

Anderson

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

Anderson County Soil and Water Conservation District's biggest achievement of 2023 was receiving the Anderson County Watershed Protection Council Grant of \$39,333. This grant allowed the district to provide free educational programming related to water quality, agriculture, wildlife, forestry, and other natural resource related topics to our community and local schools. The district was able to host and be a part of 45 educational programs and outreach events, reaching 2,070 people through these programs, and serving 13 public schools with a total of 116 hours in programming. The Education and Outreach Coordinator held two SC Adopt-a-Stream trainings certifying 28 new participants in water quality monitoring protocols to help monitor impaired waterways in the county. These funds also provided the opportunity to hire an Education and Outreach Intern each semester to help support increased programming. These students ranged from high school seniors to college students pursuing degrees related to agriculture and natural resources.

"Water Trunks" with educational resources on water quality were piloted across all five Anderson County School Districts. These trunks contain resources for teachers to use in their classrooms such as water testing kits, example lessons, visuals, displays, books and more!



Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of more than \$2.8 million for conservation practices in Anderson County
- 1,249 acres of land protected through conservation programs in Anderson County.
- 55 bags of trash picked-up by commissioners and staff from a highway that feeds into Anderson's drinking water supply
- 11 new partnerships made through projects and outreach

Other Notable Accomplishment



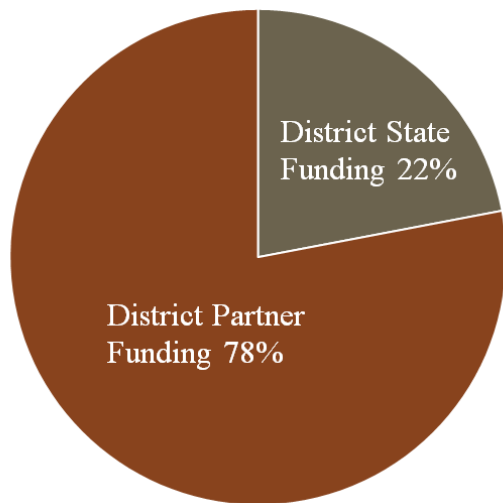
Established district outreach programs continued to thrive in 2023. The Seed Library grew with 9,160 seed packets checked out, 1,830 visitors, and 10 new zip codes recorded. The district's Barrels and Beer event was a great success with 35 rain barrels sold which increased the annual Environmental Mini-Grant to \$1,500 for 2024. The district also published an international article through the International Erosion Control Association sharing about Barrels and Beer.

2024 District Plans

- Increase on the ground field projects such as stream bank stabilization projects
- Collect data for SC Adopt-a-Stream and Know Your River Database to increase public awareness platforms on water quality
- Grow District Affiliate Memberships to help support county programs

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2023 Impact

State FY24 Conservation District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3.40 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Conservation Districts assist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$55 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation in federal FY23.

More than 190,000 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, etc.

More than 2 million adults were educated on conservation topics including Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, land easements, etc.

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 2023 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, Singapore and China.

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 Conservation Districts.