Department**

Support departments are indirectly evaluated
through accredited 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 maintaining organization of policies & procedures
- 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 for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies is a 15-member board composed of representatives from:

- National Recreation and Park Association (5 representatives)
- American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (5 representatives)
- International City/Council Management Association (1 representative)
- Council of State Executive Directors (1 representative)
- Academy of Leisure Sciences (1 representative)
- National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (1 representative)
- Armed Forces Recreation Network (1 representative)

CAPRA Accreditation Details

- The National CAPRA accreditation process was first formalized in 1994.
- In 2019, there are currently 175 accredited park & recreation agencies in the United States.
- The City of Bellevue, City of Shoreline, and Tacoma Metro Parks are the accredited agencies in Washington State.

What is the Accreditation Process?

- Preliminary Agency Application (completed)
- Agency Self-Assessment (in process)
 - In total 151 Standards
 - 37 Fundamental Standards (100% Required)
 - 108 of 114 Non-Fundamental Standards (95% Required)
- Self-Assessment Report and Formal Application
- Visitation Team comes to Bellevue for Site-Visit: June 15-18, 2020
- CAPRA Commission confers, denies, or defers Accreditation

Visitation Team

- Chair: Mr. Douglas E. Guild, CPRE
City of Henderson, NV
- 1st Visitor: Ms. Sheri L. Endsley, CPRP
City of Fort Worth, TX
- 2nd Visitor: Susan M. Hergenrader, CPRP
City of Plano, TX

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
- Financial Management
- Programs & Services Management
- Facility & Land Use Management
- Law Enforcement and Security
- Risk Management
- Evaluation, Assessment & Research

Example Standard

2.4 Park and Recreation System Master Plan ★

Standard: The agency shall have a comprehensive park and recreation system plan that provides recommendations for provision of facilities, programs and services; parkland acquisition and development; maintenance and operations; and administration and management. The plan shall be officially adopted by the policy-making body, updated periodically and linked with a capital improvement budget and a phased development program. The system master plan shall implement policies adopted in the comprehensive plan for the jurisdiction. Interested and affected agencies, organizations, and groups shall be engaged in the planning process.

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; plans coming in February and March include:
 - Strategic Plan
 - Recreation Plan
 - Maintenance Management Plan Natural Resource and Resource Management Division
 - Structural Operations Plan:
 - Structural Maintenance Management Plan
 - Playground Safety Plan
 - Security Plan
 - Community Relations & Marketing Plan