

Robert Christopher “Bob” Harris '80

Robert Christopher “Bob” Harris is the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Hamilton, Ohio. Bob traces his Northridge roots back to his grandparents. Both of his parents are NHS grads. Bob graduated in 1980. While at Northridge he was a one-man swimming team and represented NHS three straight years at the State of Ohio High School Swimming Championships in Canton. Bob also won the Ohio AAU 100 yard butterfly in 1977. He attended Eastern Michigan University on a swimming scholarship and earned a BS in 1986 with a major in Parks and Recreation Management and a minor in Business Management. In 1996, he earned an MA from Wright State University in Physical Education and Recreation.

In 1995, Bob graduated from the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) Supervisor Management School. In 1996, the NRPA named him a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP). In 1997, Bob graduated from the NRPA Sports Management School. And in 2007, he graduated from the National Institute of Golf Management.

Bob began his career in parks and recreation in Moraine, where he was the Recreation Program Coordinator (1987-88) and Recreation Superintendent (1988-2000). He then moved on to Lebanon, where he was Parks and Recreation Director (2000-02). He spent two years as Beavercreek's Recreation Programs Supervisor (2002-03). In April, 2004, Bob was Hamilton's Parks and Recreation Superintendent for about six months and was promoted to the Parks and Recreation Director position, which he currently holds.

While in Lebanon, Bob served on the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce board (2000-04). In Hamilton he serves on the following:

Hamilton's Fourth of July Committee (2004-Present)
Booker T. Washington Community Center Board of Directors (2004-Present)
City liaison with Hamilton Youth Commission (2004-Present)
City liaison with Hamilton Tree Board (2005-Present)
Butler County Visitors Board of Directors (2005-08)
Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Advocacy Committee
Advisory to Board of Hamilton Parks and Recreation Foundation

Bob and his wife Zondra, who is a teacher, have been married since 1991. They have one son, James Christopher (2004).

Bob wishes “to thank my family, my wife Zondra and son J. C. for supporting me and encouraging me; also, my parents Robert and Barbara Harris for providing me with a stable home and for my foundation of morals and values. I also want to thank my brother Paul for his nominating me to the Hall of Fame, and most importantly God for all of his blessings. I am truly blessed. No matter where I go I know I had my start in Northridge and will always cherish my days there.”