James W. Patteson, PE, ENV-SP

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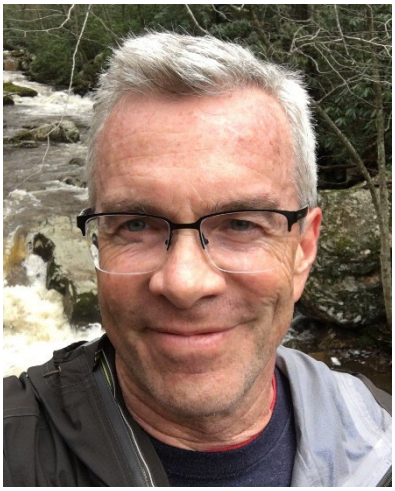
Bio



Having served Fairfax County for 35 years in numerous executive level positions, James Patteson brings a wealth of real world, practical, leadership experience to his work. During his career at Fairfax, James served as the Director of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services; Director of Land Development Services; and Director of Facilities Management. In these roles, he developed skills in leading and managing large and diverse workforces to advance the county's mission of strengthening communities. Specifically, James led efforts to write the county's first community based strategic plan, develop an Economic Success Strategic Plan, streamline permitting services, and advance public private partnerships on critical capital improvement projects. All these efforts were carried out in a manner that engaged residents, businesses, and employees to develop solutions that served the full community and built trust between local government service providers with the people they serve.

As a Principal for Blue Heron Leadership Group (BHLG), a firm formed by James and his two partners, James is focused on continuing to serve local government. BHLG provides services in the areas of leadership development, coaching, mentoring, strategic planning, program assessment/management, project management, and service delivery excellence. BHLG's mission is to help local government build stronger and more resilient communities. James is inspired by the work carried out every day by public servants and is dedicated to supporting the dedicated men and women who carry out this work.

Education, Professional Training, and Certifications

James graduated with a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech; an MPA from George Mason University where he was recognized as the graduate of the year; and graduated from the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. James is a licensed professional engineer and a certified Envision Sustainability Professional. James was recognized by the American Public Works Association as a top 10 Public Works Leader in 2018 and by George Mason University Engineering Excellence Award in 2019.