

Dorchester

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

In October 2022, Dorchester Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) started its Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary offering a variety of vegetable and flower seeds. With only three months left in 2022, DSWCD hosted its Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary at four events reaching approximately 800 people! During events, 730 packets of seed and 200 coloring books were handed out to attendees. There are many benefits and lessons to be learned when planting a seed, such as importance of soil and water quality, pollination, patience, and how to become more self-reliant while creating food sustainability.

The increase in state appropriated funds allowed Dorchester SWCD to create the Dorchester SWCD Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary. Dorchester SWCD is excited about the reach the program has had in the past three months and remains excited to see how the program will grow in 2023!



Dorchester SWCD Administrative Assistant, Tammi McAlhany at one of our Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary events.



Vice-Chairman Bobby Long assisting a group of students in picking out seed packets at a Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary event.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Chairman James Fender and Vice Chairman Bobby Long presented three \$1,000 scholarships to local high school students.



Commissioner Marie Dantzler and Commissioner Patricia Clark presented Poster Contest Awards to our 1st-place winner and her teacher.

Conservation by the Numbers

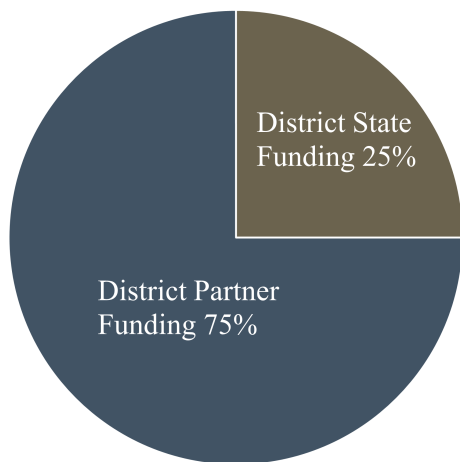
- 1,500 local citizens educated through outreach efforts
- 730 packets of vegetable and flower seed distributed
- 42 Affiliate Conservation District Members
- 175 landowners served with conservation technical assistance
- 4,121 acres enrolled in conservation programs

2023 District Plans

- Attain 5 new affiliate members
- Grow the reach of the Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary
- Participate in the 2023 NACD Photo and Poster Contests
- Sponsor SC Envirothon team
- Host a workshop for local landowners

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2022 Impact

State FY23 Conservation District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3 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 FY22.

More than 72,000 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 1.3 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 44,000 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 took **17th place** overall at the 2022 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, 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.