

Arlington County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Earns National Accreditation

- Only 99 agencies nationwide recognized
- Re-Accreditation is extensive multi-year process
- Highest level of industry standard achieved

Arlington County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources was re-accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). Only 99 out of more than 10,000 park and recreation agencies nationwide have achieved this level of excellence. This distinguished accomplishment was announced March 18 during the National Recreation and Park Association 2011 Legislative Forum in Washington, D.C.

"We invested significant efforts in sustaining our accreditation with CAPRA to assure the high level of professionalism and quality services desired and valued by our customers – visitors and citizens of Arlington" said Dinesh Tiwari, CPRP, director of Arlington County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR). "Considering the cuts in staffing and funding over the last two years, it is quite an accomplishment that PRCR was able to maintain this high standard."

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.

National accreditation through CAPRA is an extensive multi-year process that requires agencies to meet 144 standards representing elements of effective and efficient park and recreation operations. Accredited agencies must fully meet 36 standards deemed fundamental to a quality agency and at least 92 remaining standards necessary for achieving excellence in operations and service. Accreditation is valid for five years.

The Commission is comprised of representatives from 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 Management Association, the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, the Armed Forces Recreation Society and the Council of State Executive Directors.

Arlington, Va., is a world-class residential, business and tourist location that was originally part of the "10 miles square" parcel of land surveyed in 1791 to be the Nation's Capital. It is the geographically smallest self-governing county in the United States, occupying slightly less than 26 square miles. Arlington maintains a rich variety of stable neighborhoods, quality schools and enlightened land use, and received the Environmental Protection Agency's highest award for "Smart Growth" in 2002. Home to some of the most influential organizations in the world - including the Pentagon - Arlington stands out as one of America's preeminent places to live, visit and do business.