

STA Member Profile

Don Sadler, Executive Director of Parks & Facility Operations, City of Windsor

1. What is your role with the Corporation of the City of Windsor?

Executive Director of Parks and Facility Operations.

2. What kind of team do you work with?

The Parks and Facility Operations team consists of 4 managers:

- Manager of Parks Operations
- Manager of Parks Development
- Manager of Forestry and Horticulture
- Manager of Facility Operations

Each manager reports directly to the Executive Director of Parks and Facility Operations.

3. What are you and your team responsible for?

Parks and Facility Operations is responsible for the year round maintenance and operation of all parkland, greenspace, trails, landscaping and corporate facilities within the City of Windsor.

4. What is the biggest challenge in your job?

Constant communication.

5. What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?

Nothing satisfies like success.

6. What is the biggest misconception about your job?

That cutting grass and planting flowers are our main functions.

7. What is your educational/employment background?

I am a graduate of Humber College from the Landscape Technologist program.

Throughout the years, I have gained extensive experience in the operations of parks and facilities through my positions as Supervisor of Operations, Ottawa; Superintendent of Parks Maintenance, Etobicoke; Director of Parks Operations, Etobicoke; and Director of Parks, Windsor.

Presently, as Windsor's Executive Director of Parks and Facility Operations, my duties are as follows:

- Provide leadership and vision for the unit, delivering parks and facility operations as part of the Client Services portfolio.
- Oversee the operations of parks, forestry, horticulture, park design and development and maintenance of all Parks and Recreation and corporate buildings.
- Responsible for \$17,000,000 gross operating and \$15-20,000,000 annual capital program operations including 20 permanent management staff, 130 permanent unionized employees and the full time equivalent of 50 part time and seasonal staff.
- Direct communication with City Council, Senior Management Team, media and community agencies on issues related to parks and facility services within the City of Windsor and the surrounding region.

8. Tell us about your family.

I have a son, Jeff, and daughter, Tanya. My partner is Lou-Ann Barnett.

9. What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favourite past times?

Hockey and golf.

10. What direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

I don't feel there is necessarily a requirement to move forward without perhaps moving back and reacquainting ourselves with tried and true horticultural and maintenance practices. Then we could utilize modern technology to refocus on past practices to influence best practices today.

11. What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of the STA?

The ability to contact friends and professionals in our industry for advice, support and encouragement. ♦

