

Michael Karam is the Director of the Department of Parks and Parkways for the City of New Orleans. Born and raised in Franklin, Louisiana (St. Mary Parish - about an hour and a half further west from Mosca's on Hwy 90 for you native New Orleanians), Mike moved to New Orleans in 1997 to attend Loyola University. After five years away from the city in Boston, Beirut and Damascus, he returned to New Orleans in 2006, obtaining his JD from Loyola Law in 2011. From a clerkship in the 16th JDC under Judge McClelland to several years as a property attorney in the City Attorney's office, Mike joined Parks and Parkways as Director in 2020.

His background as a longtime volunteer and board member of Parkway Partners and legal work in the Department of Code Enforcement let him to Parks and Parkways. Managing a department of over 130 employees who are responsible for over 2,000 acres of public green space has its challenges and rewards. One challenge is not being able to turn off noticing public spaces when with friends and family - unless he is at City Park, Audubon or the Lakefront - areas outside of Parkway's jurisdiction. A reward of course is working alongside so many incredible public servants and volunteer groups on a daily basis.