

The haunted history of reclaiming a floodplain



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The Haunted History of Reclaiming a Floodplain

By Ruth Ann Grissom

Chantilly Ecological Sanctuary, informally known as Chantilly Eco-Park, is an oasis in East Charlotte, a part of the county underserved by green space. Hugging a section of Briar Creek, its roughly 24 acres support lush wetlands, regenerating forest and grasslands riddled with butterfly weed. This outstanding wildlife habitat – over 160 species of birds have been documented here – is hemmed in by apartment buildings, a vast parking lot and a busy stretch of Monroe Road.

Watching a green heron skulk among the blue-flag iris and pickerel weed while a red-winged blackbird belts out its exuberant song from its perch on a stalk of native hibiscus, it's hard to believe this park itself was also once covered in concrete and asphalt.





[Prevent Gun Violence in Charlotte by Investing in Under-Resourced Communities](#)

By Rachel Jackson-Gordon

No child says, "I want to be involved with violence when I grow up." But firearm-related injuries are now the leading cause of death for young people.

Gun violence affects people and communities of all characteristics. However, community violence (including gun violence) disproportionately invades low-income communities of color that may suffer from decades of disinvestment and ultimately lack supportive environments. In this context, we consider supportive environments as those that offer access to quality housing options, healthcare, economic stability, education, and related key drivers of stability.

Addressing gun violence in communities characterized by long-term disinvestment is complex and requires solutions that acknowledge that complexity.



[Humanize Your Data: A Domestic Violence Survivors Guide](#)

Special Contributors: Rachel Siegal, Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Elyse Hamilton-Childres

When decisions hang in the balance regarding funding, policies, or programs, data can tip the scales. Conversations about data are frequently dominated by data scientists, professional service providers, executive administrators, and university researchers. But what of the people whom the data represent? Where are their voices in decisions about how their data are collected, stored, shared, and used?

In October 2022, the Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Research Collaborative (DVRC) was launched to center domestic violence survivor voices in the conversation about what happens to domestic violence data locally.

ICYMI

- [Ruth Ann Grissom talks about 'rewilding' your yard on WFAE's Charlotte Talks](#)
- [The Great Southeast Pollinator Census](#)

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