



NCEMGVA 2022 Inspire Connect Empower Project Grant Recipient

Dare County: Submitted by S. Stadther and L. Foster

Project Title: Wetlands Walking Trail

Category: Startup **Funding:** \$500

Description: This project will add an elevated walking trail along a bog area within the Outer Banks Arboretum and Teaching Garden, which is operated and maintained by Master Gardener Volunteers. The bog area had been neglected and left untouched for many years, with extensive overgrowth of vines, damaged trees, weeds, etc. It was underwater most of the year and flooded periodically. In late summer 2021, a dry period of several weeks allowed a team of Master Gardener Volunteers to go into the bog and remove large amounts of debris, opening up the area and providing a clear vista across the bog. We will now create a walking trail along the edge of the bog, using natural materials such as mulch for the walking surface, and will plant the edges of the bog with native plants that tolerate periodic flooding.

Visitors come to the Arboretum to walk, view, and learn about plants that grow in our coastal environment, and to attend gardening presentations on a variety of topics. Many residents in the area have properties with low-lying areas prone to flooding, and the new wetlands walkway will allow them to see and learn about plants that may grow in such areas. The project also adds additional walking paths to enhance their enjoyment of the Arboretum.