

PRLS Goals & Accreditation Overview



Our Mission:

To provide safe, inclusive, and high-quality recreational opportunities that build community, promote well-being, and enhance Hampton's natural and cultural assets.



HAMPTON
PARKS & RECREATION

Department Goals

- **Achieve CAPRA Accreditation**
Establish standards-based operations and complete the accreditation process to align with national best practices.
- **Implement Annual Staff Training Programs & Certification**
Provide consistent professional development opportunities to strengthen service delivery and internal capacity.
- **Compete for VRPS Programming Awards**
Submit innovative programs for recognition by the Virginia Recreation and Park Society to showcase departmental excellence.
- **Infrastructure**
Work to sustain Recreation and parks facility structures through CIP, and set a strong maintenance with the appropriate and recommended cyclical cycles.

Department Overview

We manage and maintain public spaces, recreation centers, and facilities across Hampton, while delivering programs, events, and services that support youth, families, and the community year-round.

Our reach includes:

- Parks and Public Green Spaces
- 4 Community Centers and 4 Neighborhood Centers
- 1 Therapeutic Recreation Center and 1 Senior Center
- Beaches
- Municipal Golf Courses
- Athletic Fields & Courts
- Playgrounds
- Dog Parks



Current Youth Programming & Services

Programs span ages 6-18, with options for recreation, enrichment, and mentorship.

- Younger youth (6-10) participate in summer camps, sports, aquatics, cooking, and creative play.
- Tweens and early teens (11-14) engage in teen-focused camps, the Teen Stock Exchange, podcasting, and club sports.
- Older teens (15-18) have access to fitness, open gym, leadership programs, wheelchair basketball, and esports.
- Citywide efforts like Recreation Matters and the Rec 'n' Roll Tour bring programming directly into neighborhoods.

Youth & Family Services

North Phoebus CC

- Spring / Summer Basketball League
- Fitness Center

West Hampton CC

- Teen Camp/ Teens ReConnect
- PickleBall
- Fitness Center
- Rock Climbing

North Hampton CC

- Teen Programming
- Teen Nights Basketball
- After School Program

Fort Monroe CC

- Adult's Basketball League
- Egg Hunting
- Pumpkin Dunkin
- PickleBall

Community Center

Neighborhood Center

Mary W. Jackson NC

Recreation Matters
Afternoon S.T.E.M Blast 4
Poised and Polished Workshop for Girls 7
Family Kickback Friday

Little England CC

After the Clock Strikes 2 After School Program

Therapeutic Center

Dances
After School Programs
Camps
Special Olympics

Y.H. Thomas CC

Adult's Basketball League
Teens ReConnect
Camps

Community Center Programming



Fort Monroe Bunny Fest



Y.H. Thomas Trunk or Treat



Therapeutic Center Paint Session



Mary W. Jackson Family Fun Day

Therapeutic Recreation



Hampton Area 30 Track & Field

- Therapeutic Recreation Center “Camp Super Star”
- Special Olympics
 - Track
 - Volleyball
 - Pickleball
- Family fun night
- Dances
- Paint night

Senior Center Activities



- Chair Exercise
- Line Dance
- Walk Away Pounds
- Meet Me on the Corner “Card Games”
- Learn & Lunch

Hampton Senior Center “What About the 90’s” Luncheon

Special Events



Carousel Carnival



Blackbeard Pirate Festival



BlueBird Gap Farm Festival



Holly Days Wonder Walk

- Blackbeard Festival
- Crabtown Shellabration
- Mosaic Festival
- Bike Walk Events
- Carousel Carnival
- Hampton Holly Days

Parks



- ADA Accessible Amenities at Parks
- Athletic Fields
- Kayak Launch Area
- Public Boat Ramp
- Picnic Shelters
- Playground

Beaches



James T. Wilson Fishing Pier



Buckroe Beach Playground



24th Kiwanis Kids Fishing Program

- Buckroe Beach
 - Grandview Beach
 - Salt Ponds
 - Outlook Beach
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- Boardwalk
 - Fishing Pier
 - Food carts & trucks
 - Playground
 - Restrooms
 - Picnic Shelters
 - Stage Pavilion

Athletics



Youth Football



Adult Men's Spring Basketball



Adult Men's Fall Softball

What is National Accreditation

National Accreditation is a formal recognition that a parks and recreation agency meets the highest standards of professionalism, service quality, and operational excellence.

Key Facts:

- Administered by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (**CAPRA**), under NRPA
- Based on compliance with **154 national standards**, including:
 - 36** Fundamental Standards (100% required)
 - 106 of 118** Non-Fundamental Standards (90%) for initial accreditation
 - 112 of 118** Non-Fundamental Standards (95%) for reaccreditation
- **Less than 1%** of agencies nationwide are accredited
- As of 2025, **only 214 agencies** in the U.S. have earned CAPRA accreditation

What Does National Accreditation Do?

National accreditation helps parks and recreation agencies operate more effectively, serve their communities more equitably, and plan strategically for the future.

It does this by:

- **Setting** a clear framework for evaluating policies, practices, and services
- **Promoting** continuous improvement and long-term planning
- **Creating** consistency in how services are delivered
- **Providing** external validation of quality and professionalism
- **Encouraging** transparency and accountability to the public



Why Does This Matter?

NRPA-CAPRA Benefits For Hampton PRLS

- recognition
- efficiency
- accountability
- self-evaluation
- improvement
- pride
- teamwork
- regular documentation
- consistency

CAPRA Benefits for the Public

- assurance validation
- financial savings
- quality
- accountability
- responsiveness

Any Questions?



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