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## Press Release

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### **Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies Places H.P.A.R.D. in Top Tier of Country's Park Systems**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) is proud to announce it has been re-accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (C.A.P.R.A.). The announcement was made during the National Recreation and Park Association's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress and Expo held in Houston last week.

"We, as a department, believe we are working hard to ensure we provide Houston with a great park system," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "It is an honor to have the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, the most prestigious organization in the country, certify that we are meeting their standards of excellence for the operation of park systems."

The C.A.P.R.A. accreditation process provides agencies with a best practices review of their departments. Outside observers evaluate an agency's business practices against 144 standards created by the National Recreation and Park Association. Agencies must meet 36 Fundamental Standards and at least 85 percent of the remaining 108 standards.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department received its initial C.A.P.R.A. Accreditation in 2008. This year marked the department's mandatory 5 year reassessment to retain its accreditation status. As one of only 112 accredited agencies, H.P.A.R.D. is in the top tier of parks and recreation departments, and is one of the largest urban departments to have achieved this status.

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,832 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*