

# Richland

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Biggest Achievement of 2022

Through the increase in state appropriated funds, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) was able to provide additional technical and financial support to local educators to implement school-based conservation projects.

Jennifer Mancke joined the district's program team as a Green Step School Mentor. In this capacity, she meets with school faculty and staff to develop plans for school gardens, wildlife habitats, nature trails, outdoor classrooms, and other campus conservation projects. She also provides technical assistance and training to teachers and leads hands-on learning opportunities for students.

RSWCD awarded nine Conservation Education Mini-Grants totaling \$6,250 to local schools to support pollinator habitats and school gardens in Richland County. Since the launch of the Mini-Grant program in 2012, RSWCD has awarded 91 grants totaling \$39,500.



RSWCD partnered with fourth-graders at Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary School to plant a Carolina Fence Garden and pollinator habitat in spring 2022.



This winter, students at PACE Academy engaged in hands-on, garden-based learning, thanks to a new raised garden bed and rain barrel supplied by RSWCD.

### Other Notable Accomplishments



Community Outreach Intern Diana Llaca-Curiel hosted several pop-up Seed Sanctuary events to distribute free seeds to the community.



RSWCD team members Mary Burts, Hannah Lindsay, Kenny Mullis, and Chanda Cooper received awards from SCACD, NACD, and EEASC in 2022.

### Conservation by the Numbers

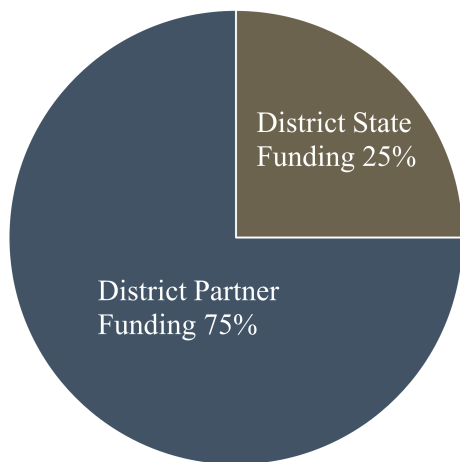
- 183 educators attended 7 professional development events; 142 farmers & resource professionals attended 5 workshops; 350 people attended 8 community conservation presentations
- 37 classroom presentations delivered to 1,264 students; 111 students from 9 schools entered 2022 poster contest; 10 Green Step Schools mentored by RSWCD staff
- 588 acres managed with RSWCD's no-till drill & crop roller

### 2023 District Plans

- With financial support from Richland County Conservation Commission, RSWCD will host the Richland County Ag+Art Tour June 10-11, 2023
- Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Dominion Energy, RSWCD will expand the Seed Sanctuary Program
- RSWCD is excited to incentivize SC Envirothon participation by offering \$500 stipends and covering team registration fees for up to four local teams

# South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2022 Impact

## State FY23 Conservation District Funding



**For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.**

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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 FY22.

**More than 72,000 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 1.3 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 44,000 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 took **17th place** overall at the 2022 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, 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.