



2023 and 2024 Annual Report Orangeburg Count Soil and Water Conservation District



Fellow Conservationists,

The Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) began 2024 going full force in its conservation efforts and have not slowed down. It was a busy but rewarding year with the board and staff actively involved in attending workshops and conferences and bringing information and knowledge back to the community on protecting and conserving our natural resources.

The mission of OCSWCD is to provide local leadership to implement all programs to protect, restore, and improve the natural resources of Orangeburg County.

The purpose of a soil and water conservation district is to:

- Provide information about soil, water, and related resource conservation.
- Identify and prioritize soil and water concerns.
- Connect landowners to sources of educational, technical, and financial assistance, to implement conservation practices and technologies.



**2023/2024 Chairman.
Jackie Fogle,
taking care of our
environment.**

We need to preserve and protect our natural resources for our future generations. With that being said, we need you to help us achieve this goal. Without our affiliate members, we could not begin to make a lasting change and continue our conservation efforts. Please see the attached affiliate member application. We hope you will consider making a tax-free donation to OCSWCD.

Each district serves as a means for all interested people in a county to work for a common goal in natural resource conservation and development. I'd like to thank our affiliate members, current board members, and partnerships. We couldn't do it without your help.

Thank you for your support,

Jackie Fogle, Chairman of the Board

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful (KOCB) was awarded \$8,625.00 for the 2024 PalmettoPride / Keep South Carolina Beautiful (KSCB) Grant. The Grant provided funds for heavy duty grabbers, educational and promotional items to use at programs and events, rolling carts to use during litter clean-ups, heavy duty bag holders for Volunteers that pick-up trash on a regular basis, and more.

The PalmettoPride / KSCB Grant enables KOCB to participate in community events, programs, and school events to educate and spread the word about recycling, putting litter where it belongs, and to educate on reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful and Orangeburg County Litter Control hosts a clean-up in the spring and fall each year. These are usually a part of the Great American Cleanup (GAC). We provide all needed supplies and ask for the # of bags picked up, area litter was picked up and other results from the clean-up. We report this data to PalmettoPride and Keep America Beautiful, and that is how we continue to receive clean-up supplies.

We are asking citizens to choose a location where they live, work, play, or attend church, and plan a clean-up. KOCB or Code Enforcement will supply everything needed for an individual, family, or group cleanup. We just ask for your clean-up results in return and some pictures shared on social media. Please call or email to register your family, group, or individual ASAP. Let's all work together to Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful.

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful (KOCB) Rebranded in 2024

KOCB has had the rose and butterfly logo for as long as there has been an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful (KAB) in Orangeburg. The KOCB Affiliate reached out to Mallory Coffee, KAB Director of Affiliate Development, to ask for assistance with an updated logo for Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful. Mallory helped find the perfect logo that contains the rose, a blue ribbon that symbolizes the Edisto River, and meets the KAB requirements with the Keep America Beautiful Affiliate tag line. Here is our new KAB Logo Below:



JANUARY

1 New Year's Day

**13-15 SCACD Partnership Conf.
Spartanburg, SC**

20 Dr. Martin Luther King Day

*Volunteerism Workday

(Cancelled due to COLD!)

Jim Capers Park – Eutaw Springs

Revolutionary War Park

28 Board Meeting 5:30PM

FEBRUARY

1 Envirothon Coaches' Training

7 - 13 2025 NACD Annual Conf.

Salt Lake City, Utah

17 Presidents' Day

24 Litter Survey Part I

25 Board Meeting 5:30PM

MARCH

***GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP
BEGINS**

2 - 6 Read Across America Week

2-8 Leopold Week

22 World Water Day

25 Board Meeting 5:30PM

APRIL

Send out Local Work Group Survey

Clean Where You Work/Live/Play

The Month of April

Choose a day or more!

10 Litter Survey Part II

11 Earth Day Celebration

Edisto Gardens

18 Good Friday (County)

***22 Earth Day**

22 Board Meeting 5:30PM

***25 SC Envirothon Competition**

National Arbor Day

(Last Friday of April)

***27 Soil Stewardship week begins**

MAY

Advertise Local Work Group Meeting

2 & 3 Rose Festival

4 Soil Stewardship week ends

See Special Flyer about Clean Sweep SC

www.Orangeburgswcd.com

26 Memorial Day Holiday

27 Board Meeting 5:30PM



2025 Calendar Of Events OCSWCD and KOCB



**New App from
Palmetto Pride:
Recycle Here
SC**

**Certify your
backyard
as a
Wildlife Habitat!
Check out
South Carolina
Wildlife
Federation:
scwf.org/habitats/**



JUNE

19 Juneteenth [Fed. Holiday]

19-21 **EEASC Conf.** Francis Marion Univ. Freshwater Ecology Complex

24 Board Meeting 5:30PM

24 Hold Local Work Group Meeting

30 County Fiscal Year End

***GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP ENDS**

JULY

NO Board Meeting scheduled in July

1 County Fiscal Year Begins

July 4th Independence Day

AUGUST

1 Tree Grant Available

PalmettoPride/KSCB

2 - 6, 2025 Southeast NACD (regional)

Louisville, KY Crown Plaza

Airport Expo Center

26 Board Meeting 5:30PM

SEPTEMBER

***1 Labor Day**

2-5 Keep SC Beautiful Conf.

9 SCACD Midyear Meeting

23 Board Meeting 5:30PM

30 USDA-NRCS Year Ends

OCTOBER

Clean Up for the Holidays

The Month of October

Choose a day or more!

1 USDA-NRCS 2026 Year Begins

New Water Year Begins

13 Columbus Day [Fed.]

19-24 (3rd Wk.) SC Native Plant Week

28 Board Meeting 5:30PM

NOVEMBER

4-5 SE Conservation District

**Employees Association Annual
Conference Pigeon Forge, TN**

11 Veterans' Day

15 America Recycles Day

18 Board Meeting 5:30

27 Thanksgiving Day

28 (County) Holiday

DECEMBER

**NO Board Meeting Scheduled in
December**

5 *SC Arbor Day (1st Friday of Dec.)

24, 25 Christmas Holidays

*** Volunteer Opportunities**

Orangeburg County

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2023

Brookdale Elementary School - the first in Orangeburg County working to become a Certified Green Step School.

The students are encouraged to compost at home and at school. These lessons are "life" skills that are used at school and at home. SC DHEC estimates that 40% of the waste in landfills currently is food. Much of the food waste could be used in making compost. Decreasing the amount of materials being put in the dumpster decreases the number of times a dumpster is emptied. Schools are charged by the number of times the dumpsters are emptied.

To learn more about Green Step Schools see www.eeasc.org and select the Green Step School tab at the far right.

To learn more about SC DHEC Composting for schools and residences search <https://scdhec.gov/environment/recycling-waste-reduction>

Scroll down to the tabs: home and schools

Under Home click on Composting at Home (The guide discusses how to construct a bin, what should be put in the bin and how to use the compost.)

Under Schools click on Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow scroll down and click on Recycling at School Scroll down to Guides for Schools – Recycling... and Reducing Food Waste...

To learn more see our website - www.Orangeburgswcd.com



Conservation by the Numbers

NRCS - USDA Orangeburg County FY23:

FY23 Total Obligation for CSP and EQIP \$4,253,870.45

FY23 Total Acreage entering conservation program contracts:
9,634.6 acres

FY23 Total Contracts Obligated: 63

FY23 Historically Underserved Contract Obligation:
\$1,642,210.94

FY23 Historically Underserved Participants: 32

FY23 Historically Underserved Contract Acreage: 1,207.9
Total Active Contracts: 284

Other Notable Accomplishment



Edisto Memorial Gardens held a Trunk or Treat Event on Monday, October 23 from 5PM to 7PM. The visitors walked through the gardens visiting different vendors. Among them were the Girl Scouts hosting a rock painting session.

Out of nowhere two Bag Creatures appeared! The plastic shopping bags made a ghostly scene flapping in the wind adding to the size of the creatures. The attendees with totes from Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful and PalmettoPride were glad they were not adding to the creatures' growing and changing size!

2024 District Plans

Partner with the SC Forestry Commission with Project Learning Tree (PLT) Lessons in classrooms and Professional Development for teachers

100% participation by mayors in Orangeburg County in the Greatest American Cleanup in preparation for our nation's 250 Birthday, July 4th, 2026.

Increase the participation of schools within Orangeburg County in Green Step Schools.

Orangeburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2024

Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District (district) sponsored the Progressive Agriculture Foundation (PAF) Safety Day at Brookdale Elementary School on October 10, 2024. PAF Safety Day provides hands-on stations teaching children ages 4-13 about safety and health in rural communities. Students learned about fire safety, sun safety, first aid (students made their own kit), how to live with disabilities, and the dangers that can be found on a farm.

At the Sun Safety station, the students learned when to add more sunscreen or find shade. They also made bracelets from sun sensitive UV beads. The Fire Safety station had a smoke house that provided the students with the opportunity to experience what their home may be like if it was on fire and what a fireman does to protect the community. Everyone escaped safely from the smoke-filled room. The students learned how to scout the yard for hazards before mowing the lawn and the safest place to be when the lawn is mowed at the Lawn Ranger station. Clemson Extension taught about the amount of sugar in a soft drink and the importance of choosing a healthy alternative. Choosing refreshments wisely is important.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of over \$7 million dollars for 79 conservation program contracts to landowners
- 20,834 acres in Orangeburg County enrolled in conservation programs
- 31 historically under-served individuals serviced

Other Notable Accomplishments



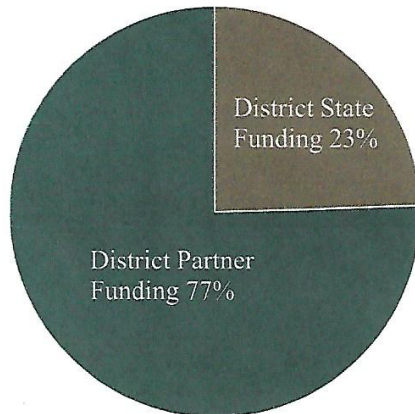
The district advocated for the celebration of America's 250th Anniversary by partnering with the 250th Commission, Lieutenant Governor Evette, PalmettoPride, Keep SC Beautiful, and Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful. A cleanup at Eutaw Springs Revolutionary War Battle site was held on October 24th as just the start of improving Orangeburg County. The cleanup netted a total of 360 pounds (22 bags) of litter and a tire. A second cleanup will take place on January 20, 2025, MLK Day. Come be a part of something revolutionary!

2025 District Plans

- Continue building partnerships
- Work with Farm Bureau's Mobile Ag Learning Lab
- Utilize USDA-NRCS Soil Tunnel to teach about soils at the Orangeburg County Fair
- Plan more outreach programs with USDA-NRCS

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2024 Impact

State FY25 District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Districts, \$3.35 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts assist with United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$81 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation impacting nearly **200,000 South Carolina acres** in federal FY24.

More than 56,000 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.

More than 1.8 million adults were educated on conservation topics including but not limited to Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, and land easements.

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 international 2024 NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, China, and Singapore.

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 South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Levels of Affiliation

Sponsorship \$5.00 to \$49.00

Affiliation Levels

(Bronze) - \$50.00 to \$99.00	(Gold) \$200 to 499.00
(Silver) - \$100.00 to \$199.00	(Platinum) > \$500.00

Affiliate Benefits

**2 Tickets to the Annual Banquet
Certificate of Affiliation**

All levels of support are tax deductible.

**Contact us at: (803) 534-2409 ext. 3
Or visit www.Orangeburgswcd.com**

Affiliate Member Application

**Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District
Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful**

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”

-Aldo Leopold

Last name First name M.I.

Street Address

City State Zip Code

Cell Phone () - Email:

**Return to: Orangeburg County SWCD, 1550 Henley St. NE, Room 103
Orangeburg, SC 29115**



2025 Application Information

This form may be emailed to either:

lrigden@orangeburgcounty.org or dcurlee@orangeburgcounty.org



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

2025 COMMISSIONERS (Local Government)

APPOINTED BY SC DNR Board

B. LOUISE HUGHES (Retiring in May after 27 years)

GEORGE ULMER, Treasurer (30 years)

ELECTED

Harold Donnelly, Chair

Jackie R. Fogle (Vice-chair)

Benjamin (Ben) Fogle

Associate

S.E. (Buddy) Felder

(waiting for approval by SC DNR Board to fill Mrs. Hughes position)

Jim Johnson

PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Conservation District Employees (County Employees)

Lisa Rigden

Diane D. Curlee

District Coordinator

Education Coordinator

Since our last report
Brittany Felder and Savannah Gibson have left.

SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR) (State Employees)

Hunter Bridges

Farm Bill Biologist for Orangeburg County

Garet Litwiler

Farm Bill Biologist will be assisting for a while

Will be stationed in Calhoun County

replaced

Dan R. Peebles, III

WFF-Wildlife Division - Region 3C

USDA-NRCS (Federal Employees)

(Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Antron Williams, Area Conservationist

Jennifer Cardona, District Conservationist

and

Christian Gonzalez, Soil Conservationist

replaced

Dextrin (Dex) Dorsey, District Conservationist

and

Khalia Giles, Soil Conservationist

Darryl V. Johnson, Soil Conservation Technician

His last day is April 30, 2025. Wishing him well in his retirement.