

Laurens

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Through additional state appropriated funds, Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) was able to launch a seed library in partnership with the local library! To date, 300 seed envelopes have been distributed. Plans for 2023 Seed Library are underway with a goal to increase the number of seed envelopes by at least 100.

Seed libraries are an excellent opportunity to spread awareness about agriculture and educate about where food comes from to youth and urban citizens. This seed library also has potential to help mitigate a food desert in the area by teaching citizens how to grow their own food. In conjunction with seed packets being available at the library, we also set up a booth at our Adair Center Fall Festival. We are very excited to see how the program and partnerships grow in the coming years!



Other Notable Accomplishments



Our annual photo contest was once again a huge success - receiving 148 entries. The winners will be celebrated at our banquet in February.



We hosted the first Pioneer Day at the Adair Outdoor Education Center for a local home school group!

Conservation by the Numbers

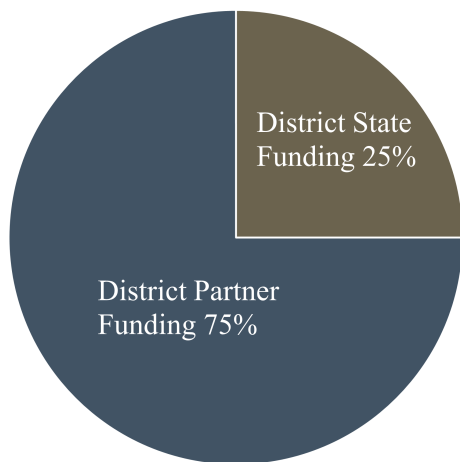
- More than 500 third graders impacted by Team Ecology
- 22 new landowners contracted to put conservation on the ground in Laurens County
- 1,470 acres in Laurens County enrolled in conservation programs
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$2 million for conservation practices in Laurens County

2023 District Plans

- Grow district's Fall Festival to be an anticipated event by the community every year
- Recruit new Team Ecology Volunteers
- Assist with more Keep Laurens County Beautiful clean up events

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.