



May 14, 2017

Joint Letter to:

National Wildlife Federation

Mr. Collin O'Mara, President and C.E.O.

Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald, Senior Director of Community Wildlife

11100 Wildlife Center Drive

Reston, VA 20190

AND

Ms. Linda J. Smith, Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, National Accreditation, Assistant Director

Team Lead for Chesterfield's Renewal of National Accreditation

Town of Chapel Hill

Parks and Recreation Department

200 Plant Road

Chapel Hill, NC 27514-3339

RE: Unified Community AND Parks Measurements for New, Higher Sustainability-Centered Designs

Dear Sirs and Madams:

We in Chesterfield, Missouri, know that we are still the first and only National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Certified Community Wildlife Habitat in our State and ninth in our Country, now thankfully in our 12th year of measurable growth.

We in Chesterfield, Missouri, know that our Parks and Recreation System has just finished its first renewal from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, National

Accreditation (CAPRA). There are approximately 5 communities in our State of Missouri who's Parks and Recreation Agencies are accredited by and renewed by CAPRA.

What is absent from such 'joint' conservation 'Certifications' is there is no 'connection' between the two national certifying entities. If both the NWF and CAPRA will work together to find some joint, common goals, measurable factors, a greater conservation good will be achieved and facilitate greater national awareness for communities, their states, and our country. This will help to establish a new, more "sustainability-centered" community model.

Each National Certification is highly worthwhile, but both share common areas and these should help facilitate NWF and CAPRA Recertification's. For communities with just CAPRA, they could be challenged to get the NWF Certification for Community Wildlife Habitats and/or those communities with the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat Certification could be challenged to get their Parks Nationally Accredited/CAPRAed. For those communities without parks, they could be challenged to find common areas shared within their communities, hopefully.

We recall there are about 155 CAPRA Certified Park Systems in our Country; five in Missouri and there are about 180 NWF Certified Communities with some of these Registered to Achieve Certification. It takes some years to achieve NWF and/or CAPRA Certifications. How many communities have both CAPRA and NWF Certifications, both National Certifications?

We are fortunate to live in a community with a recognized 'conservation ethic' and with its accompanying ethos helped to forge our Parks System through several Proposition P's (votes for Parks System, budgets, etc.), some years ago. IF some communities were to know they have a choice or challenge to achieve a greater sustainability ranking, they might opt for both NWF and CAPRA Certifications for their communities! It is hard work, BUT is worthwhile, and measurable.

We spoke with Ms. Linda Smith, CPRP, Assistant Director, out of Chapel Hill, NC, who was here as part of the CAPRA Team, since Citizens Committee for the Environment (CCE)/NWF Community Wildlife Habitat Team also 'sits' on our Parks Committee. We also spoke with various City Staff personnel and CCE Members who attended who thought this was a good idea, and said: why not? To forge a new set of shared factors/standards to be included in the renewal process for CAPRA and NWF, at the very least, makes sense OR to forge a new CAPRA/NWF Community Sustainability Certification level would be beneficial - - it's holistic and more sustainable for community conservation policies, practices and procedures.

We send good wishes and are hopeful to hear from you. We do sustain what we have and think these ideas should be shared with you for a greater conservation good and national sustainability awareness...maybe a new national model crafted by two national accrediting organizations will be the result! Thank you – for the members of CCE, NWF CHTeam,

Darcy S. Capstick      Tom McCarthy, CCE City Staff  
NWF Steward/CCE Chair

Liaison/Parks, Recreation and Arts

CC: Council Liaison Ben. Keathley  
City Administrator, Mike Geisel  
NWF/Community Wildlife Habitats, L. Grant  
CFM Executive Director, B. Butler

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Chesterfield Parks, Recreation & Arts Department