
BECKY BENNÀ

Becky Bennà has served as the CEO of Five Rivers MetroParks since 2011. MetroParks services approximately 530,000 residents and protects and maintains over 16,000 acres of park land and open space. Becky has over 30 years of experience working in and leading public park and recreation agencies serving communities with populations ranging from 20,000 to over a million. She has led three organizations in successfully obtaining the National Recreation and Park Association's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation with 100% compliance.

Becky previously served as president of national and state professional associations, including the National Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, and the Ohio Parks and Recreation State Association. She also served on the National Recreation and Park Association Board of Directors. Becky has served on various national professional school faculties and boards, such as the NRPA Directors School, Supervisor's Management School, and Revenue Development and Management School.

At the local level, Becky has served in various leadership roles. She previously co-chaired the Dayton Chamber of Commerce Executive Women's Leadership Council and served as chairperson of the Dayton Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors. Becky is a current board member of the Rotary Club of Dayton, Homefull, the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Bike Miami Valley, and Miamisburg Education Foundation.

Becky is a graduate of Leadership Ohio. She holds a master's degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, and she is a certified park and recreation professional.



LEADERSHIP

SHUNDA GILES

Shunda Giles attended James Madison University graduating in 1996 with a B.S. in Political Science and a double minor in English and Criminal Justice. She went on to attend law school at T.C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond, earning her Juris Doctor in 1999. Shunda's career with the City began with an internship in the Richmond City Attorney's office in 1997, representing Social Services and the Children Services Act Office. She served as Special Counsel for the City in 2001 and accepted the position of Assistant City Attorney in 2002. After being promoted to Senior Assistant City Attorney her practice expanded to represent the Department of Justice Services. In May 2015, Shunda began her current position, the Director of the Richmond Department of Social Services. She oversees the second largest department of social services in Virginia with approximately 400 employees.

Shunda has served on several boards over the years—Volunteer Emergency Families for Children, U-Turn Sports Performance Academy, Richmond Christian Leadership Initiative and Hope Point Church. She is a member of the City of Richmond Community Policy Management Team, Casey Family Programs' Urban Child Welfare League, Virginia League of Social Services Executives, serving on the Professional Development Committee; Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials, Child Welfare League of America, American Public Human Services Association and the National Association of Counsel for Children. Shunda currently serves on the Governor's Safe and Sound Task Force as well.



LEADERSHIP

SUSAN HATCHELL

Susan Hatchell Landscape Architecture, PLLC (SHLA) was created in 1994 to design public spaces such as parks, greenways, streetscapes, multi-modal and transit facilities, campus and urban pedestrian plazas. The James B. Hunt, Jr. Library at NCSU, Carvers Creek State Park, and the Yadkin River Greenway Feasibility Study are just a few of the firm's award winning projects. With offices in Raleigh and Wilmington, SHLA practices in both North and South Carolina.

Well known for her commitment to landscape architecture, Susan served as the National President of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2012, where she spearheaded the advancement of women and minorities within the organization and the larger design community. Mentoring young emerging professionals and students, especially women, Susan continues to share her passion for leadership and the profession.

She is an invited speaker, as well as an award and scholarship juror for numerous ASLA Chapters and allied professional organizations in both the United States and abroad. Elected to Fellow of the ASLA in 2001, she has served on the Council of Fellows Executive Committee, and has been involved in dozens of committee assignments over the years, as Chair and as an active participant. Prior to her national leadership roles, she served the North Carolina Chapter for many years in leadership and committee positions. Susan was honored to receive the prestigious ASLA President's Medal in 2020.

As a former member and past Chair of the City of Raleigh Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission, Susan's long standing commitment to the creation of inclusive and walkable communities for health, environmental stewardship and social equity is well known among the community. An avid walker, Susan chaired and served on the Pedestrian Committee for four years, and the Outreach Committee for two years. Susan obtained a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from NC State University, and she later taught site planning, construction drawing and planting design courses as an adjunct professor. She also served as a student mentor and is an elected Board Member of the College of Design Leaders Council.



LEADERSHIP

LARA HAMWEY

Lara Hamwey has been the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Tucson for two years and has been in the field for over 18 years. With a degree in Communications, she has held many roles within Parks and Recreation, including Deputy Director and Director for the City of Miami. Her experience has influenced her passion for creating spaces and programs that encourage people of all abilities to celebrate the value of parks.

She enjoys the power of collaboration to maximize opportunities for investment in parkland and program development. She strongly believes that empowering staff is the best way to reach the highest level of service delivery for residents.

Leading with gratitude and aiming to inspire others to incorporate kindness and empathy in the workplace is part of her core values as a director, as well as creating meaningful opportunities for all residents to enjoy parks.

Parks play an essential role in her life, even when she isn't working, she is traveling to visit other parks with her husband and dogs.



LEADERSHIP

CAMERON PEYTON

Cameron Peyton is a passionate professional with more than 10 years of experience solving problems by connecting people, processes, and technology (“The Big Three”). Her passion working with “The Big Three” was revealed in 2008 as a Parks and Recreation intern in Rocky Mount, NC. There, under amazing leadership, she was able to develop and lead multiple projects that shaped her skills.

In 2014, she moved to Raleigh, NC and began working with the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources until 2017, when she made the leap into private sector.

Today, Cameron is a project manager focused on leading geographically dispersed and culturally diverse teams through service, innovation, and collaboration. She enjoys learning passionately and stepping boldly into new opportunities for growth, whether personally or professionally.

In addition to her professional work and most important, Cameron is a woman of faith, a dedicated wife, and mother to two wonderful children.



MARRA HVOZDOVIC

Marra Hvozdovic is a Senior Consultant on Deloitte's Enterprise Risk Management team. In this role, Marra assists universities in their efforts to proactively identify and mitigate risk-related issues that threaten the success of the university.

This includes playing a key role in performing internal audits and risk assessments focused on the university business model, strategy, reputation, other risks, such as organizational culture and communication.

Prior to joining Deloitte, Marra spent +10 years in collegiate athletic administration with stops at Florida State University and the Atlantic Coast Conference. Marra recently completed her Doctorate in Leadership in Higher Education from Virginia Commonwealth University.



LEADERSHIP

PATRICE V. ANDREWS

Chief of Police - Durham Police Department

Patrice Andrews re-joined the Durham Police Department on November 1, 2021 as Chief of Police.

She previously served as the Chief of Police for the Morrisville Police Department from June 2016 until October 2021. Prior to being appointed as the Chief of Police in the Town of Morrisville, Andrews was the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division with the Durham Police Department.

During her 25-year law enforcement career, Andrews has held positions in Uniform Patrol, Criminal Investigation Division, Special Operations Division, Warrant Squad, Office of the Chief of Police, and the High Enforcement Abatement Team.

Andrews graduated cum laude with a BS in Criminal Justice from North Carolina Central University.

In addition, she is a graduate of the 263rd session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia as well as a graduate of the West Point Leadership Academy.

In June 2018, Andrews was re-appointed to the Governor's Crime Commission and is member of the Special Committee on School Violence as well as Chair of the Crime Victim Services committee.



LEADERSHIP
