

## Rachel Barker



Rachel is the Vice President of Operations Support at ArborMetrics Solutions, LLC. As a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP), she oversees critical projects and infrastructure company wide. Rachel previously worked in the government/municipal sector for over 20 years and has found that while she loves trees and the environment, she loves working with people even more.

Her bachelor's degree is in Horticulture. She served for ten years as the City Horticulturist in Opelika, Alabama, building that program from its inception prior to taking the City Arborist position in Columbus, Georgia.

Rachel served for two years as the City's Arborist and Manager of the Urban Forestry & Beautification Division. She was successful in building a program that reduced tree damage claims by 72% over a five- year period.

She obtained her master's degree in public administration from Columbus State University and was promoted to the Deputy Director of Operations of Public Services at the City of Columbus. There she managed the operations of a workforce of over 400 employees and a diverse portfolio of projects from landfill construction and garbage collection to fleet management and street maintenance initiatives. She found her skills in managing a diverse range of projects and people were what made project management rewarding.

She continued in this position for four years before she was able to leave municipal operations for a time to work with her husband in his forestry consulting business. The business helps communities develop Urban Forestry Management Plans while also maintaining its primary focus of timber management for its clients. There, Rachel also had the opportunity to work with developers to preserve trees throughout the construction and development process.

Her most recent position prior to joining ArborMetrics Solutions, LLC. as the lead of the Project Management Office was as an Environmental Planner and Regional Urban Forester for the Central Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission in Montgomery Alabama. She provided technical assistance for 13 member communities throughout a tri-county region.

Rachel has a deep appreciation for the out of doors and loves being in natural surroundings both professionally and personally. She shares the adoration of the out of doors with her husband and they enjoy spending time surrounded by nature as often as possible.