



For release: Immediately
Date: Sept. 26, 2018

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Shawnee County Parks + Recreation receives CAPRA accreditation

TOPEKA, KAN. – Shawnee County Parks + Recreation has received accreditation through the Commission for the Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies. The announcement was made this evening during the National Park and Recreation Association Accreditation, Awards and Certification Recognition Presentation in Indianapolis, Ind.

Prior to this year, 166 park and recreation agencies across the United States had attained CAPRA accreditation. SCP+R becomes the fourth CAPRA accredited agency in Kansas, joining the Johnson County Park & Recreation District, Fort Riley Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Wichita Parks and Recreation.

CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation agencies, and is a valuable measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. CAPRA Accreditation demonstrates that an agency is in compliance with national standards of excellence. [The standards](#) are comprised of 10 categories that cover 151 standards. To achieve accreditation an agency must comply with the 37 Fundamental Standards and at least 90 percent of the remaining 114 standards.

CAPRA recognizes park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. Agency accreditation is available to all entities administering park and recreation systems, including municipalities, townships, counties, special districts and regional authorities, councils of government, schools and military installations.

"Being awarded accreditation puts our department among an elite group of agencies as fewer than 2 percent of parks and recreation agencies are accredited," said John Knight, SCP+R director. "Gaining accreditation shows our residents that we are meeting the national standards to deliver the best services to the community."

"You are told at the outset that the accreditation process tells you what you know you know about your department, what you didn't know you knew and what you didn't know that you didn't know about your department," said Knight, adding, "This has made us a stronger department and one that is now even better positioned to serve the public."

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About Shawnee County Parks + Recreation

Shawnee County Parks + Recreation includes nearly 60 miles of trails, 2,625 acres of parks and 320 annual days of sporting activities. In addition, the department offers recreation programs, educational programs and golf. A combination of tax dollars, user fees and private donations enables Shawnee County Parks and Recreation to offer parks, sporting and aquatic facilities with state-of-the-art features, and beautiful, nationally recognized gardens.