

Charleston

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023



Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored two students, Guign and Eliza Bradham, to attend Camp Wildwood. Camp Wildwood gives students a basic understanding of the wise use and management of wildlife, natural resources, and conservation. Activities are filled with information about natural resources and how to take care of them for future generations. The camp also gives students a chance to grow their self-confidence and develop leadership skills within a supportive environment. Students are offered hands-on classes that are facilitated by professional natural resource staff members. Some activity topics include fisheries, forestry, firearm safety, hunter education, orienteering, first aid, and wildlife.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Partnership and outreach is of high importance to the district. With newly appointed Chairman John Smoak (pictured below), a 10-year veteran of the district board, the district has continued to develop relationships with predominant organizations within Charleston County and South Carolina.

Commissioner Smoak has served on several prestigious boards and the district is thrilled to have him inspire fresh ideas for locally led conservation in Charleston County.



Conservation by the Numbers

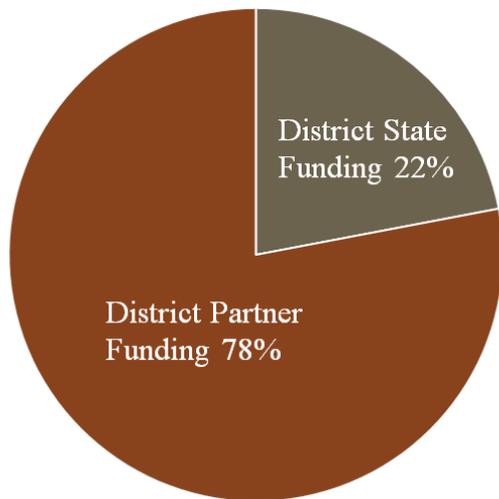
- Sponsored 2 students to participate in Camp Wildwood
- Engaged 28 landowners with NRCS programs
- Over 3,000 acres of farm and forest land enrolled in CSP
- 12 landowners enrolled in EQIP and 16 landowners enrolled in CSP

2024 District Plans

- Participate in community events including SEWE and Arbor Day
- Host a Field Day promoting Soil Health and Tractor Safety
- Increase District Affiliate Memberships
- Promote May Be the Forest Be With You, Always Poster and Essay Contest

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.