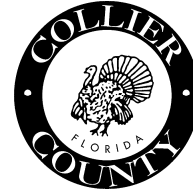


# Collier County Government



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March 23, 2010

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### COLLIER COUNTY EARNS REACCREDITATION OF ITS PARKS

(Naples, FL) - Collier County Parks and Recreation Department has achieved reaccreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

Parks and Recreation is one of only 90 park and recreation agencies in the country to currently hold national accreditation, and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) announced Collier County's distinguished accomplishment on March 19 in Washington D.C. at the organization's 2010 Legislative Forum.

"The process of reaccreditation is extensive and to accomplish this, our team continually monitors our business and customer processes to ensure we are meeting the public's needs," said Collier County Parks and Recreation Director Barry Williams. "We invite residents and visitors to rediscover our fantastic park system, where there is something for everyone."

After completing the reaccreditation application, Collier County developed a detailed self-assessment, which was then followed by a visit in December 2009 by a CAPRA-appointed review team of experienced park and recreation professionals. Finally, CAPRA conducted a review of the Collier County's scores and the Commission then formally awarded reaccreditation to the department on March 19, 2010.

Every five years, an accredited agency must be thoroughly reviewed to ensure continued compliance with accreditation standards covering all areas of operation. National accreditation requires park and recreation agencies to respond to 144 standards representing elements of effective and efficient operations. To become accredited, agencies must fully meet 36 standards deemed fundamental to a quality agency and at least 92 of the remaining standards. Collier County passed all 144 standards with a perfect score.

The Commission is comprised of representatives from the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the International City/County Managers Association, American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, the Armed Forces Recreation Society, and the Council of State Executive Directors.

For additional information on park and recreation agency accreditation, contact the National Recreation and Park Association's Accreditation Manager James O'Connor by calling (703) 858-2150. Media may also contact Collier County Parks and Recreation Regional Manager Shari Ferguson for interviews by calling (239) 252-4030.

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