

Riverside Conservancy – Meet Briana Peterson



Briana Peterson – Operations Manager

Briana was born in New York and her family moved to Florida when she was 2 years old. She has lived in Central Florida for more than 40 years, starting in the Longwood area and attending Volusia County Schools in Orange City and Deland from kindergarten through high school.

She grew up fishing with her father, taking family beach vacations, riding her bike, and exploring local forests with her brother. Marrying Dale Peterson 24 years ago, the couple had two sons and a daughter and were frequent visitors to Blue Spring State Park, located close to their home. The family also visited Green Spring, Gemini Spring and DeLeon Spring.

As Operations Manager with Riverside Conservancy, Briana oversees budget, human resources, payroll, timekeeping for grants, and special projects. Briana's steady hand helps the Conservancy operate smoothly and efficiently.

Always busy, Briana also works full-time with Volusia County. She has risen through the ranks during her 22-year tenure, starting as a tax clerk handling property taxes before moving to Growth and Resource Management to work for the Land Development office. She worked with Kelli McGee when Kelli served as the county's planning director. Now, Briana works as a Special Projects Coordinator for the county's director of Growth and Resource Management office.

In her county work, Briana currently oversees the annual budget reports of all community redevelopment areas in Volusia County. County municipalities report to her and she reports to the Volusia County Council.

When she worked in Land Development, she helped oversee site plans and assisted the public with information about environmental impacts. Briana worked as the recording secretary of the county's Smart Growth Committee and was involved in the adoption of an environmental core overlay map, which identifies ecologically sensitive areas in Volusia County.

"That's one of the things that I'm proudest of while working for the county," she said. "At least something that I did or was involved in is leaving a lasting impact."

Briana has also learned about water-quality issues while working for the county and she has heard concerns from multiple constituents when it comes to resource use and the environment.

"It's not that I'm for or against development, but I know we have to find a balance," she said. "We have to be able to take care of our future."

Briana's oldest son recently graduated from Stetson University as a marine biology major with an environmental science minor. Her daughter is at Jacksonville University as a nursing student and her youngest son is a senior at University High School in Orange City, where he has played on the school's varsity golf and tennis teams.

"All I've ever wanted to be was a mom who raised amazing kids and I'm so proud of who they are and that they care," Briana said. "I think exposing them to things out in our environment really helps reinforce that. They understand the need to do things that are important for our environment."