

Barnwell

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023



Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District worked to bring conservation awareness to the community through outreach and engagement of the district in 2023. One of the best ways to engage with the community is virtually, so the district created a Facebook page (Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District) and a website (www.barnwellswcd.com). The district also started a Seed Library, participated in the first Scarecrow Contest hosted by the Rotary Club, and Commissioner Rebecca Davis visited students at Macedonia Elementary School to teach them about watersheds.

Other Notable Accomplishment

The district was happy to welcome Commissioners Curtis Hogg, Jr. (pictured left) and Fleming McMaster (pictured right) who were elected to office in the November 2022 General Election. Their term will run February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2027.

Hogg and McMaster took the Oath of Office as Commissioners at the Annual District Awards Luncheon. They are both excited to help protect and preserve natural resources through locally led conservation in Barnwell County.



Conservation by the Numbers

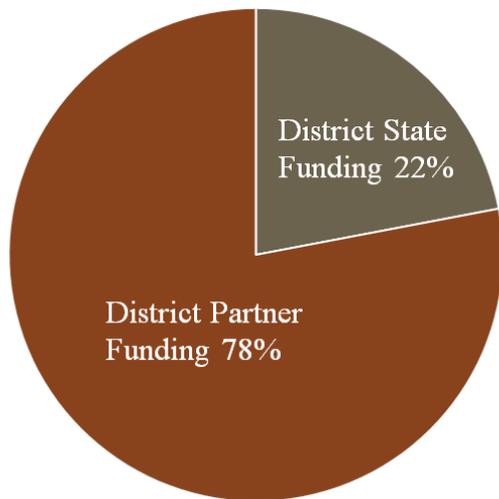
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$3.1 million for conservation practices in Barnwell County
- 6,299 acres in Barnwell County enrolled in conservation programs
- Provided administrative support to farmers and landowners for 180 EQIP and CSP contracts

2024 District Plans

- Promote the District Seed Library
- Obtain more than 60 District Affiliate Memberships
- Visit local schools to deliver conservation education

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.