

# Conservation Districts

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**SC Conservation Districts 2021 Annual Report**

NASCA Meeting in Nashville, TN

Staff Sharing Session

Monday, October 24, 2022



# We are Conservation Districts/ SCDNR

Tyler Brown



Chris Workman



Brooke Myres



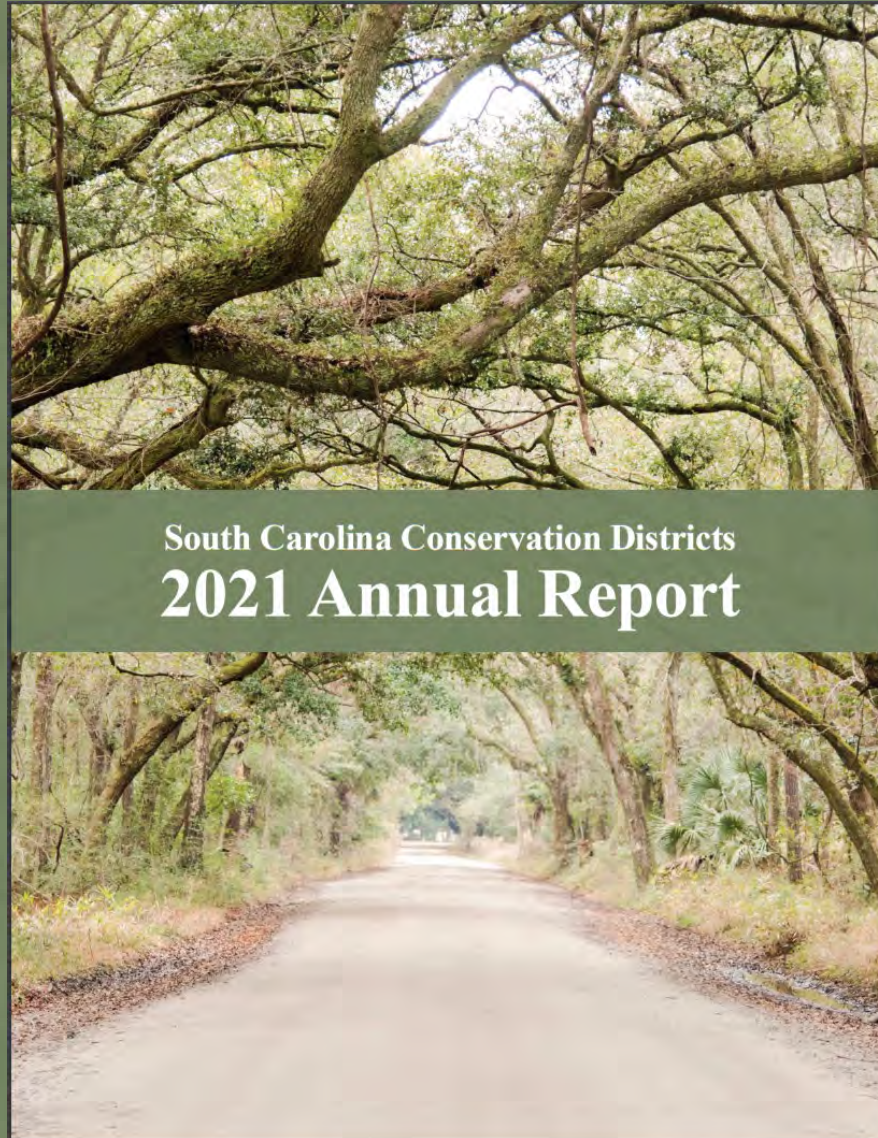
Deanne Myrick



MISSION: to promote, enhance and protect the wise use of soil and water for increased quality of life and the legacy of our land for the benefit of all South Carolinians



# What is the SC Conservation Districts Annual Report?



<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/conservation/pdf/ConservationDistrictsStatewideReport2021.pdf>

# Overview

46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in SC + SCDNR/Conservation Districts + SC Association of Conservation Districts  
5 Commissioners in each district = 230 SWCD Commissioners

## Highlighting today:

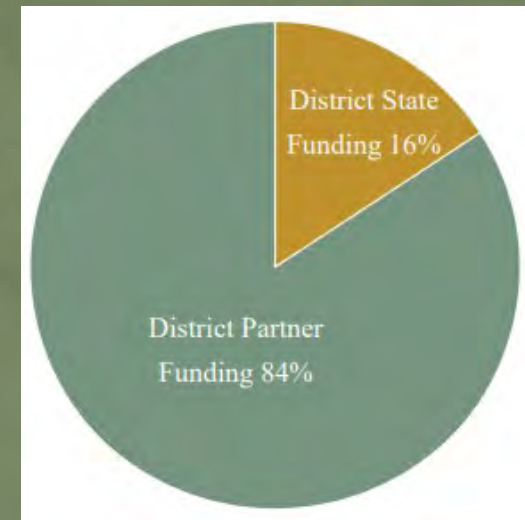
- Why we developed the annual report
- How we developed it
- Positive impacts/results
- Future plans and ideas to improve it

# Why we developed it

Conservation Districts work hard to promote & establish the wise use of soil and water resources, making contributions with valuable impacts.

To showcase our conservation champions in a clear & concise way

- Every \$1 of state appropriated funds to districts = \$5 on average leveraged to implement conservation programs in SC
- 30,000+ students & 20,000+ adults served: (Farm Bill Programs; Gardening, Seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Special events, Stormwater, Pollinator, etc. workshops/programs)
- 4,000+ acres impacted by conservation rental equipment
- SC Envirothon State Champs took 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall at 2021 national competition



# How we developed it

Ideas to action to results

- Everything happens at once (kick off 3,4,5,... projects at once)
- Brainstorming sessions to commitment with timeline
- Huddle up and hold on, Friday's coming
- Working straight through another pandemic setback, sped us up vs slowing us down
- Monthly reports and motivated participants
- Give our people who submit the info time & make it user friendly
- Gain trust for the outcome
- Deliver a report to make everyone involved proud



# How we developed it

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Biggest Achievement of 2021

Click here to input a photo of accomplishment then enter a description of accomplishment below

### Other Notable Accomplishments

Click here to input a photo of another accomplishment then enter a description above

### Conservation by the Numbers

### 2022 District Plans

## Template #1

### SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### Biggest Achievement of 2021

The ABC Soil and Water Conservation District launched a seed library that distributed 500 seed envelopes to over 150 citizens county wide through funding from the ABCDE partnership grant with an in-kind match from the district. Partners included the local library, Clemson Extension, and a local seed and feed. Plans for 2022 Seed Library are underway with a goal to increase number of seed envelopes sent by at least 100 envelopes.

Seed libraries are an excellent opportunity to spread awareness about where food comes from and agriculture 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 sending out seed packets, 4 workshops were held on how to grow container gardens with seeds included in the seed library. We are very excited to see how the program and partnerships grows in the coming years!



Above photo is of tomatoes grown by one of the seed library recipients.



Above photo is from a container gardening workshop held in conjunction with seed library.

#### Other Notable Accomplishments



Three rain barrel workshops were hosted reaching 42 landowners across the county who installed rain barrels at their homes.



An easement was placed on a property protecting 1 mile of stream bank and over 200 acres of forest.

#### Conservation by the Numbers

- 175 landowners served with conservation technical assistance to put conservation on the ground
- 225 acres of farmland protected through district's conservation easement program
- 150 landowners educated about urban conservation strategies
- 225 students taught about storm water and recycling

#### 2022 District Plans

- Host 5 youth or landowner workshops on pertinent conservation topics
- Find an SC Envirothon team
- Attain 20 affiliate memberships
- Participate in the SCACD Poster Contest
- Apply for 3 grants to fund outreach and education

## Template #2

### SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### Biggest Achievement of 2021



The ABC Soil and Water Conservation District launched a seed library that distributed 500 seed envelopes to over 150 citizens county wide through funding from the ABCDE partnership grant with an in-kind match from the district. Partners included the local library, Clemson Extension, and a local seed and feed. Plans for 2022 Seed Library are underway with a goal to increase number of seed envelopes sent by at least 100 envelopes.

Seed libraries are an excellent opportunity to spread awareness about where food comes from and agriculture 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 sending out seed packets, 4 workshops were held on how to grow container gardens with seeds included in the seed library. We are very excited to see how the program and partnerships grows in the coming years!

#### Other Notable Accomplishments

The district hosted three rain barrel workshops in partnership with NRCS, reaching 42 landowners across the county. Each of these landowners leased about storm water runoff and how to make a plan to mitigate it on their property. Each landowner built and brought home a rain barrel to be installed at their home. Funding for the rain barrel workshops came from a grant received from the ABC foundation.



#### Conservation by the Numbers

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## Template #3

### SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### Biggest Achievement of 2021

The ABC Soil and Water Conservation District launched a seed library that distributed 500 seed envelopes to over 150 citizens county wide through funding from the ABCDE partnership grant with an in-kind match from the district. Partners included the local ABCD library, Clemson Extension, and a local seed and feed. In conjunction with sending out seed packets, four workshops were held on how to grow container gardens with seeds included in the seed library. Workshop locations were chosen with the least amount of food resources and therefore most at risk for being a food desert.

Seed libraries are an excellent opportunity to spread awareness about where food comes from and the basics of agriculture 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. Plans for 2022 Seed Library are underway with a goal to increase number of seed envelopes sent by at least 100 envelopes and to host an additional two workshops.

This program would not be possible without the support and dedicated hard work of the Soil and Water Conservation District volunteers. They spent many hours shuffling seed envelopes, filling and sending requested seed orders, and attending workshops. We are so grateful for the district's volunteer network.

The grant will sustain the program for the next four years. During year three funding and partnership from local businesses will be sought show casing the success of the program thus far in hopes to sustain the program past the planned four years. We are very excited to see how the program and partnerships grow in the coming years!

#### Other Notable Accomplishments



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# How we developed it

Taking ideas into action

## Conservation District Annual Reporting - DEADLINE January 7, 2022



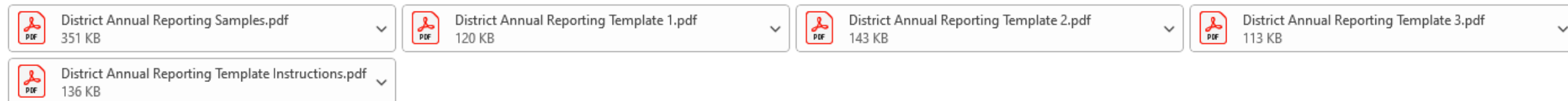
Tyler Brown

Reply Reply All Forward

To Aiken Conservation District; Allendale Conservation District (bob.connelly2@sc.nacdnet.net); Anderson Conservation District; Bamberg Conservation District; Barnwell Conservation District; Beaufort Conservation District; Berkeley Conservation District; Calhoun Conservation District; Chanda Cooper Richland Conservation District; Charleston Conservation District; +38 others  
Cc Ken Rentiers; Robert H. Boyles, Jr.; Pilewski, Lynn; Brooke J. Myres; Deanne F. Myrick; Chris Workman; Sterling Sadler; Bill Simpson; Dean Moss; Diane Edwins; James McLeod; Larry Nates; Mark F. Hartley (doctorhartley@comcast.net); Marvin Davant; Patricia Hartung; Tom Garrison; Webb Smathers; williamlglenn@gmail.com; Barbara Padget; Ben S; Bryant Sansbury; Jeff Wilson; +6 others

Mon 10/18/2021 10:27

Follow up. Start by Monday, October 18, 2021. Due by Monday, October 18, 2021.  
You forwarded this message on 10/20/2021 3:28 PM.  
This message was sent with High importance.



Conservation Family:

We are very excited to launch our new Annual Reporting process for Conservation Districts statewide. This report will showcase 2021 Conservation Districts accomplishments in South Carolina. It will contain reports from SCDNR, SCACD, SCCDEA, the Conservation Districts Foundation and each individual district. To make this an easier and more cohesive process, we have created three fillable PDFs to be used as **Annual Reporting Templates** (attached -along with instructions and samples). Look through the samples and choose one of the three designs that best suits your district, fill it in, and email it to Deanne Myrick ([myrickd@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:myrickd@dnr.sc.gov)). If you have any trouble with the fillable PDF, reach out to Deanne or Brooke Myres ([myresb@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:myresb@dnr.sc.gov)).

**District Annual Reports are due to Deanne Myrick no later than Friday, January 7, 2022.**

Thank you all for your continued efforts to promote conservation in South Carolina!

Tyler Brown  
Program Manager  
Conservation Districts





# Tyler Brown NASCA Exec. Board

Working on a big project

Disturb only if you have food,  
beer or scotch

--- Management



# Positive Impacts & Results

How we used the finished product:

- State Association hosts “Legislative Day”
- Branding and storytelling in a single publication (online also)
- Powerful & dynamic catalyst in obtaining additional funding for every district (total \$460,000.00)
- Proves accountability/transparency and positive promotion of conservation



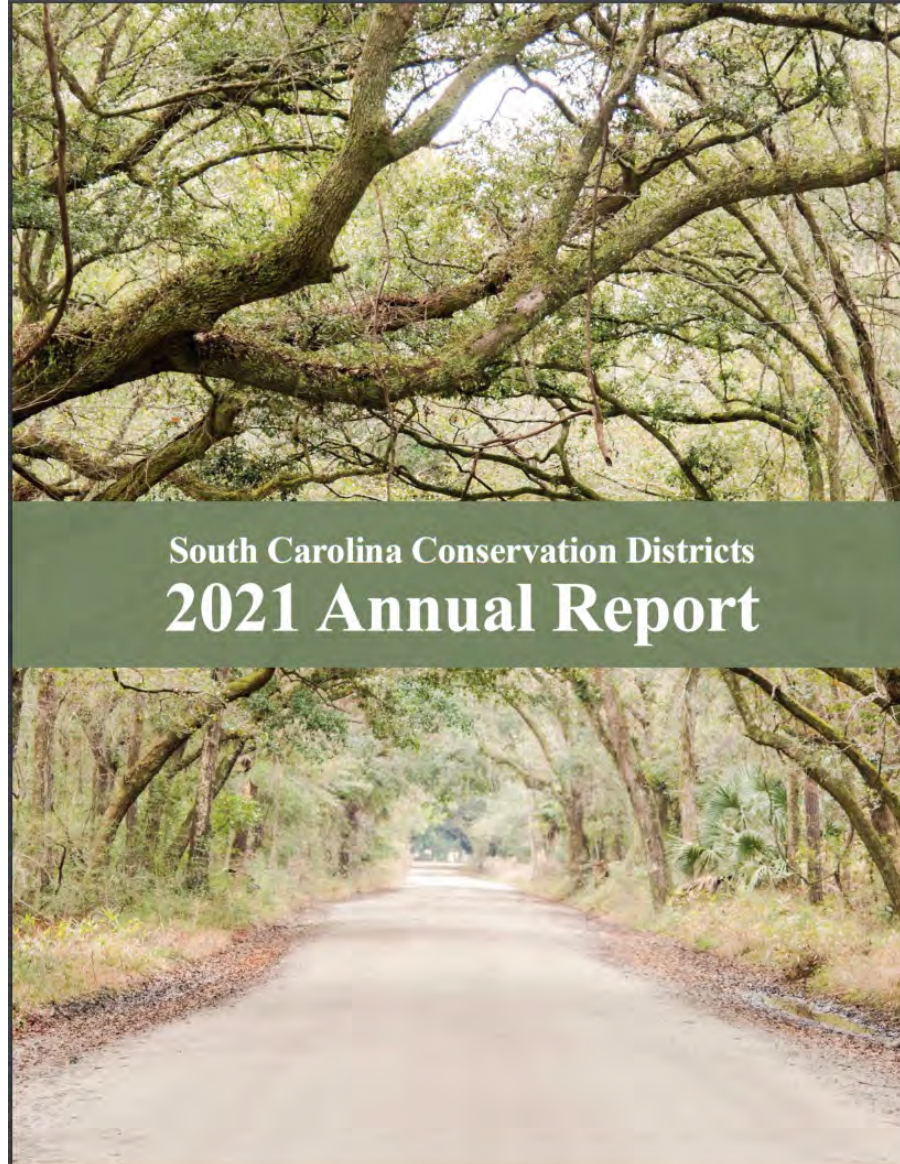
# Future plans to enhance and improve it

- 2021 onward: recurring requirement
- A few “lessons learned” along the way (template functions/deadline marker well ahead of “need by” date/etc.
- Need ideas/input/recommendations/suggestions

- Deanne Myrick [myrickd@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:myrickd@dnr.sc.gov)
- Brooke Myres [myresb@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:myresb@dnr.sc.gov)
- Chris Workman [workman@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:workman@dnr.sc.gov)
- Tyler Brown [brownty@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:brownty@dnr.sc.gov)

THANK YOU!





<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/conservation/pdf/ConservationDistrictsStatewideReport2021.pdf>