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NEWS RELEASE

Durango Parks and Recreation Department Earns National Accreditation

Durango, CO: Durango Parks and Recreation Department has earned reaccreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This accomplishment was awarded during the 2020 National Accreditation Process. Out of the 23,000 Parks and Recreation agencies in the country, only 186 (less than one percent) have earned this distinction.

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. Accreditation indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

As part of the reaccreditation process, Durango Parks and Recreation Department had 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.

“National Accreditation of the Durango Parks and Recreation Department illustrates the extraordinary dedication and services provided by the Department to the community,” said Cathy Metz, Durango Parks and Recreation Director. “The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to enrich lives every day and National Accreditation holds the Department to the highest national standards.”

The process for accreditation involves a formal application, self-assessments, a site/virtual visit by a team of trained visitors that results in a written report. This is followed by a hearing with the commission to grant accreditation. Once accredited, the agency must uphold standards by submitting an annual report. The agency is reviewed for reaccreditation in five years.
CAPRA 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 nrpa.org/CAPRA

About the National Recreation and Park Association
The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Americans have access to parks and recreation for health, conservation and social equity. Through its network of 60,000 recreation and park professionals and advocates, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA’s flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit parksandrecreation.org

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