

Anderson

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2024

Anderson Soil and Water Conservation District's (district) biggest achievement was youth outreach. The district partnered with the United Way Youth Volunteer Corp and the City of Anderson Utilities Department for several water quality activities. They joined the district to remove litter, tires, and even an air conditioning unit from along two roads with water access. Over 100 trash bags and approximately 25 tires were collected. After picking up litter, Anderson District discussed things that decrease water quality like trash, sediment, and bacteria. The role that macroinvertebrates play as water quality indicators was emphasized during this discussion. Youth participated using kick nets and seines to look for macroinvertebrates. On one occasion, a stream salamander was caught! The district also talked about SC Adopt-A-Stream and chemical testing as an indication of water quality, and youth tested the pH of Dye Creek. The United Way Youth Volunteer Corp also joined Anderson District for two seed packing parties, where they packed over 650 seed packets for the fall seed library.

Anderson District also had the opportunity to present several environmental programs such as the Incredible Journey, Macro Dress-Up, and Web of Life to approximately 100 kindergarten through 8th grade students at Anderson School District 5's Multilingual Learner Program Camp.



Conservation by the Numbers

- 4,062 acres of land protected through conservation programs with more than \$3.4 million for conservation practices in Anderson County
- 1,627 people educated through environmental programs
- Over 9,000 seed packets distributed through the seed library program with over 1,800 participants
- 64,000+ views of E-newsletter and 150+ social media posts

Other Notable Accomplishments



In October, Anderson District had the opportunity to partner with the SC Forestry Commission for a Learn to Burn Field Day in Anderson with at least 20 attendees. After a classroom portion, attendees participated in a prescribed burn on Walt McPhail's property.

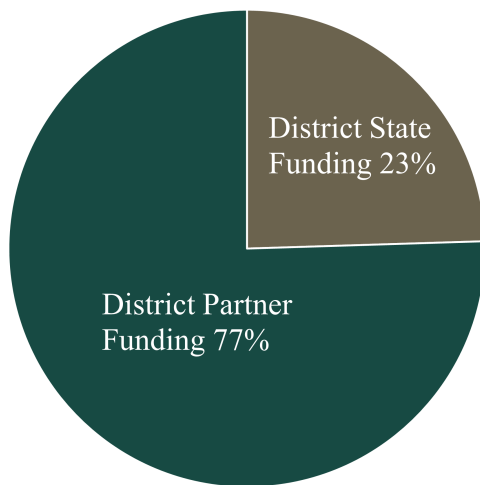
The district presented on water conservation at Riverside Middle's Ag + Art Day and Anderson 4-H's 4-H2O event. Anderson District also presented twice to a group of youth through the LOT Project and hopes to continue doing so in the future.

2025 District Plans

- Grow library program partnerships
- Expand summer youth programming
- Increase connections with public schools and home school co-ops
- Grow District Affiliate Memberships to help support county programs

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2024 Impact

State FY25 District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Districts, \$3.35 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts assist with United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$81 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation impacting nearly **200,000 South Carolina acres** in federal FY24.

More than 56,000 students were reached by conservation district youth-oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests.

More than 1.8 million adults were educated on conservation topics including but not limited to Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, and land easements.

More than 10,000 acres statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.).

SC Envirothon State Champions from Spartanburg Day School represented South Carolina at the international 2024 NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, China, and Singapore.

Programs involving land easements, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, water conservation, watershed improvement, litter removal, and conservation education are just a handful of the vast conservation topics implemented statewide by South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts.