

Williamsburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

Williamsburg Soil and Water Conservation District purchased a Great Plains 6' no-till grain drill and caddy. The no-till grain drill can be rented for a daily fee by anyone in Williamsburg County. Renters must sign a contract and pay before using the drill.

No-till drills allow farmers to plant crops such as corn, oats, wheat, rye, and soybeans eliminating the use of discs, chisels or plows. This conservation practice saves time, reduces soil erosion, increases soil organic matter, improves localized water quality, and reduces the need for fertilizer. Rental of the no-till drill allows producers and landowners access to a piece of machinery that they may not have the funds to purchase. The district is excited to provide this service to the producers and landowners in Williamsburg County!



Other Notable Accomplishment



The district provided Forest Trees and Invasive Species of SC guides to the community. The Forest Trees of SC guide lists the identifying characteristics of all native SC trees. The Invasive Species of South Carolina guide gives useful information about the many invasive shrubs, trees, vines, and insects that are found in SC. Both guides have pictures to help identify the tree, plant, or insect. Specifically, the Invasive Species guide lists details on how the tree or plant is spread and suggests an alternative native species.

Conservation by the Numbers

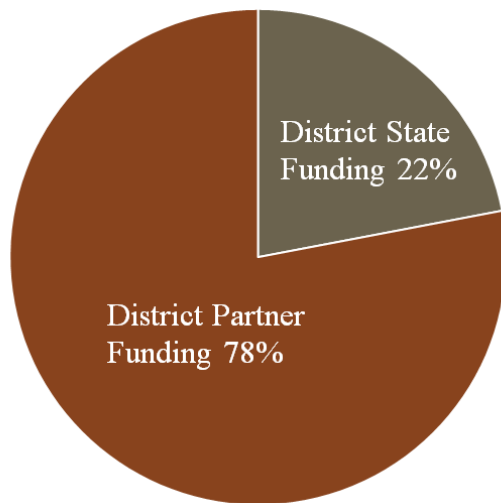
- 2 new District Associate Commissioners joined the board
- 1,500 students were impacted by the many contests and programs offered by the district
- Workshops and meetings benefited 55 landowners and attendees
- Educational books impacted 100 adults and 500 students

2024 District Plans

- Participate in Annual Conservation Contests
- Work with Keep Williamsburg Beautiful to help control the litter issues in the county
- Continue to work on the grant to assist NRCS with program delivery
- Provide the grain drill to landowners for conservation practices

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.