

Laurens

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023



Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District and partners host Team Ecology each year. This is a week long event at the Joe Adair Outdoor Education Center for third grade students. In 2023, over 500 third graders participated and learned about conservation topics, such as watersheds, landfills, recycling, litter, composting, air quality, soil types, pollinators, and how to protect our native wildlife. Students got to enjoy a nature hike during the week because a trip to the Joe Adair Center would not be complete without one!

This program is run almost completely by volunteers. Team Ecology is going into it's 10th year and will be hosted April 15-19, 2024.

Other Notable Accomplishment

The District's Annual Earth and Sky Photo Contest received 175 entries in 2023. That is a record number of entries for the district! The contest has been going on for many years, since the days of film!

The contest serves as an opportunity to instill a love for the beautiful county of Laurens within the hearts of the community. All of the winners are featured on the district's social media.

"Comfort Food" by Trey Wardlaw received First Place in the Adult Earth division of the contest.



Conservation by the Numbers

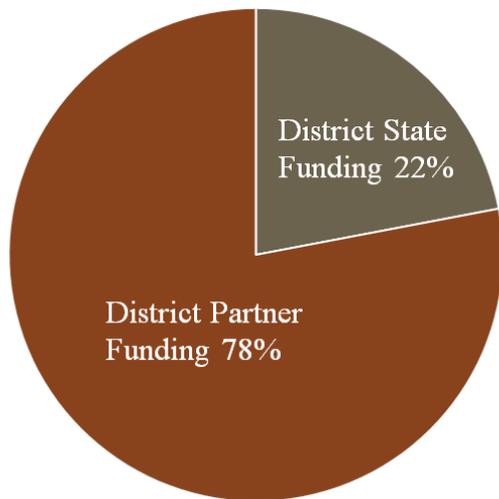
- Approximately 2,000 students impacted through the Adair Outdoor Education Center
- More than 300 adults reached through the seed library
- Assisted with implementation of \$365,171 for conservation practices in Laurens County

2024 District Plans

- Increase litter clean up efforts
- Sponsor a lifetime fishing and hunting license at the SCDNR Fishing Rodeo
- Find new ways to assist local FFA and 4-H groups

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.