

Shari Ferguson, Parks and Recreation Director – City of Henderson

Shari began her career in Parks and Recreation as a lifeguard at an early age in Ottawa, Canada, where she was born and raised. From that first job, Shari knew she was in the field she was meant to be in. Throughout the next fifteen years, Shari experienced all facets of aquatic and fitness management from running her own pool to coaching synchronized and competitive swimming to teaching fitness classes.

Shari graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology and later went on to obtain her master's in public administration.

Most recently, prior to moving to Henderson, NV, Shari was Regional Manager for Collier County Parks and Recreation in Naples, FL. With a population of 350,000 and covering 2,300 square miles, Collier County has one of the largest Parks and Recreation agencies in Florida. In Collier, Shari provided leadership to 80 recreation and parks employees in six community parks with full-service recreation centers in each park and provided strategic input as a member of the senior leadership team to all aspects of department including park planning. Prior to leaving, she led the department in receiving CAPRA accreditation.

This experience prepared her for her role as Assistant Director and ultimately Director, here in Henderson where she is responsible for 65 parks, 140 miles of trails, 6 recreation centers, 2 senior centers, 11 swimming pools, 174 FT positions and up to 1000 PT depending on the time of year. Shari is proud of her tenure in Henderson, during which time the department attained CAPRA accreditation for the fourth time and received the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for the second time.

When not applying her skills to supporting the continued success of Henderson Parks and Recreation, Shari loves to hike, bike and explore the natural beauty in Southern Nevada. Shari enjoys spending time with family, friends and Lili and Bucca, her two Shih tzu fur babies. She loves to travel and has many places on her bucket list. Italy is one of her favorites and would love to retire somewhere in Southern Italy.

