

**PURSUING
EXCELLENCE**



**MILWAUKEE COUNTY
PARKS**

To sustain and strengthen the legacy of the Milwaukee County Park System, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture is striving for excellence in operations, administration and service delivery. Having that excellence recognized by the national accreditation body (CAPRA) for park and recreation agencies ensures the careful and responsible management of the world-class parklands and facilities entrusted to us.

John Dargle, Jr., CPRP
Parks Director



**National Recreation
and Park Association**



Pursuing Excellence – Accreditation 2017

We strive to join the elite one percent—the group of agencies that have earned the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation.



Our Aim Is Excellence

Every operational unit of the Parks Department is engaged in the pursuit of excellence. A new accreditation team is leading the charge, along with cross-functional work teams. As stewards of the largest park system in Wisconsin, we take our responsibility to the community and to future generations seriously. In fact, that is why accreditation is a component of our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. Through the accreditation process, we will meet the rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety, and services. Accreditation will assure policy makers, department staff, and the community that we are delivering a high level of quality in operations, management, and service.

Excellence Defined

Excellence in parks and recreation management is defined by the CAPRA Standards for national accreditation. CAPRA provides the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies. Its authoritative assessment and outside peer review evaluate an agency's overall quality of administration and operations. As part of an initial two-year accreditation process, we will ultimately demonstrate compliance with 151 standards in 10 operational areas: (1) Agency Authority, Role and Responsibility; (2) Planning; (3) Organization and Administration; (4) Human Resources; (5) Financial Management; (6) Programs and Services Management; (7) Facilities and Land Use Management; (8) Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Security; (9) Risk Management; and (10) Evaluation, Research and Assessment. The process will identify opportunities for efficiencies, effectiveness, and accountability at every operational level. Once accredited, our agency must uphold these standards, report annually, and commit to re-accreditation as part of a five-year cycle.

For more information on accreditation, please visit www.nrpa.org/CAPRA/ or feel free to contact our Accreditation Manager at (414) 257-4515.



Raising The Bar

As the recipient of the National Recreation and Park Association's 2009 National Gold Medal, the Parks Department was recognized for our outward-facing service outcomes, such as long-range planning, resource management, environmental stewardship, and program development. Now we are raising the bar. As a commitment to continuous improvement, we are looking to the inward-facing analysis of the CAPRA accreditation process. Rather than pursuing a one-time award, we are committing to the ongoing pursuit of excellence which will sustain the legacy of the Milwaukee County Park System for years to come.



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PARK SYSTEM

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
PARKS

Acres
of
Parkland

15,325



32
Miles of
Lake Michigan
Shoreline



8,479
Acres of
Natural
Areas

140
Miles of Trails



158 Parks

11 Parkways



Boerner
Botanical
Gardens



Mitchell Park
Horticultural
Conservatory



Wehr
Nature
Center

PARK EXPERIENCES



152

Picnic Sites & Shelters



68

Indoor Rental Spaces

4

Permanent
Beer Gardens



15

Traveling Beer
Garden Stops

231

Athletic Fields



68

Basketball
Courts



98

Tennis
Courts



26

Volleyball
Courts



10

Ice Rinks
9 outdoor
1 indoor



3

Recreation
Centers



2

Horseshoe
Courts



113

Playgrounds

15

Golf
Courses



5

Disc Golf
Courses



4

FootGolf
Courses

WATER RECREATION



4

Boat
Launches



37

Splash Pads &
Wading Pools



10

Pools
8 outdoor
2 indoor



2

Marinas



9

Beaches



4

Waterparks



7

Dog
Exercise
Areas

PARK SYSTEM FUN FACTS



County Park Commission

Est. 1907

August 20, 1907

Timeline

- 1835 The first settlements included "public squares" of green space.
- 1889 Establishment of Milwaukee Board of Park Commissioners
- 1890 The Milwaukee Park Commission purchased land to begin creating "a chain of parks around the city connected by handsome boulevards."
- 1937 Consolidation Movement of Municipal and County Parks.



ParkPeople

52

Supporting Friends Groups

125,000 + Volunteer Hours

10
National Register of Historic Places

Sites

- Benjamin Church House
- Honey Creek Parkway
- Jeremiah Curtin House
- Kinnickinnic River Parkway
- Lake Park
- Milwaukee River Parkway
- North Point Lighthouse
- Oak Creek Parkway
- Root River Parkway
- Trimborn Farm

EVENTS



1,000
Bugs Consumed as Creepy Crawly Cuisine at Bug Day



344
Special Event Permits



207
Park Concerts



88
Small-Business Vendor Permits



7
Farmer's Markets

FLORA AND FAUNA



698
Species of Plants Documented



209
Species of Birds Observed



430
Ephemeral Ponds Documented



150
Varieties of Crabapple Trees - Whitnall Park



2015
Bird City Wisconsin High Flyer Status

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

\$2 MILLION

for Stormwater Management

from Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)

- Since 2003



Permeable Pavers and Porous Pavement



L.E.D. Street Light Replacements



Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary - Dretzka Golf Course



Operation Pollinator Bee Sanctuaries



Blue Wave Clean Beach Certification - Bradford Beach



Wisconsin Clean Marina Certification - McKinley Marina