

Tamara Graham



Low Impact Development Instructor

Haywood Community College Natural Resources Management Department

e-mail: tagraham@haywood.edu

ph: 828-627-4567

As both a designer and project manager for landscape architecture firms and a community development corporation, Tamara has worked to combine Low Impact Development strategies with innovative smart growth planning approaches to create projects that simultaneously accommodate sound development, contribute to a vibrant sense of place and strengthen our connection to the environment.

Work Experience

Tamara began her professional career as a designer for Tunnell-Spangler and Associates in Atlanta (now TSW & Associates), an interdisciplinary architectural, planning, and landscape architecture firm. In Asheville, Tamara has worked as both a lead designer and project manager for the design firms Kerns Landscape Architecture and the Melrose Design Group on numerous resort, mixed-use, residential, streetscape and park projects in addition to working independently as a consultant. In the public sector, Tamara worked for almost 5 years as a project manager and community design coordinator for Mountain Housing Opportunities, Inc., a non-profit community development corporation in Asheville. While at MHO, Tamara led an extensive downtown neighborhood revitalization effort, building partnerships among private foundations, local government and an active neighborhood association for award-winning new infill housing developments and community amenities such as parks and streetscape enhancement projects.

Education

Master of Landscape Architecture 1995

University of Georgia College of Environment and Design, Athens GA

Graduated Summa cum Laude, thesis passed with honors

Graduate teaching and research assistantships, 1992-1994

Bachelor of Arts 1988

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Graduated cum Laude and with Distinction in the Major

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Select Experience

<i>Community Design</i>	<p>The Courts on Jefferson Canal, I'On Neighborhood, Mt. Pleasant, SC (w/Kerns LA)</p> <p>Merritt Park Condominiums, Asheville, NC, site and landscape plan (w/MHO)</p> <p>Prospect Terrace Infill Housing Development, Asheville, North Carolina (w/MHO)</p> <p>Landscape Resources in the West End/Clingman Avenue Neighborhood (w/MHO)</p>
<i>Park and Trail Design</i>	<p>Pritchard Park Enhancements, Asheville, NC</p> <p>Owens Bell Park, Asheville, NC, preliminary design (w/MHO)</p> <p>Wind Ridge Apartments Nature Trail and Renaturalization Plan, Asheville, NC (w/MHO)</p> <p>Haw Creek Elementary Nature Trail Enhancement & New Site Features, Asheville, NC</p> <p>Turner Lake Park Nature Trail, Newton County, GA</p> <p>Community Green, Broad Street Development Co., Beaufort, South Carolina</p> <p>Eastlake Park at I'On, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina (w/Melrose and Associates)</p> <p>Barrett Lakes Office Park, Streetscape and Interpretive Nature Trail, Cobb County, GA (w/Tunnell-Spangler and Associates)</p> <p>Patriots Park, Commemorative Roadside Park for local war heroes, Clarksville, TN (w/Tunnell-Spangler and Associates)</p>
<i>Campus Planning & Design</i>	<p>John C. Campbell Folk School Master Plan, Brasstown, NC (w/Melrose and Associates)</p> <p>Fairview Elementary Outdoor Learning Center, Newton County, GA (w/Tunnell-Spangler & Associates)</p>
<i>Public Input Facilitation & Volunteer Coordination</i>	<p>WECAN Citizens Master Plan (w/MHO)</p> <p>Clingman Forest Greenway Master Plan (w/MHO)</p> <p>Coordinated several WECAN clean-up/work days w/Warren Wilson volunteers (w/MHO)</p> <p>School Grounds Committee Chair, Haw Creek PTO, Asheville, NC</p> <p>WECAN Art+Garden Project, worked with neighborhood residents and River District Artists to enhance gardens and incorporate site specific art in public spaces in the neighborhood. Project included a garden tour and documentary photography exhibit at a local art gallery (w/MHO)</p>
<i>Streetscapes & Entry Design</i>	<p>College Street Streetscape Enhancements, Asheville, NC</p> <p>Clingman Avenue Streetscape Plan, Asheville, NC (w/Kerns LA)</p> <p>Western North Carolina Nature Center Entry Re-design, Asheville, NC (w/Kerns LA)</p> <p>Streetscape Enhancements to Hilliard Avenue and Rector Street, Asheville, NC (w/MHO)</p> <p>Strauss Park Entry Design, Brevard, NC (w/Melrose and Associates)</p>
<i>Resort Planning & Design</i>	<p>Horseshoe Bay Resort Master Plan Redesign, Horseshoe Bay, Texas (w/Kerns LA)</p> <p>Cache Creek Clubhouse Design, La Quinta, California (w/Kerns LA)</p>
<i>Grant Writing & Business Development</i>	<p>Successfully secured funding for projects and planning initiatives in Asheville including the Clingman Avenue Streetscape, Prospect Terrace, Owens Bell Park, the WECAN Art/Garden Project and the Clingman Forest Greenway from private foundations and governmental entities including the Pigeon River Fund, the Community Foundation of WNC, Progress Energy, Quality Forward, the Ford Foundation (w/HandMade in America) and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Prepared marketing materials for private design firms including staff and project profiles, firm overviews, project proposals and awards submittals for firm recognition.</p>

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Honors, Awards & Speaking Engagements

Lead landscape designer, 2009 Coastal Living Idea House at l'On *with Kerns LA*

2006 Home Depot Foundation Award of Excellence for Energy Efficiency and Affordable Housing for Prospect Terrace, Asheville, NC *Tamara developed the site plan for the infill housing development and the preliminary design for the adjacent Owens-Bell Park.*

Presenter, North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association Annual Meeting, 2001 Summary of the West End/Clingman Avenue Neighborhood Community Design Workshop and Citizens Master Plan *Co-presenter with Scott Dedman, MHO Executive Director*

North Carolina American Planning Association's Smart Growth Award and Smart Growth Partners of Western North Carolina Planning Award, 2001 for the West End/Clingman Avenue Neighborhood Community Design Workshop and Citizens Master Plan. *Tamara was the Community Design Coordinator for this planning process.*

Speaker, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency Annual Conference, 2000 Tamara presented a summary of a study she prepared for Mountain Housing Opportunities, *Landscape Resources in the West End/Clingman Avenue Neighborhood: History and Guidelines*, as a resource for new site design in the neighborhood.

Speaker, Atlanta Mayor's Task Force on the Environment, 1997 This task force included environmentalists, academics, engineers and neighborhood representatives invited to address Atlanta's current environmental problems and offer solutions. *Tamara's presentation included examples of innovative stormwater management that have been successfully implemented in other cities as well as a proposal for a demonstration project in midtown Atlanta.*

Speaker, Georgia Water Resources Conference, 1995

Tamara presented an executive summary of her master's thesis, *The Representation of Stormwater Management in Design, Toward an Ecological Aesthetic*. This paper was published in the conference proceedings.

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Honor Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, 1994

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Merit Award for Excellence in Communications, 1993 for the University of Georgia School of Environmental Design Student Magazine *Georgia Landscape: New Visions and Inherited Traditions*. *Tamara was the magazine's Creative Director and Layout Editor.*

School Grounds Committee Chair, Haw Creek Elementary School PTO, Asheville, NC 2003-5 Tamara led efforts which earned school recognition as a National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat

Board Member, Asheville Botanical Gardens, 2003-4