

2024 SC ADOPT-A-STREAM ANNUAL REPORT



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

2024 marked South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream's (SC AAS) seventh year as a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program. Volunteers attend free workshops and learn to collect baseline, non-regulatory data on local waterways. The program offers certification in four different protocols: freshwater stream, tidal saltwater, lake, and macroinvertebrate monitoring.

Certified volunteers submit data into a publicly viewable database. Volunteer data can be used for screening, decision making, STEM education, grants, MS4 permit compliance, and watershed management plans. This helps communities protect and improve waterways.

2024

Sampling Events	1,842	Volunteer Hours	3,190
Sites Sampled	293	Active Volunteers	346
New Sites	108	Alerts Generated	72

SUCCESS STORIES

In 2024, SC AAS continued to expand across the state. Student connection grew through high school, camp, and university involvement, and SC AAS now qualifies as a Green Steps sustainability project for schools. SC AAS also collaborated with the SCDES EJ Strong program to promote environmental justice.

Volunteers teamed up with local partners to host and attend community service events such as litter pickups and habitat restorations. Lake monitoring launched in conjunction with a paddling race that raised funds for SC AAS kits. Volunteers identified and reported broken sewer pipes, pump station failures, diesel spills, and failed best management practices (BMPs). Trainers and partner organizations engaged communities by recruiting SC AAS volunteers for additional monitoring projects.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched lake monitoring program
- Added kit loan locations to the online SC AAS Atlas
- Debuted new SCDES website and updated resources

43

Workshops

614

Certifications

WHAT'S TO COME?

- Updated mission, vision, and goals for the program
- New tidal saltwater monitoring handbook
- Year-round online recertification
- More digital resources

2017 - 2024 SUMMARY

Sampling Events	7,882
Sites Sampled	668
# Certifications	3,750
Volunteer Hours	14,267
# Water Quality Alerts	352
Volunteer Contributions	\$489,707



SC DEPARTMENT of
ENVIRONMENTAL
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SC Adopt-a-Stream