



Richland Soil and Water
Conservation District

Annual Report FY 2022-2023



Vision

Our vision is to continue to provide leadership and support for conservation efforts in the Midlands that improve the quality and quantity of the county's natural resources.

Mission

Our mission is to promote the wise use and care of natural resources—with a focus on soil and water—for long-term sustainability in a changing environment.

Visit our website!





Goal 1: Encourage agricultural and timber producers to adopt best management practices to conserve natural resources with a focus on soil and water.

FY 2022-2023 Accomplishments



- Protected and improved soil health on 557 acres by offering residents low-cost rental of a crop roller and no-till drill
- Co-hosted a High Tunnel Production workshop for 18 agricultural producers at Sal's Ol' Timey Feed and Seed
- Hosted an agritourism workshop for 21 agricultural professionals at Doko Farm
- Co-hosted a Field Day at the Clemson Sandhill Research and Education Center to educate more than 60 participants about the latest agronomic research conducted in Richland County
- Supported 5 forage plot demonstrations, 8 forage and pasture field days, the development of 58 pasture management plans, and on-farm soil health and rotational grazing research through partnership with the SC Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition

Goal #2: Empower teachers and informal educators to educate students about the conservation of our natural resources.



FY 2022-2023 Accomplishments

- Awarded 10 Conservation Education Mini-Grants totaling \$7,000 to support conservation projects such as school gardens at local schools
- Provided mentorship and technical support to teachers at 15 schools through the SC Green Step Schools program
- Supported, hosted, or co-hosted seven professional development and networking events for more than 209 educators across the state through partnership with the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina



Goal #3: Educate and inspire students to be environmental stewards.

FY 2022-2023 Accomplishments

- Delivered 86 conservation programs to 2,146 students at 23 schools and education sites
- Engaged 75 students at 9 schools in watershed awareness through participation in the “One Water” conservation poster contest; recognized 20 of those students as county winners
- Celebrated three student award winners in the statewide “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life” conservation poster contest
- Sponsored and supported the 2023 SC Envirothon competition to engage approximately 95 high school students from across the state in natural resource education and career exploration
- Sponsored the SC Commissioner’s School for Agriculture--a premier career and leadership development summer program to inform, inspire, and challenge high school students to consider a career in the agricultural, natural resource, and life science industries
- Sponsored nature-based education opportunities for local students at Camp Discovery





Goal #4: Educate the general public about natural resource conservation and sustainable agriculture through education programs and awareness campaigns.

FY 2022-2023 Accomplishments

- Promoted agricultural awareness by administering the Richland County Ag + Art Tour, featuring 15 tour sites and approximately 100 artisans and attracting more than 3,007 participants
- Delivered 12 community presentations to more than 405 participants to raise awareness about pollinator conservation, soil health, and other conservation topics
- Distributed more than 5,372 seed packets to residents through the Richland County Seed Sanctuary
- Opened a second physical location for the Seed Sanctuary in the Richland County Administration Building
- Hosted 10 Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary events at local festivals and farmers markets, reaching more than 700 residents

Goal 5: Expand advocacy, partnership, and engagement opportunities in order to develop the resources needed to achieve RSWCD's program goals.



Members of the Palmetto Garden Club (PGC) made a \$9,000 gift to the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District to support local K-12 conservation education efforts during the upcoming school year.

RSWCD also received a \$10,000 Environmental Education and Stewardship Grant from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation to support the “One Water” Conservation Education Campaign and Reseed Richland Seed Sanctuary Expansion.



FY 2022-2023 Accomplishments

- Communicated programs, accomplishments, and conservation updates to stakeholders through a monthly e-newsletter distributed to 3,880 subscribers
- Promoted program information and conservation education through four social media accounts with a combined following of 3,474 people
- Received support from 42 individuals and businesses through Friends of RSWCD
- Engaged more than 113 community volunteers in RSWCD's work through 8 Seed Sanctuary seed packing parties

Awards & Recognitions



Kenny Mullis | Chairman

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman Kenny Mullis was inducted into the National Association of Conservation Districts Hall of Fame.



Quinton Epps | Division Manager

Richland County Conservation Division Manager Quinton Epps was named employee of the year by the SC Association of Conservation Districts.



Sarah Burnham | Associate Commissioner

Richland County teacher Dr. Sarah Burnham was recognized as SC's Conservation Teacher of the Year by the SC Association of Conservation Districts.



Chanda Cooper | Education Analyst

Richland County Conservation Education Analyst Chanda Cooper was recognized as Project Learning Tree's 2023 National Leadership in Education Award Recipient.

Keep In Touch

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