



## CITY OF NORMAN

### PRESS RELEASE

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Contact for the Media: Shawn O’Leary at 405-307-7118 or  
[shawn.oleary@normanok.gov](mailto:shawn.oleary@normanok.gov)

### **Norman, OK Departments of Public Works, Utilities and Parks and Recreation Achieve American Public Works Association Accreditation for third time**

**Norman, OK** –The Norman, OK Departments of Public Works, Utilities and Parks and Recreation received full accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for third time in 2019. This accreditation formally verifies and recognizes that the agencies are in full compliance with the recommended management practices set forth in APWA’s *Public Works Management Practices Manual*.

Norman’s Public Works, Utilities, and Parks & Recreation Departments received their original APWA Accreditation in December, 2010; and they received their first Re-Accreditation in January, 2015. “APWA accreditation provides affirmation of the great service provided by the folks who keep our parks trim and clean, our streets safe and our water running smoothly and without interruption. The staff in our Public Works operations are the unsung heroes of our Norman city staff,” said Mayor Breea Clark.

The Public Works, Utilities and Parks & Recreation Departments’ Re-Accreditation indicates that the departments have met all applicable Accreditation documentation and practices over time. The awarding of the APWA Re-Accreditation show that the staff have dedicated themselves to concepts of improvement and in-depth self-assessment of department policies, procedures and practices. “Accreditation is one means to demonstrate accountability for meeting our mission of exceptional service,” said City Manager Darrel Pyle.

The Public Works Department is organized into seven functional divisions including Administration, Engineering, Fleet Management, Streets, Storm Water, Traffic Control and Transit. The department also provides transportation, stormwater/flood control and subdivision development services through the development review, construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of public infrastructure. “The Public Works staff is an important part of the everyday heroes that help make this city great,” said Public Works Director, Shawn O’Leary.

The Utilities Department provides environmentally sound and efficient service through six divisions including Administration, Line Maintenance, Environmental Services, Sanitation, Water Treatment and Water Reclamation. “We are proud of all our employees and the effort they put forth during the Re-Accreditation process. Their work on this Re-Accreditation is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our employees and their efforts to provide outstanding service to our citizens,” said Director of Utilities, Ken Komiske.

Norman's Parks and Recreation Department facilitates neighborhood and community parks, recreation centers, a golf course and driving range, a swim complex and waterslides, splash pads, tennis center, a special services center and offers cultural arts and senior citizen activities. "The commitment of our staff throughout this process makes it possible to carry on with the excellent work that has long been a standard for the Norman community," said Parks and Recreation Director, Jud Foster.

The purpose of accreditation is to promote excellence in the operation and management of a public works agency, its programs and employees. Accreditation is designed to assist the agency in continuous improvement of operations and management, and in providing a valid and objective evaluation of agency programs as a service to the public and the profession.

APWA's accreditation process includes five major steps:

- **Self-Assessment:** Using the Public Works Management Practices Manual, an internal review of an agency's practices combined with a comparison of the recommended practices contained in the manual;
- **Application:** Once the decision has been made to commit to the Accreditation Program, the agency submits a formal application;
- **Improvement:** After the agency has completed the self-assessment and identified areas needing improvement, the agency will work to bring all practices into an acceptable level of compliance with the recommended practices;
- **Evaluation:** Following the completion of the improvement phase, the agency will request a site visit. The site visit will consist of a review and evaluation of the agency to determine the level of compliance with all applicable practices.
- **Accreditation:** The Accreditation Council will review the site visit results and recommendation from the team, voting to award or deny accreditation.

Originally awarded the prestigious accreditation by APWA's Accreditation Council in 2010, Norman became the 63rd agency in North America to be awarded APWA Accreditation designation, and the first of two in the state with Edmond joining them in 2013.

Open to all governmental agencies with responsibilities for public works functions, initial accreditation from APWA is for a four-year period, during which time semi-annual updates will be required to demonstrate continuing compliance. After that time, there is a re-accreditation process which builds on the original accreditation, encouraging continuous improvement and compliance with newly identified practices.

For more information about APWA Accreditation, please contact APWA Accreditation Manager, [Stephen Miller](mailto:smiller@apwa.net) at [smiller@apwa.net](mailto:smiller@apwa.net), or (816)595-5295.

## About APWA

The American Public Works Association ([www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net)) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 30,000 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, MO, has an office in Washington, DC, and 63 chapters in North America.