

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PARKS & REC EMPLOYEE EARNS NATIONAL PLAYGROUND  
SAFETY CERTIFICATION**

SUFFOLK, VA (December 7, 2011) John "J.R." Ruggiero, Park Ranger Sergeant with Suffolk Parks & Recreation, was recently certified as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

The CPSI program is designed to ensure all certified individuals are qualified to inspect playgrounds for safety issues and make certain that the playgrounds meet the current national standards for safety developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

To become a certified CPSI, individuals must pass a nationally-administered examination which tests individuals' knowledge in the following areas: Playground Safety Milieu (evolution of playground safety and involved U.S. organizations and government agencies); Role of Child Development; Foundations of Playground Safety Surfacing; Playground Infrastructure (Equipment); Playground Layout and Design; and Playground Safety Practices/Management. Upon learning of this accomplishment, Lakita Frazier, Director of Parks & Recreation, said: "I am proud of J.R.'s accomplishment. His

certification is another tool for us to use as we ensure that our playgrounds continue to meet all standards and are safe for our children.”

The CPSI program is offered by the National Certification Board in coordination with NRPA and the National Playground Safety Institute. CPSI certifications are valid for a period of three years.

### **About the National Recreation and Park Association**

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org). For digital access to NRPA’s flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit [www.parksandrec-magazine.org](http://www.parksandrec-magazine.org).

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