

Sumter

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

Sumter Soil and Water Conservation District launched a seed library in April 2023. The district has distributed over 1,100 vegetable, fruit, flower, and herb seeds to the Sumter County community!

The district also developed and taught multiple “Read, Learn, Grow Veggies” classes at the county library and schools to over 220 children. District employee, Anna Makiewicz, read a book about where food comes from then discussed with the students the roles everyone plays in getting food from the farm to the table. She also taught a basic summary of the life cycle of a plant then ended the class with the children planting a vegetable of their own to take with them and plant at home. Students were sent home with an interactive worksheet on what to look for in their plant’s life cycle and how to care for it. Since then, the district has received multiple pictures and testimonies from students and county residents who now have thriving gardens and are very appreciative of the district's support!



Other Notable Accomplishment



The district has had a strong presence in community activities. In September, district employee, Anna Makiewicz, was a keynote speaker for the Poinsett-Bland Garden Club where she presented on the continued projects and possible partnership efforts with the seed library. In October, the district had a booth at the Sumter eSTEAM festival and the Fall Feast to support Sumter Green. The benefits of the district and composting were promoted at both events.

Conservation by the Numbers

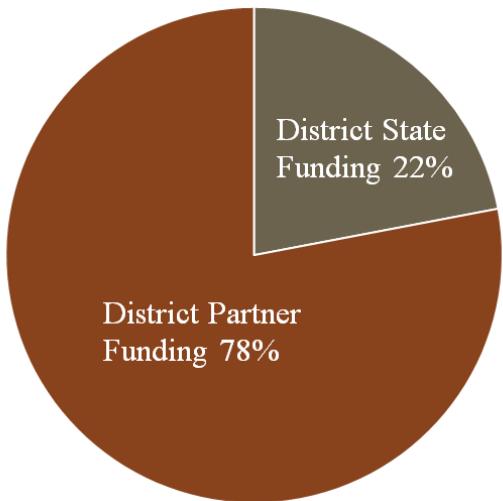
- Interacted with 2,220 children and adults through: “Read, Learn, Grow Veggies”, eSTEAM and other Fall Feast events
- 16 producers utilized the no-till grain drill for a total of 246 acres planted in Sumter County
- 3 producers rented the feral hog traps with 430 hogs captured

2024 District Plans

- Sponsor Sumter County SC Envirothon team
- Purchase a second no-till drill for rental
- Expand seed library to second branch location
- Strengthen and continue to build District Affiliate Membership Program

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.