

Jasper

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District has been designated to serve on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the process of updating the Jasper County Comprehensive Plan. Jasper County is the fastest growing county in the state. Considering the exponential increase over the last five years, a multitude of natural resources are at risk. To achieve a fiscal and ecological balance, it is critical to select prudent land management that supports conservation and conservation that supports responsible development. It is the responsibility of Jasper County, the district, and its municipalities to strike this balance between the preservation of its invaluable natural, historic, and cultural resources and future land development.

The district will steer the natural resource element of the plan with the goal to identify, promote, and enhance the natural resources in the county and correlate the overall vision of the Comprehensive Plan by implementing strategies that protect natural resources for our current and future generations.



Other Notable Accomplishment



The district planted raised garden beds and container gardens in cooperation with the Royal Live Oaks Academy of Arts and Sciences. 26 seventh graders helped with the planting of sweet potatoes, carrots, lettuce, and cantaloupe. Food webs, food chains, and eating a balanced diet were taught to the students. By planting, harvesting, and cooking their produce, this project provided wholesome foods otherwise not always accessible, as many of the students are from low-income families.

Conservation by the Numbers

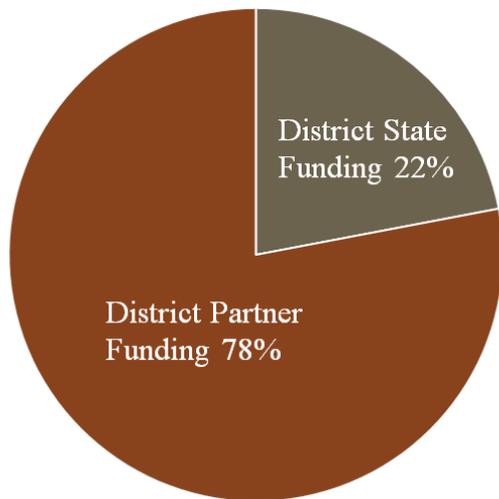
- Presentations on litter, recycling, container gardening, local wildlife habitat, and conservation practices reached 2,600 students and citizens
- Assisted with implementation of \$70,149 in conservation practices for installation in Jasper County, management of 13 active CSP and EQIP contracts, and enrolling 576 additional Jasper County acres

2024 District Plans

- Provide input on the 2024 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan to develop a growth and development strategy
- Continue efforts in conservation education through schools, landowner seminars, conservation partnerships, and land management practices for developers and landowners

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.