

Orangeburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District is excited to mentor Brookdale Elementary School as the first in Orangeburg County to work on becoming a Certified Green Step School. This program encourages students to compost at home and at school. These lessons are life skills that are used in everyday.

SCDHEC estimates that 40% of the waste in landfills is food, much of which could be used in making compost. Decreasing the amount of materials put in dumpsters decreases the number of times a dumpster is emptied and schools are charged by the number of times the dumpsters are emptied. This is a big motivator for the school to compost food waste! To learn more see the district website -www.Orangeburgswcd.com For information about Green Step Schools: www.eeasc.org and select Green Step School.



Other Notable Accomplishment



Edisto Memorial Gardens held a Trunk or Treat Event on Monday, October 23 from 5PM to 7PM. The visitors walked through the gardens visiting different vendors. Among them were the Girl Scouts hosting a rock painting session. Out of nowhere two Bag Creatures appeared! The plastic shopping bags made a ghostly scene flapping in the wind adding to the size of the creatures. The attendees with totes from Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful and PalmettoPride were glad they were not adding to the creatures' growing and changing size!

Conservation by the Numbers

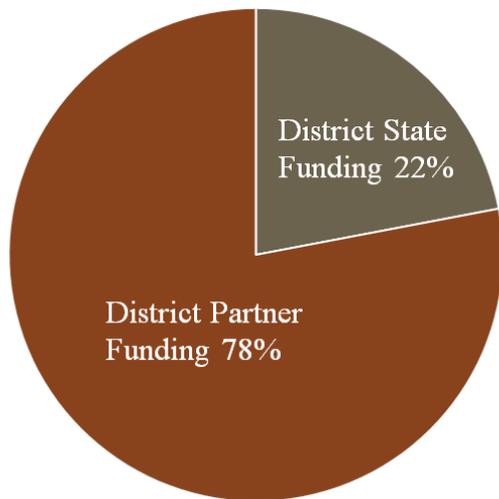
- Assisted with implementation of \$4,253,870 for 63 conservation program contracts
- 9,635 acres in Orangeburg County were enrolled in conservation programs
- 32 under served contracts totaling \$1,642,211 on 1,208 acres

2024 District Plans

- Partner with the SC Forestry Commission to implement Project Learning Tree lessons in the classroom and trainings for teachers
- Encourage 100% participation of mayors in Orangeburg County in the Greatest American Cleanup
- Increase the number of Orangeburg County Schools that participant in Green Step Schools

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.