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**ELIZABETH RIVER PROJECT ANNOUNCES LACY SHIREY TO ASSUME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROLE IN FEBRUARY**

*Norfolk, VA* - The Elizabeth River Project's Board of Directors is excited to announce the selection of Lacy Shirey as the next Executive Director, following a nationwide search. Lacy will take on the role Feb. 24, succeeding founding director Marjorie Mayfield Jackson, who has led the organization since its inception.

Lacy Shirey brings over 13 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, most recently serving as the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Humane Society. In this role, she demonstrated a strong focus on building trust and fostering connections within the Hampton Roads community. Under her leadership, the organization became a "River Star Business" recognized by the Elizabeth River Project for documenting pollution prevention and wildlife habitat creation. Additionally, Lacy has been actively involved with the Chesapeake Environmental Improvement Council, showcasing her commitment to environmental stewardship.

"It's a privilege to join an organization that has already accomplished so much for our river and our region under Marjorie's leadership and the dedication of the entire team," said Shirey. "The Elizabeth River Project's journey—from its grassroots beginnings to the impactful and respected resource it has become over the past three decades—is truly inspirational. This organization serves as the foundation for a powerful voice advocating for the health of our waterways, and it's my mission to continue leading in this direction."

[Watch Lacy Shirey's introduction video here.](#)

When Jackson helped start the Elizabeth River Project in 1991, the urban Elizabeth River was virtually devoid of life. Since then, the non-profit has pioneered wetland and oyster restoration, led the cleanup of toxic hotspots, and enlisted 167 river industries as "River Star Businesses" and 7,000 families as "River Star Homes." The Elizabeth River Project also teaches 10,000 school children a year to be river stewards

aboard its Dominion Energy Learning Barge and at the 40-acre Paradise Creek Nature Park. This past June, the Elizabeth River Project opened the Ryan Resilience Lab on North Colley Avenue in Norfolk as a global model to demonstrate cutting-edge, yet accessible approaches for practicing resilience to climate change.

“The search committee and Board of Directors are thrilled to welcome Lacey as our new executive director,” says Melissa Page Deutsch, President of the Elizabeth River Project Board of Directors. “Lacey quickly rose to the top in the national pool of candidates applying for this position. She brings a deep commitment to the environmental health of the Hampton Roads area, as well as truly inspiring leadership and superb operational skills to our organization. We have found the perfect person to lead us into the next chapter.”

“I look forward to working with and getting to know our supporters, and to expand our reach in the community. Together, we can build on this legacy, pushing forward to restore and protect our waterways and ensure a healthy, thriving river for generations to come,” says Shirey.

Marjorie Mayfield Jackson expressed her confidence in Shirey’s leadership. “I have great faith in Lacy’s leadership abilities for guiding our mission into its next exciting chapter. Her dedication to environmental stewardship and community engagement makes her a very promising choice.”

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*The non-profit Elizabeth River Project has worked since 1993 to restore the environmental health of the urban Elizabeth River, once presumed dead. Our work is made possible by membership support. Do something beautiful. Join us today: [ElizabethRiver.org](http://ElizabethRiver.org).*