

Missouri City Parks & Recreation Earns National Accreditation in Parks and Recreation



On September 8, 2021 the Missouri City Parks and Recreation Department earned accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

CAPRA accreditation is the one and only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and measures the agency's overall quality of operations, management and services to the community. The accreditation indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

There are over 23,000 agencies in the United States who are eligible to apply for CAPRA accreditation. As of now, there are a total 183 agencies who are accredited, resulting in less than 1% of all agencies with accreditation.

The Department has been working towards accreditation since 2018. As part of the accreditation process, Missouri City Parks and Recreation was required to demonstrate compliance with 151 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures. Often the process helps identify inefficiencies and heighten areas of accountability, all of which translate into higher quality service and operation to benefit the community.

"Receiving CAPRA accreditation demonstrates that the Missouri City Parks and Recreation Department is meeting the highest national standards that exist. These standards acknowledge excellence in our planning, operations and how our staff meet community needs. Accreditation is a mark of excellence and provides residents with confidence that public resources and assets are well cared for and contribute to making life better in Missouri City" says Jason Mangum, Director of Missouri City Parks and Recreation.

The process for accreditation involves a formal application, self-assessment, a site visit by a team of trained visitors that result in a written report, and a hearing with the Commission to grant accreditation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's site visitations were held virtually, making the site visit process much more challenging than years past. Post accreditation, Missouri City Parks and Recreation must uphold the standards by submitting an annual report each year and will be 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.