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City of Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department Earns National Accreditation in Parks and Recreation *Mark of distinction recognizes commitment to highest level of service to the community*

Rowlett, TX October 13, 2014– Today, Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department joins the ranks of the elite park and recreation agencies and departments across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This distinguished accomplishment was awarded during the 2014 NRPA Congress and Exposition.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

As part of the accreditation process, Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department had to demonstrate compliance with 144 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures. Often the process helps identify efficiencies and heighten areas of accountability, all of which translate into higher quality service and operation to benefit the community.

“We started the road to accreditation in 2012 and it has been a positive learning journey. This department is in a better position for other sources of funding from the federal, state, or non-profit organizations. Each of the staff, other departments within the city, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Senior Advisory Board, and Golf Advisory Board played a role in this process and I am very proud of this department. We have a great community and our hopes are to implement programs and policies that can continue to be gratifying for our citizens. With this

department being nationally accredited we want citizens to know we will strive to reach the benchmarks of delivering high level of quality and play an essential role in the lives of the people we serve.” This quote is taken from the Parks and Recreation Director, Jermel Stevenson.

The process for accreditation involves self-assessments, a formal application, a site visit by a team of trained visitors that results in a written report, and a hearing with the commission to grant accreditation. Once accredited, the agency must uphold the standards and is reviewed again in five years.

The Commission is comprised of representatives from NRPA, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the International City/County Management Association, the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, the Armed Forces Recreation Society and the Council of State Executive Directors.

For more information about CAPRA accreditation, visit www.nrpa.org/CAPRA.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 40,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit www.NRPA.org. For digital access to NRPA’s flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

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