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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM MAINTAINS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION**



LINCROFT– On Monday, September 23, the Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners received the exciting news that the Monmouth County Park System had once again earned accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), ranking them among elite park and recreation agencies and departments nationwide. The Monmouth County Park System has been continuously accredited every five years since 1994.

The announcement was made during the 2019 Best of the Best Ceremony at this year's NRPA Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. 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, the Monmouth County Park System 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.

“CAPRA accreditation is a measure of an agency’s overall quality of operation, management and service to the community,” said Freeholder and Liaison to the Park System Lillian G. Burry. “We are very pleased to offer an outstanding Park System to the residents of Monmouth County and rank among the best in the country. I wish to recognize the work of the Board of Recreation Commissioners and the Park System Staff for their dedication and high standard of excellence.”

The process for accreditation involves self-assessments, a formal application, 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 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 American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, the Armed Forces Recreation Society, and the Council of State Executive Directors.

For more information about CAPRA accreditation, visit [www.nrpa.org/CAPRA](http://www.nrpa.org/CAPRA). The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 40,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org).

To learn more about the Monmouth County Park System, please visit [www.MonmouthCountyParks.com](http://www.MonmouthCountyParks.com) or call the Park System at 732-842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the Park System TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System,

created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation agency.

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