Impact Project Report

Master Naturalist leads renovation of beloved city park in Durham

Issue

Trinity Park, a much-loved city park in Durham, features a playground, picnic tables, Little Free Library, small recreational space, and a sunny pollinator garden. An assessment by the New Hope Bird Alliance determined that while 40% of the land was covered by native species, 20% of the park had invasive species that are considered a significant threat. Master Naturalist student Susan Concannon took up the challenge to renovate the park.



Volunteers planting and signs added in Trinity Park. Photo: Sue Concannon

Project

The first step in a long-term horticultural plan for the park, Phase I was completed in October 2024. Renovations were designed by Rachelle Roake of Reconnect Landscapes, and was made possible with funding from a private donor and the Trinity Park Foundation. Members of the Blossom Garden Club cleared the area, composted, planted, and mulched. Plant tags were added to the native plants and educational signs were installed to help raise awareness.

Championing each step of this complex project, Concannon pushed to have it completed before the Trinity Home Tour welcomed over 600 people to the neighborhood. The park was one of the stops on the tour.

Concannon is looking ahead to the next phases of this project— including continued invasive removal, erosion control, and reinforcing the planting beds. The Trinity Park Foundation is exploring the possibility of establishing a “park committee” to carry on with future work.

Student

Student working on this project is Susan Concannon.

Impact Projects

Beyond classwork, a key feature of the Master Naturalist Volunteer program are the Impact Projects students develop. These projects integrate course concepts and benefit a Partner Organization.

Highlight

Partner Organization

New Hope Bird Alliance

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