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Oakland Park Achieves Prestigious Parks Accreditation

OAKLAND PARK, Fla....(October 27, 2010) -- The City of Oakland Park's Parks and Leisure Services Department became one of only 95 park and recreation agencies in the United States to receive accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This distinguished accomplishment was announced October 26 by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) during its 2010 Congress & Exposition in Minneapolis.

"This prestigious accreditation exemplifies the commitment of our City staff to provide the highest quality of services and programs to the residents and businesses of Oakland Park," said City Manager John Stunson. "Our City continues to implement process improvements within our core service areas and we are pleased to see this national recognition for the results we are able to achieve during these turbulent times."

National accreditation through CAPRA is an extensive multi-year process. Director of Parks and Leisure Services Jenna LaFleur and her staff completed an application and detailed self-assessment report, as well as hosted a site visit by a committee of experienced park and recreation professionals. The final assessment was completed by the agency and the Commission. The Accreditation required Oakland Park to respond to 144 standards, representing elements of effective and efficient park and recreation operations. To become accredited, agencies must fully meet 36 standards deemed fundamental to a quality agency and at least 92 of the remaining standards.

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LaFleur reported that CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of the Parks and Leisure Services Department's overall quality of operation, management and service to the Oakland Park community. Accreditation is valid for a period of three years.

"By successfully completing the CAPRA accreditation process, the City of Oakland Park has demonstrated our ability to provide the highest level Parks and Leisure services and programs," said LaFleur. "NRPA commended Oakland Park for our overall excellence in serving the community and contributing to the health and vitality of America."

CAPRA 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 American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, the Armed Forces Recreation Society and the Council of State Executive Directors.

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