Dallas Park & Recreation
Bringing Communities Together

CAPRA ACCREDITATION

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Ryan O'Connor — Deputy Director
Robin Steinshnider — Superintendent

WHAT IS CAPRA?

The National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) delivers quality assurance and improvement to accredited park and recreation departments throughout the United States.

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.

There are only 213 accredited agencies in the country.

BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

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COMMISSION FOR ACCREDITATION OF PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES
CAPRA ACCREDITED

For Our 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 reduce costs for the community.
- Holds the park and recreation department accountable to the public and ensures responsiveness to meet their needs.
- Ensures that all staff are providing quality customer service.

For Our 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 STANDARDS

- 154 Standards
- 36 Fundamental Standards
- Agencies must comply with all fundamental and 106 of the 118 non -fundamental standards upon initial accreditation
- Agencies must comply with all fundamental and 112 of 118 non -fundamental standards upon reaccreditation
- DPARD was initially accredited in 2016 and we are currently preparing for our 2nd reaccreditation in 2026
- Ensures that all staff are providing quality customer service.

Standard Sections

1. Agency Authority, Role, and Responsibility (14)
2. Planning (11)
3. Organization and Administration (14)
4. Human Resources (31)
5. Financial Management (20
6. Programs and Services Management (14)
7. Facility and Land Use Management (17)
8. Public Safety, Law Enforcement, and Security (14)
9. Risk Management (6)
10. Evaluation, Assessment, and Research (13)

SAMPLE STANDARD

Components

- Standard Description
- Narrative
- Evidence of Compliance
  - Policies
  - Plans
  - Agreements
  - Training Records
  - Photos

7.8 - Environmental Sustainability Policy and Program

***Standard*: The agency shall have an established policy on environmental sustainability that states the agency position on energy and resource conservation. The policy should address sustainable product purchasing; reduction and handling of waste; wise use and protection of land, air, water and wildlife; and sustainable design/construction of buildings and facilities.**

Suggested Evidence of Compliance: Provide the agency's environmental sustainability policy and examples of projects and initiatives that demonstrate the agency's commitment to implementation. Examples include ecosystem and green infrastructure plans/programs, capital improvements utilizing green/sustainable designs, carbon footprint analysis and reduction goals, internal/external communication and outreach programs.

The City of Dallas is committed to a clean, safe and healthy environment. This commitment is embodied by the actions outlined in the Environmental Policy adopted in 2005. On May 27, 2020, Dallas City Council unanimously approved the Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). The CECAP replaces the Sustainability Plan and it will continue the Sustainability Plan's work and introduce new initiatives. CECAP is a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the activities that the City will undertake to improve quality of life, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and to create a healthier and more prosperous community. It builds upon our understanding of future impacts from climate change, other environmental challenges facing Dallas, and the data from the 2015 City of Dallas greenhouse gas inventory.

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department will focus on Goal 6 of the CECAP: Dallas protects and enhances its ecosystems, trees and green spaces that in turn improve public health. Goal 6 includes the following targets:

- Increase the existing canopy cover percentage to 33%, 37% and 40% or more canopy cover citywide by 2030, 2040 and 2050 respectively.
- 20%, 50% and 75% reduction in urban heat island index by 2030, 2040 and 2050 respectively.
- 80%, 90% and 95% of the population lives within mile walk to a park or trail by 2030, 2040 and 2050 respectively.
- Update Park Maintenance Operation procedures to include comprehensive ecofriendly and sustainable best management practices.
- Improve the quality of urban ecosystems in Dallas through sustainable appropriate design, creation and planting of urban habitats.

The Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) leads and guides the City's efforts in environmental compliance, pollution prevention and continual improvement. Through the work of OEQ and City departments in the implementation of Administrative Directive 2-49: Environmental Management System, sustainability is expanded into daily decision making processes to build a stronger community for today and tomorrow. An example of implementation is the IPM Program for Dallas Park and Recreation Department.

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department plays a crucial role in both developing and implementing the City of Dallas' CECAP. Since 2014, the Dallas Park and Recreation Department has continued sustainability initiatives that have implemented technology as well as strengthened policies to help reduce environmental impact. These programs are known as Dallas Park and Recreation Green Initiatives.

- Park Maintenance and Operations Division uses automated athletic field lighting systems to enhance user experiences on athletic fields while also reducing energy consumption. Lights for designated fields may be controlled remotely and set to be on during designated time periods. The department plans to convert all remaining fields that are still set up with a time-controlled push button to the upgraded system.
- City purchased first automated robot to mark athletic fields with more accuracy and efficiency as part of a pilot program. The robot's autonomous technology, which is linked to GPS, mark an entire soccer field in 35 minutes or an entire football field in 2 hours. This electric equipment not only eliminates air emissions, saves time and money but allows staff to redirect their efforts to other projects while the field is being striped.
- Park Maintenance and Operations is conducting an automated robotic mowers pilot program at two locations. One mower will be used at Turner Plaza to mow one acre and three mowers will be used at Kiest Park Athletic Complex to mow two soccer fields. The benefits of the Automowers are no air emissions, reduced noise and self-operation.
- New generation smart irrigation systems are installed at seven parks. The systems feature built-in sensors alerting irrigation managers of abnormal water usage or leaks via cloud-based applications that can be accessed on a smart phone. The system can be shut down remotely in case of emergencies. In the upcoming year, Park Maintenance will install new smart systems at an additional eight locations with the support of a Dallas Water Utilities' grant.
- Green Teams use low emissions equipment such as battery-powered trimmers and blowers to reduce carbon footprint in mow/trim operations
- Treecycling
  - In line with CECAP Goal 4, Park Maintenance and Operations established a Treecycling Program to divert Forestry chips from the landfill. The program has the following goals:
  - Goal 1: Divert 100% of materials generated by forestry operations from landfill (waste diversion).
  - Goal 2: Recycling 100% of materials generated by forestry operations to be used in parks.
  - Goal 3: Generate savings from the program to be used to further advance the program and cover costs of capital equipment needs.
    - To expand the Treecyling program, in 2020, the department applied for and was awarded the NCTCOG Solid Waste Diversion Grant in the category of Source Reduction and Recycling. The $200,000 award was used to purchase a trommel to sort wood chips into compost and mulch.
- Maintain the natural acreage of 6,895 total acres with approximately 97 of those acres being wildflower area.
- Participated in process to update the City's tree preservation ordinance.

WHAT DOES CAPRA MEAN TO US?

- We represent the best of the best - only 2% of park and recreation agencies are CAPRA accredited
- Gives our elected officials confidence in our operations
- Demonstrates credibility with our partners, our regional peers, and other city departments
- Sets us apart from other park and recreation departments for recruiting.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A comprehensive plan is a long-term visioning and strategic document that guides the development, management, and maintenance of a community's parks and recreation facilities, ensuring they meet the needs of the community now and in the future.

Many state and federal grant opportunities require adopted comprehensive plans. A comprehensive plan positions us for millions in potential public funding.

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PRIOR COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

2002 - *A Renaissance Plan for Dallas Parks and Recreation in the 21st Century*

Gave the Department a strategy to recover from years of budget cuts, regain the confidence of the citizens of Dallas, and reposition the Department as a state and national leader. Positioned the department for successful 2003 and 2006 bond programs.

- Needs Inventory
- Partnerships

2016 Comprehensive Plan

Moved the department into a new era of development and proactive engagement, with the development of new partnerships and the buildout of $312M in new and upgraded parks and facilities.

- Parkland Dedication
- Safety and Security

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2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Movement of the Department in the direction of achieving financial sustainability.
2. Provision of park and recreation services that meet current and future needs of the community and contribute to retaining and attracting residents and visitors to the City of Dallas.
3. Identification of ambitious and transformational projects with the potential to set the Dallas Park system apart from its peers.

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2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Scope of Work

- Current Condition Assessment
- Financial Analysis
- Operational Analysis
- Programming Analysis
- Public Engagement
- Identification of new operating, financial, and capital improvement models
- Strategic Implementation Plan and Recommendations

Timeline

- Contract Award - Summer 2025
- Initiate Plan - Fall 2025
- Complete Plan - Fall 2026
- Adopt Plan - Fall 2026

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