

## In Beatties Ford neighborhood, ATV program shows promise



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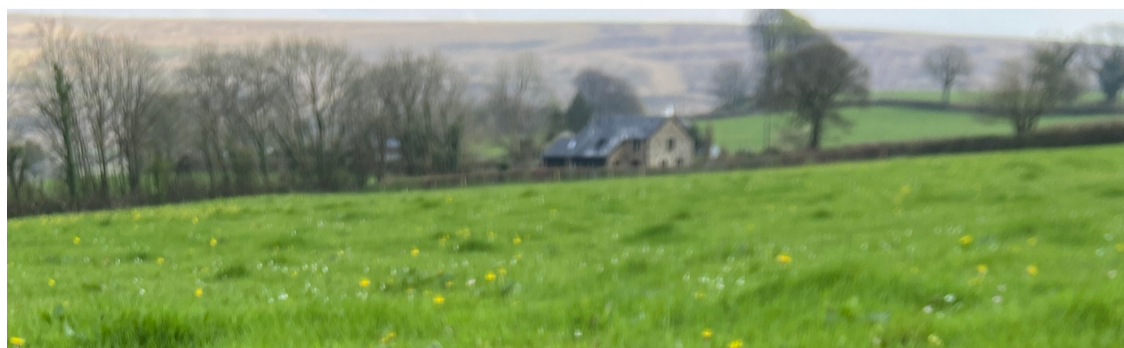


### [Alternatives to Violence program offers promise, lessons for preventing gun violence](#)

*By Angelique Gaines and Rachel Jackson-Gordon*

In 2019 and 2020, Charlotte, like many cities across the United States, experienced increased rates of firearm-related violence. Rate of violence in Charlotte's [rose by 45%](#) across those two years. In 2021, the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and Youth Advocate Programs began implementation of the Alternatives to Violence (ATV) Program in the Beatties Ford neighborhood using the [Cure Violence](#) program model with individuals ages 14 to 25 being the focal population. The program is designed to interrupt potentially violent situations, identify and change behaviors of those at highest risk for being involved with violence, and prompt changes in community norms.

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute partnered with the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and Youth Advocate Programs to conduct an evaluation of the first year of the program. Based on collected data, the [report](#) outlines ATV's strengths and offers several recommendations for sustained violence prevention.





## 'No Mow May' is catchy, but is it a good thing?

**By Ruth Ann Grissom**

At first glance, 'No Mow May' seems like a winning idea to encourage people to delay their first mowing of the season so early spring flowers in the lawn will be available for pollinators. While I appreciate any approach to helping wildlife that requires less work and challenges, the need for a pristine stand of grass, I've always been somewhat wary of the campaign known as 'No Mow May.'

And although the rhyme and alliteration are catchy, the timing is off for those of us in the Southeast. Here in the Piedmont, where we start mowing fescue lawns in March, it might be met with bewilderment and suspicion. To resonate in our region, the concept would need some major rebranding.

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