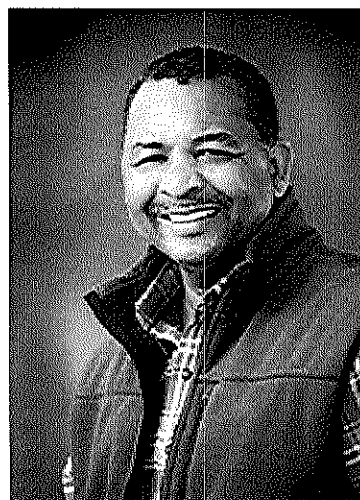


Director Rodney A. Stokes **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

Rodney Stokes brings a great depth and breadth of experience in natural resources, outdoor recreation, policy development, and civic engagement, anchored on the bedrock of public service. As he stated in a recent Department of Natural Resources and Environment employee publication, "I consider myself a public servant. I wake up every day and tell myself that if I can do just one thing, every day, for someone who doesn't have the chance or ability to pay me back, then it will be a pretty good day."



Stokes' service in state government began in 1977 and subsequently included a series of positions in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). His contributions were across a broad mix of the department's core missions, including leadership positions in the Recreation Division, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund program, Grants Administration, Real Estate Division, and then as chief of the Parks and Recreation Division (1997-2002).

Stokes' tenure as a state leader was matched by his performance as interim director and deputy director of the Detroit Recreation Department (2002-2003) and director of the Gainesville, Florida Recreation and Parks Department (2003-2004).

He rejoined the DNR as legislative liaison in 2004, and served as chief of staff, acting chief of Law Enforcement Division, named as Lake Erie regional director and most recently chief, Office of Science and Policy in 2010.

His practical experience builds upon a strong academic foundation, including a Bachelor of Arts from Tennessee State University (Recreation Administration) and Master of Science from Michigan State University (Parks and Recreation Resources). Additionally, he served for more than 15 years on the Curriculum Advisory Committee for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University, as well leadership positions on the Recreation and Park Association boards for both state and national levels.

Stokes is committed to community service, including stints on the East Lansing School Board (2001-2003), East Lansing Planning Commission (1995-2001), as well as serving on the board of directors for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and as chair of the Deacon Board at Paradise Missionary Baptist Church. He has been tapped for the East Lansing Parks and Recreation Committee, Eastern Land Resource Council, and the Michigan State Exposition and Fairgrounds.

He and his wife, Linda, are residents of East Lansing. They are the proud parents of Rhonda, Saya, and Keenan and grandparents of Kendal and Sloane.



A Resolution of Appreciation and Tribute for the Distinguished Public Service Career of Rodney A. Stokes, Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
September 11, 2012

Whereas, Rodney A. Stokes began his career with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in 1977, and served in leadership positions in the Recreation Division, the Real Estate Division, the Natural Resources Trust Fund program and Grants Administration, prior to retiring from the MDNR in 2002; and

Whereas, in 2004 Mr. Stokes returned to the MDNR, first as the department's liaison to the Legislature, then as acting chief of the Law Enforcement Division, Chief of Staff for the Director, and Chief of the Office of Science and Technology, before being selected to serve as Director of the MDNR in March of 2011; and

Whereas, the State of Michigan has announced a new initiative intended to utilize and enhance the unique natural and manmade assets of communities throughout the State in ways which attract visitors, retains talented workers, and enhances the quality of life for residents; and

Whereas, *Placemaking* is a multi-faceted approach that encourages a fresh look at assets and resources such as parks, downtowns, waterfronts and neighborhoods, and recognizes that economic development and community development are strongly interrelated; and

Whereas, on June 22, 2012, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder selected Rodney A. Stokes, Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), to lead the effort for the new *Placemaking* initiative, effective July 9, 2012; and

Whereas, during his long and distinguished public service career with the MDNR, Mr. Stokes had an immeasurable positive impact on outdoor recreation, the environment and the quality of life in communities throughout the state of Michigan, including Washtenaw County, which makes him uniquely qualified for his new position; and

Whereas, the legacy of Mr. Stokes' commitment and professionalism are clearly evident throughout Washtenaw County, where during the previous two decades nearly 23 million dollars in MDNR grants have been secured to develop outdoor recreational opportunities and acquire land for public recreational purposes;

Now Therefore be it Resolved, that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission hereby expresses its sincerest gratitude for the tireless effort and outstanding leadership that characterized the career of Mr. Rodney A. Stokes with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Further, we are confident that his broad experience and lifelong commitment to public service will lead the new *Placemaking* initiative down the path of success. Best wishes, Mr. Stokes!

Resolution unanimously approved by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) on _____.

Nelson Meade, WCPARC Secretary/Treasurer