



PRESS RELEASE

News from Monmouth County's Open Space, Park and Recreation Agency

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PARK SYSTEM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

LINCROFT-- A jury of its peers re-accredited the Monmouth County Park System on March 20, 2009, one of only eighty-one agencies in the country to have received national recognition from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This distinguished accomplishment was announced in Washington, DC at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2009 Legislative Forum.

The Park System received its first accreditation in 1994, the same year the CAPRA guidelines were established, and has continuously maintained its status as an accredited agency. "This designation reflects high standards of fiscal policy, program delivery, facility and land management by the Board of Recreation Commissioners and its staff", according to Freeholder Lillian Burry, Freeholder liaison to the Park System.

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The accreditation process involves an initial application, a rigorous self-evaluation report by the Park System, followed by a visit from a team of experienced park and recreation professionals. These professionals spent three full days in November examining reports, procedures, and activities. A final review was conducted by the full CAPRA commission and re-accreditation was formally conferred on March 20, 2009.

National accreditation requires park and recreation agencies to respond to 156 standards representing elements of effective and efficient park and recreation operations. To become accredited, agencies must demonstrate their ability to meet 138 standards, 36 of which are designated as fundamental to quality operations and are required of all agencies. Under CAPRA guidelines, an agency must complete an interim assessment every five years and a full re-evaluation every ten years to maintain its status.

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

Upon hearing the news, the chairman of the Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners, Ed Loud, smiled broadly. “The citizens of Monmouth County are rightfully proud of their Park System. Accreditation is public recognition of the commitment residents have made to recreation and efforts to preserve open space. We invite and encourage you to enjoy your parks.”

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PHOTO: Springtime at Holmdel Park, Holmdel. Get out and enjoy your favorite park within the nationally accredited Monmouth County Park System.