

Florence

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Florence Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) continued its emphasis on conservation education during 2022. The Environmental Education Center at Lynches River County Park provided continuing conservation education to young and old alike.

FSWCD also held its Local Work Group Meeting in July which welcomed land users and members of conservation organizations for a discussion of conservation practices which benefit Florence County and should be applied through NRCS Farm Bill Programs in our county.

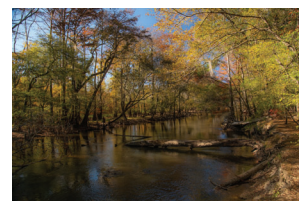
The District participated in the SCACD Contribution Agreement Program that enabled our district employee to perform technical assistance to our NRCS office. Through this partnership program, the FSWCD provided hands-on service to more than 20 land users participating in cover crop programs.

One of the most outstanding events of the year was the participation of the FSWCD in the Conservation Districts Day at the Statehouse in April. The event provided the opportunity for our district to directly contact each of our Statehouse members from Florence. Our district along with the other districts in SC received recognition from the floor of the House and Senate for their work in the conservation field. The efforts on the part of each district led to an increase in conservation funding for 2022/23. The increase in state appropriated funds will help FSWCD institute its 2023 plans and help all SWCDs continue to provide measures to assure the conservation of our natural resources in SC.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of more than \$3 million for conservation practices in Florence County
- 37,565 acres were enrolled in conservation programs in Florence County

Other Notable Accomplishments



District oversees Salem Community Watershed which provides 42 miles of drainage canals and ditches for agricultural drainage relief.



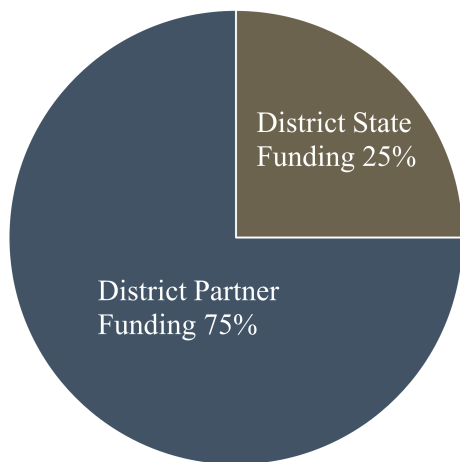
District oversees the Lynches Lake-Camp Branch Watershed that provides 21 miles of canals and ditches for agricultural drainage relief.

2023 District Plans

- Provide programs and contests to Florence School District concerning litter prevention
- Provide mini-grants to schools and organizations that provide conservation education programs
- Provide locally led conservation measures for landowners and users in Florence County

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.