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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUNDELEIN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT RECEIVES ILLINOIS DISTINGUISHED ACCREDITED AGENCY AWARD

MUNDELEIN, IL - - Mundelein Park & Recreation District has again been recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency by the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). Mundelein Park District was first recognized in 2012. The current certification is valid through 2023. In compliance with the program, the District will be reevaluated in six years to verify that they have continued to demonstrate excellent management practices in providing high quality park and recreation services to the community.

The two statewide associations administer the Illinois Distinguished Accreditation program with the goal of improving the delivery of park and recreation services to Illinois residents. "Illinois has a reputation for the best park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies in the nation," said Peter Murphy, IAPD President and CEO. "The Illinois Distinguished Accreditation program provides an opportunity for these agencies to undergo a voluntary, comprehensive evaluation process to demonstrate that they have met state guidelines to provide exceptional park and recreation services to their community. The end result is to improve the quality of life for Illinois residents."

"This program gives recognition to park and recreation agencies that go above and beyond in dedicating themselves to offering quality programs and services designed to fulfill their community's needs," said Debbie Trueblood, IPRA Executive Director.

A park district or recreation agency interested in applying for Distinguished Accredited Agency recognition undergoes a detailed, lengthy process of application and evaluation. A Joint Distinguished Park and Recreation Accreditation Committee (JDPRAC) comprised of members from IAPD and IPRA coordinates the process. "Agencies submit a self-evaluation and a formal letter requesting admission into the process," said David Johnson, IAPD Co-Chair of the JDPRAC. "If the committee determines the agency is eligible to continue the process, we send them an evaluation date."

According to Johnson, on the day of the evaluation, the agency presents documented information and gives a tour of pertinent facilities and parks for the evaluation team's review. The team reviews general management procedures, finance and business operations, facilities and parks, personnel, recreation services, legal documentation and other materials including mission statements, goals and safety manuals.

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Upon completion of the evaluation, the agency is notified in writing of the official results within ten days. Agencies that have achieved Distinguished Accredited status are recognized with a plaque at the IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference Awards Luncheon in January.

“There are tremendous benefits for an agency that achieves Distinguished Accredited status,” said Dan Jones, IPRA Co-Chair of the JDPRAC. “The agency’s application and review process provide an excellent self-evaluation and agencies that apply realize increased operational efficiency and effectiveness. Communities can have confidence that their park district or recreation agency employs qualified professionals and has met professional standards.”

The Park District began the re-application process for the Illinois Distinguished Accreditation program in March, 2017. “We are so pleased to once again attain the Distinguished Accreditation level,” said Margaret Resnick, Mundelein Park & Recreation District Executive Director. “This process is very difficult, but it is an excellent way to take an in-depth look at the Park District to make sure we are offering the best to our community in the most efficient and economical approach.”

The JDPRAC approved Mundelein Park District for Distinguished Accredited status in November of 2017 and highlighted specific areas deserving of special commendation. These included: municipal directory, ordinance book, board member orientation, working relationships, volunteer policy sponsor and ADA.

IAPD is a non-profit service, research and education organization that serves park districts, forest preserves, conservation, and recreation agencies. The association advances these agencies, their citizen board members and professional staff in their ability to provide outstanding park and recreation opportunities, preserve natural resources and improve the quality of life for all people in Illinois.

IPRA is a not-for-profit organization and public interest group who is an advocate in providing quality park, recreation and conservation education, resources and services to professionals and citizens throughout the state of Illinois.

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