

2023 SC ADOPT-A-STREAM Annual Report



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

2023 marked South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream's (SC AAS) sixth year as a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program. Volunteers learn to collect baseline, non-regulatory data on freshwater streams, tidal saltwaters, and macroinvertebrate communities by attending free workshops.

2023

Sampling Events	1,729	Volunteer Hours	3,169
Sites Sampled	254	Active Volunteers	321
New Sites	94	Alerts Generated	63

Certified volunteers submit data into a secure database that can be viewed by anyone. The database sends automatic alerts of potential pollution concerns to increase awareness. Volunteer data can be used for screening purposes, decision making, STEM education, grants, MS4 permit compliance, and watershed management plans. This helps communities protect and restore our beautiful waterways.

SUCCESS STORIES

In 2023, the program continued to expand statewide. The coastal region saw a booming increase in activity thanks to dedicated trainers, enthusiastic volunteers, and many new sites adopted. Student connection grew through high school, camp, and university involvement. Our trainers helped promote community engagement: one hosted an event for volunteers to share data and celebrate their accomplishments; another collaborated with a local business to create an AAS video promotion. At their sites, our volunteers reported pollution concerns and organized litter cleanups. After advocating for the water quality at their stream, one pair even noticed a new beaver dam!

WHAT'S TO COME?

In 2024, focus will be on launching our new Lake monitoring protocol, a virtual training. Follow our [e-news](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) for updates on events and upcoming workshops!



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 2nd Annual Reflections, a volunteer appreciation event
- Created **Macroinvertebrate handbook**
- Added transparency to **Freshwater** monitoring protocol
- SC Adopt-a-Stream Atlas, a new watershed tool

43
Workshops

502
Certifications

Most Active Counties:

Greenville, Charleston, and Anderson counties had the most SC AAS sites per county, and **Charleston** took the lead for most new sites adopted in 2023.

Most Active Groups:

CWK Creek Watcher, South Fork Edisto Paddlers, Stormydaysamplers, Town of Fort Mill, Stream Sisters II, North Pacolet Area, Black River

2017 - 2023 SUMMARY

Sampling Events	6,040
Sites Sampled	566
# Certifications	3,145
Volunteer Hours	11,004
# WQ Alerts	280
Volunteer Contributions	\$444,552