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CITY OF HILLSBORO PARKS & RECREATION FIRST IN OREGON TO RECEIVE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Hillsboro, OR – The City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department has been awarded national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This makes Hillsboro Parks & Recreation the first CAPRA accredited agency in Oregon, one of three in the Northwest (Oregon, Washington & Idaho) and one of only 84 in the country.

“It is wonderful to be recognized nationally for the fine work our Parks & Recreation Department does for our community,” said City Manager Sarah Jo Chaplen.

The process of accreditation is extensive and took Hillsboro Parks & Recreation two and a half years to accomplish. After the initial application, the agency completed a detailed 300 page self-assessment report followed by a peer review in Hillsboro by a team of parks and recreation professionals from other communities. On March 20, 2009, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Director Steve Greagor and Assistant Director Justin Patterson attended a hearing with the CAPRA Commissioners at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2009 Mid-Year Congress in Washington DC, where Hillsboro was awarded accreditation.

CAPRA is administered by NRPA and manages a rigorous program based on self-assessment and peer review using national standards of best practice to demonstrate and promote agency commitment to quality services and delivery systems. National accreditation requires parks and recreation agencies to meet 156 standards representing elements of effective and efficient park and recreation operations, as well as excellence in management and administration. The standards cover ten main areas including agency authority, role & responsibility, planning, facility and land use management, risk management, program & services management, evaluation and research, and similar.

To become accredited, agencies must demonstrate their ability to meet at least 138 of the 156 standards, 36 of which are designated as fundamental to quality operations and are required of all parks and recreation agencies.

The Commission, founded in 1993, is comprised of thirteen representatives from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO), the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA), American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation (AAPAR), the Armed Forces Recreation Society (AFRS), and the Council of State Executive Directors (CSED).

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation’s CAPRA accreditation requires an annual update report and a renewal application process every five years.

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