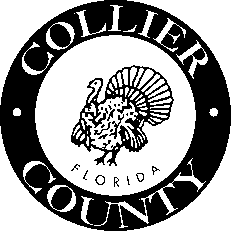
***Collier County Government* **

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| **Communication & Customer Relations Division** |  |
| **3299 Tamiami Trail E., Suite 102**  **Naples, Florida 34112-5746** | [**colliergov.net**](http://www.colliergov.net)  [**twitter.com/CollierPIO**](http://www.twitter.com/CollierPIO)  [**facebook.com/CollierGov**](http://www.facebook.com/CollierGov)  [**youtube.com/CollierGov**](http://www.youtube.com/CollierGov) |

###### September 15, 2015

###### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COLLIER COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION**

**EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDIATION IN PARKS AND RECREATION**

*Mark of distinction recognizes commitment to highest level of service to the community*

**Naples, FL., September 14, 2015 –** Today, Collier County Parks & Recreation Division joins the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies and departments across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This distinguished accomplishment was awarded during the 2015 NRPA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

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. This mark of distinction 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 accreditation process, Collier County Parks and Recreation Division 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.

Barry Williams, Division Director stated “Our staff are diligent in their efforts to ensure that the “gold standard” for Parks and Recreation Divisions are met every day to deliver the best possible service for our community.  I’m extremely proud of our team’s effort and the recognition from the Commission on Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and from the National Recreation and Parks Association.  It is an honor to start our 11th year as a CAPRA accredited organization.”

The process for accreditation involves a formal application , self-assessments, , a site visit by a team of trained visitors that results in a written report, and a hearing with the commission to grant accreditation. Once accredited, the agency must uphold the standards by submitting an Annual Report and is reviewed again in five years.

The Commission 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 contact Peg Ruby at 239-252-4000. For more information about CAPRA accreditation, visit [www.nrpa.org/CAPRA](http://www.nrpa.org/CAPRA).

[Agency Boiler Plate]

**The National Recreation and Park Association** is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 50,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org). For digital access to NRPA’s flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit [www.parksandrecreation.org](http://www.parksandrecreation.org).

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