

## Grady Bussey Bio-

Grady Bussey is the Community Center Director, new Director John Chavis Memorial Park of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resource Department. John Chavis Memorial Park, also known as Chavis Park, is a public park spanning 28.87 acres near Shaw University in the South Park neighborhood of Southeast Raleigh, North Carolina. Built-in 1937, Chavis Park attracted carloads of visitors from across North Carolina on its opening day. Its main attraction continues to be a historic Allan Herschell carousel. The John Chavis Memorial Park has just completed a significant renovation. These improvements project scope includes a new two-story community center with a full-size indoor gym, elevated walking track, fitness center, and numerous classroom and meeting spaces. A renovation to the original Carousel House will allow for interior event space and exterior bathroom access. Linking these two buildings together will be a new central plaza with an integrated water feature and a large playground for all ages and abilities. The total cost of the project is \$18 million.

Grady has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation of Administration from St. Augustine's University in 1996. He has been apart of the Raleigh Parks and Recreation system for over twelve years. During this tenure, Grady has run multiple parks and community centers. Grady is a true believer in building a better Raleigh through community engagement and creating positive recreation experiences in the centers he supervises. Grady has served thousands of people by creating multiple special events. Grady has produced events, namely: The Oak City Classic, Coats Cause We Care Children's Coat Drive, Empowering Wake, and the Wills Clinic, to name a few. He is also the Chair of the African American Cultural Festival of Raleigh Wake County. This festival is the largest African American festival in North Carolina. Grady has landed a deal with WRAL to provide the public with community connection stories related to Raleigh's city. This show airs every third Thursday on the noon newscast. Grady is from Long Island, New York, and is married with three children.