



Commission for
Accreditation of
Parks and
Recreation
Agencies
(CAPRA)

Background

CAPRA initial standards were developed in 1989 by the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administrators and the National Parks and Recreation Association

Accreditation kicked off in 1995 with 6 agencies

As of the annual conference in October, 213 agencies are accredited across the 50 states and military bases worldwide - from a potential of approximately 10,000 potential agencies

Currently, Los Alamos is the only accredited agency in New Mexico

Why Become Accredited?

NRPA's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) delivers quality assurance and improvement to accredited park and recreation departments throughout the United States. This operational management system improves their infrastructures; increases efficiency in all activities; and demonstrates accountability within their communities. Implementation of this system strengthens teamwork among department staff, imbeds all aspects of CAPRA into their department's internal culture, and establishes a continuous improvement mindset for all department activities.

CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation departments and is a valuable measure of a department's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community. Achieving CAPRA accreditation is the best way to demonstrate that your department and your staff provide your community with the highest level of service.

Benefits of Accreditation

For the Community

- Demonstrates that the department meets national standards of best practice.
- Recognizes the community as a great place to live.
- Helps secure external financial support and reduces costs for the community.
- Holds the department accountable to the public and ensures responsiveness to meet their needs.
- Ensures that all staff are providing quality customer service.

For Department and Staff

- Proves to decision makers, stakeholders and the public that your department is operating with the best practices of the profession.
- Increases credibility and can improve internal and external funding.
- Improves overall operations and increases efficiency.
- Enhances staff teamwork and pride by engaging all staff in the process.
- Creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement.

CAPRA Process

Staff training on the CAPRA Process

Review and complete the Self-Assessment report

154 standards - 36 fundamental

10 domains

Two-year process

Submit Self Assessment to NRPA/CAPRA

Self Assessment reviewed by a trained peer group of professionals

On-site visit with peer group (week of May 13)

Feedback from peer review and visit

CAPRA hearing at the NRPA Congress in Atlanta 2024

Categories

1. Agency Authority, Role and Responsibility

1. 14 standards

2. Planning

1. 11 standards

3. Organization and Administration

1. 14 standards

4. Human Resources

1. 31 standards

5. Financial Management

1. 20 standards

6. Program and Service Management

1. 14 standards

7. Facility and Land Use

1. 17 standards

8. Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Security

1. 14 standards

9. Risk Management

1. 6 standards

10. Evaluation, Assessment and Research

1. 13 standards

CAPRA

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Watch the

[CSD Employee CAPRA video](#)

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Community Services is pleased to announce the successful completion of their CAPRA self-assessment and site visit on May 15th and 16th, 2024, during which they met all 154 standards.

On October 9th, 2024, CSD was awarded the CAPRA designation at the NRPA Convention's Best of the Best ceremony in Atlanta, GA. This accomplishment represents a significant milestone for the Department, placing CSD among an elite group of 206 agencies nationwide that have achieved this prestigious designation. We are proud to be one of only two agencies in New Mexico and the first county in the state to receive this recognition. [CAPRA-Accreditation-Press-Release](#) (PDF, 266KB)

ATTACHMENT A



BEST OF THE
BEST
CEREMONY

BEST OF THE
BEST
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Questions



ATTACHMENT A