

Spartanburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Through additional state appropriated funds, Spartanburg Soil and Water Conservation District was able to purchase, install, and maintain a WATERGOAT on a local stream. WATERGOATs offer an excellent opportunity to spread awareness about non-point source water pollution and litter, while also taking action to help resolve the issue. The WATERGOAT floats on the surface of Persimmon Creek with a weighted net that hangs about 12" down into the stream. The device catches and holds litter that otherwise would flow downstream, breaking into smaller and smaller pieces until they become very hard to remove. As the WATERGOAT is located in a high traffic portion of the arboretum walkway, it's visibility attracts curious visitors to the nearby educational signage with a QR code that leads to the district's website with further information about WATERGOATs, litter, water quality and the district. The litter collected is sorted, counted, disposed of properly, then the data is shared with the SC Aquarium's Litter-Free Journal. More than 784 pieces of trash and 5 full trash bags have been removed by the WATERGOAT!



The WATERGOAT on Persimmon Creek on the USC Upstate Campus, installed 10/5/2022. Ready to catch litter!



The WATERGOAT is cleaned as necessary. Most of what is removed is styrofoam and other environmentally harmful plastics.

Other Notable Accomplishments



County students participated in the NACD Poster Contest. Winning submissions appear in a 2023 calendar for Affiliate Members.



A soil friendly low-till Firminator and trailer were purchased for rental by county residents.

Conservation by the Numbers

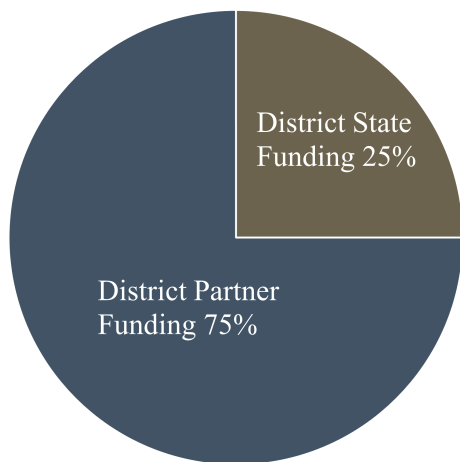
- 387 acres tilled responsibly with district rental equipment
- 1,155 community member contacts through programs and events plus more via social media and website; more than 250 seed packets donated to local Seed Library; 1 scholarship presented to a high school student
- District contributes data to 4 citizen science projects
- 10 native trees planted on Arbor Day

2023 District Plans

- Sponsor at least 2 SC Envirothon Teams and manage an SC Envirothon Training Trunk
- Participate in the NACD Poster Contest
- Continue citizen science programs (SC Adopt-A-Stream, Project Feeder Watch, CoCoRaHS, and the SC Aquarium's Litter Free Journal)
- Continue No-till Gardening Video Series

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.

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.