

Edgefield

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023



Edgefield Soil and Water District strives to share the message about conservation and prioritizes educating the future generation. The district sponsored several education programs for students. A new program sponsored by the district this year was "Watch and Grow" through which the district provided each 3rd grade class in the county the tools necessary to grow their own plant. Students enjoyed watching and learning the process and seeing the final product. The district also provided soil lessons for STEM DAY at W.E. Parker Elementary School. The district continued to offer a scholarship for a student pursuing an agriculture degree in memory of beloved Bob Bowie.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Local Edgefield County students attended the Eco-Meet Challenge that was sponsored by the district. The Eco-Meet Challenge is an environmental science competition for middle school students in the CSRA of Georgia and South Carolina.

Students were very excited to be the first group to compete from Edgefield County. Their favorite part was the hands-on stations and being able to explore the park.



Conservation by the Numbers

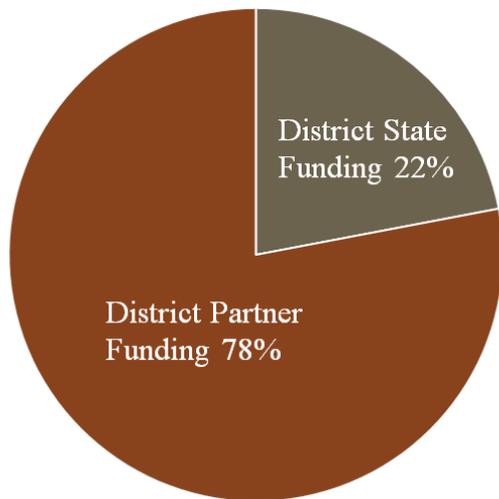
- Educated more than 800 students through education and outreach programs
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$1.6 million for conservation practices on 6,000 acres in Edgefield County
- Welcomed Josh Boatwright as new NRCS District Conservationist to support Edgefield's wonderful producers!

2024 District Plans

- Start a local seed library
- Increase conservation education efforts for youth and adults
- Sponsor SC Envirothon Team

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.