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## **Spartanburg County Parks Department Earns National Accreditation in Parks and Recreation**

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

Spartanburg, SC, Sept. 24, 2018 – Spartanburg County Parks Department joins the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies 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 2018 NRPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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, Spartanburg County Parks Department 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.

"We are honored to obtain accreditation through CAPRA and NRPA as it is a reflection of our department's commitment to providing outstanding parks and recreation services to our citizens, with a focus on continuous improvement," said Kevin Stiens, Parks and Recreation Director. "This recognition speaks to the quality of our team and their commitment to serving the community."

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 about CAPRA accreditation, visit [nrpa.org/CAPRA](http://nrpa.org/CAPRA)

For more information about Spartanburg County Parks Department, visit [spartanburgparks.org](http://spartanburgparks.org)