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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Wheat Ridge Parks and Rec Receives National Accreditation**

**WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. Oct. 19, 2016** -- The City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department recently received national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

Wheat Ridge is one of only eight agencies in Colorado receiving this prestigious designation. A board of 14 CAPRA members from all over the country presided at the hearing held October 4, 2016 in St. Louis, Missouri. Their review and comments were very positive and noted that Wheat Ridge is a model community for the accreditation process.

“We credit Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Director Joyce Manwaring for her leadership and direction on this process, as well as the dedication to excellence exhibited every day by all Parks and Recreation employees on behalf of the City of Wheat Ridge,” stated Patrick Goff, Wheat Ridge city manager.

Accreditation is based on an agency’s compliance with the 151 standards for national accreditation. To achieve accreditation, an agency must comply with all 37 Fundamental Standards and achieve 103 (90%) of the 114 Non-Fundamental Standards upon initial accreditation.

“National Accreditation only goes to cities who demonstrate the required 151 standards representing the best management practices for park and recreation agencies,” said City of Wheat Ridge Mayor Joyce Jay. “While we are the 17<sup>th</sup> largest city in Colorado, we have a Parks and Recreation Department that stands out as a powerful first in exceeding standards set at the national level.”

CAPRA accreditation is a five-year cycle that includes three phases: development of the agency self-assessment report, the on-site visitation, and the Commission’s review and decision. The on-site visitation follows the agency’s development of its self-assessment report. If accreditation is granted by the Commission at its meeting following the on-site visit, the agency will develop a new self-assessment report and be revisited every five years. Within each of the four years between on-site visits, the agency will submit an annual report that addresses its continued compliance with the accreditation standards.

#### **About the City of Wheat Ridge**

The City of Wheat Ridge is a community of nine square miles located immediately west of Denver with a population of 33,000 residents. This home rule city was incorporated in 1969; however, its rich heritage extends back to the 1800s. Wheat Ridge offers a mix of retail/commercial businesses and unique residential neighborhoods with easy access to the Denver metropolitan area.

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