



MCA WATER & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE CHARTER

The MCA Water & Wildlife Committee (WWC) comprises a Chairperson, 2-4 members from the Community, an MCA Board Liaison, and the MCA Operations Manager. The WWC reports to the MCA President, who appoints the WWC Chairperson and members annually to one-year terms.

The purpose of the WWC is to focus on the environmental quality of MCA water features, including all ponds, creeks and sloughs, and the animal wildlife in and around those water features and throughout The Meadows community, including fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, for the benefit of MCA community residents and visitors.

The responsibilities of the WWC include the following:

1. Oversee the status of MCA water features in terms of their water quality, aquatic and shoreline vegetation and wildlife, and natural health as Florida waterways, and seek to optimize their ecological functions in balance with their engineering functions of water retention and drainage.
2. Lead activities to preserve and improve the natural ecology of MCA water features and surrounding habitats, including restoration of water quality, management of aquatic landscapes, and conservation of animal wildlife.
3. Advise the MCA on policy involving water features and wildlife in the community, including pond management and wildlife control.
4. Educate MCA community residents and visitors about the importance and functioning of water features and wildlife within the community.

2018-2019 Projects

1. Inventory the current environmental quality of MCA water features, in consultation with the MCA's contractor(s) charged with maintaining those features.
2. Select 1-3 water features to experiment on improving water quality, aquatic and shoreline vegetation, animal life and natural esthetic quality. Seek funding (e.g. through Sarasota County's Neighborhood Initiative Grant Program, NIGP) to support those improvements.
3. Develop wildlife management guidelines for dealing with invasive species (e.g. tilapia, non-native catfishes, armadillos) and native species of concern (e.g. snakes, alligators, rodents) within the community.
4. Produce articles in The Meadoword informing and educating MCA residents and visitors on issues related to water and wildlife ecology in the community.