

Lexington

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

This year, Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District worked towards increasing outreach efforts through community programs.

Two Rain Barrel Workshops were hosted, one during the height of summer and the other near the end of fall. Future Rain Barrel Workshops will be held in partnership with Lexington County Stormwater.

The district attended and participated in several community events as a vendor, including the 11th Annual Herb Festival, the Blowfish All-Star Fan Fest, and the Market at Icehouse Amphitheater. These events allowed the district to connect with the community and highlight the district's programs and resources.

This year, the district took the first steps to creating a small Pop-up Seed Library. It will rotate through the 10 library branches within Lexington County beginning in 2024. The Pop-up Seed Library will stay at each library for one week and at least one program will be held while it's there. The programs will mainly focus on sustainability and backyard gardening but also cover topics such as: recycling, food preservation, wildlife nuisance species, and wildfire preparedness.



Other Notable Accomplishment



The district is excited to mentor five Green Step Schools. The included schools are Saxe Gotha Elementary School, Irmo Middle School, Beechwood Middle School, Leaphart Elementary School, and Pleasant Hill Elementary School. The schools are focusing on composting projects for the 2023-2024 school year.

The district will also be mentoring the spring plant sale and Milkweed to Monarch project at Irmo Middle School.

Conservation by the Numbers

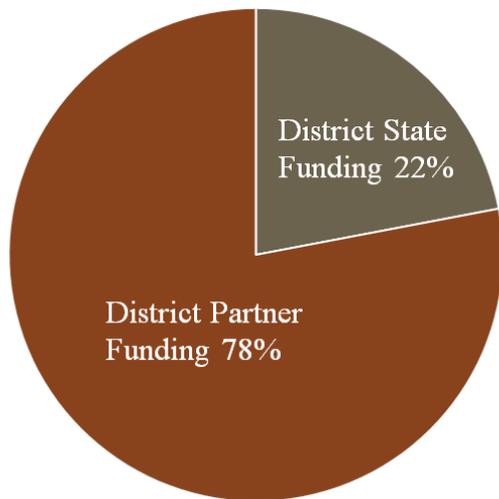
- More than 500 students received education on pollinators, soil composition, erosion, and water conservation
- Nearly 200 people received conservation programs and event information through outreach at community events
- More than \$7,000 received through District Affiliate Membership Drive

2024 District Plans

- Partner with Lake Murray County and the Master Gardener Volunteers for the 2024 Ag + Art Tour
- Showcase new Pop-up Seed Library through programs at Lexington County Libraries
- Conduct community outreach programs with Lexington County Stormwater

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.