Master Naturalist Impact Projects with Friends of Lower Haw

Friends of Lower Haw (FLOHA) is an all-volunteer nonprofit that provides stewardship, education, and advocacy for the Lower Haw River State Natural Area and the Chatham County segment of the Haw River State Trail.

Vision

We envision a Lower Haw River State Natural Area that is expanded in size, strategically developed, well maintained, and connected to local and regional trail systems.

Mission

The Lower Haw is a special place that we're committed to conserving and enhancing for current enjoyment while creating a legacy for future generations.

What We Do

- Stewardship: We enhance infrastructure and restore habitat.
- Education: We provide educational programs to connect people with nature and to promote public awareness of the Lower Haw ecosystem.
- Advocacy: We encourage conservation of lands along and surrounding the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, and establishment and maintenance of sustainable land and paddle trails.

Our major goals include:

- Active management of LOHA by State Parks and/or Chatham County staff.
- Development of sustainable land and paddle trails.
- Expansion of LOHA and the Haw River State Trail through land and easement acquisition.

Impact Projects:

Pollinator Garden

Evaluate and enhance existing pollinator garden at US Hwy 15-501 by the Haw River. Develop a maintenance plan and schedule, develop handout with photos describing native plants and invasive plants found in the garden and pollinators that visit the garden, lead educational programs at the garden about plants and pollinators found there, organize volunteer workdays in the garden.

Videos

Create short videos that complement field guides and/or address new topics. Examples of topics include "how to" techniques, best practices, family activities, history of the site.

"Lower Haw Presents" Speaker Series at Chatham Community Library

Develop companion activities or materials that build upon themes addressed in Friends of Lower Haw's speaker series at the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro. Help expand the speaker series topics by developing presentations to give yourself and/or recruiting subject matter experts to give presentations.

Hiking Series

Help develop one or more new hiking series by becoming a hike leader, developing a training program for volunteer hike leaders, and developing companion hiking guides.

Field Guides

Expand the scope / depth of field guides. Members of our Board of Directors can provide guidance and serve as subject matter experts. Current library of guides accessible at this link: https://www.lowerhaw.org/documents