

## **BISMARCK PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT HAS BECOME NATIONALLY ACCREDITED**

This distinguished accomplishment was announced in Baltimore, MD at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2008 Congress and Exposition.

The process of accreditation is extensive. After the initial application, BPRD completed a detailed self-assessment report, which was followed by a visit to Bismarck by a team of experienced park and recreation professionals from across the country. Finally, a review was conducted by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and accreditation was formally conferred by the Commission at the NRPA conference.

National accreditation requires park and recreation agencies to respond to 155 standards representing elements of effective and efficient park and recreation operations. To become accredited, agencies must demonstrate their ability to meet 138 standards, 36 of which are designated as fundamental to quality operations and are required of all park and recreation agencies. BPRD met all 155 standards.

The National Accreditation Recognition Award was accepted on behalf of the district and staff, along with the 2008 Board of Park Commissioners Michael Gilbertson, Brian Beattie, Jennifer DeForest, Mike O'Brien and Paul Quist, Board President.

Reaccreditation is required every five years. In February, 2012, the Board of Park Commissioners authorized the BPRD staff to begin the process to seek reaccreditation in 2013.