Impact Project Report

Master Naturalist encourages HOA to embrace the beautiful *and* beneficial

Issue

When establishing the Meadowmont Community Association (MCA) in 1999, 435 acres of mixed use, developers placed covenants and restrictions on the subdivision to create “a community which is aesthetically pleasing and functionally convenient.” Landscape guidelines given to builders and homeowners included a list of recommended plants. Unfortunately, several of those, we know now, are invasive. The MCA owns and maintains many acres of common space; individual homeowners maintain their own landscapes. In early 2025, the Meadowmont HOA Board re-formed its landscaping committee to consider any needed aesthetic improvements, including the feasibility of installing a pollinator garden.

Project



Master Naturalist student Amy Hoogervorst joined the landscape committee, hoping to help her neighborhood embrace the beautiful *and* beneficial. With the backing of the full Meadowmont HOA Board, the committee has:

- Held invasive-removal workdays for neighbors to learn about and remove English ivy, Chinese privet, and autumn olive. Three more workdays are scheduled for early 2026.
- Overseen the professional removal of a large area of bamboo.
- Coordinated the installation of three pollinator-attracting planting beds and a no-mow zone for rewilding an area near community recreational/green space. Bluebird nesting boxes will be installed nearby.
- Established three routes in the community for volunteers to track butterfly populations for the Carolinas Butterfly Monitoring Program.
- Began to discuss updates to landscaping guidelines, including creating a new “recommended plants” list that eliminates invasives and prioritizes natives.

The committee hopes that these visible, ongoing efforts will also encourage homeowners to embrace the beautiful and beneficial on their own lots.

Student

This project is the work of Amy Hoogervorst

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.

Highlights

Partner Organization

New Hope Bird Alliance

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