



Hear what our volunteers have to say about WV Project CommuniTree!

"It gives us great pleasure to return something to nature. WV Project CommuniTree gave us that opportunity."

-Dennis Rogers, Executive Director, Grant County Housing Authority

"We loved the communion of people that just want to do good things for the environment. All the people involved will all be able to show their families for years to come the progress of what just a few people can do to help our environment."

-Darrell Propst, Conservation Committee, Leetown Chapter of Izaak Walton League

"My favorite part was the satisfaction of completing the project and improving the campus. The trees just look great!"

-Deb Stevens, Science Teacher, Musselman High School

"As a member of Opequon Creek Project Team, I really enjoy planting trees along the river. It is my way of passing a healthier environment to the next generation."

-Gary Sylvester, Project Leader, Opequon Creek Project Team

"The large trees provided by CommuniTree make an immediate and noticeable impact on the school campus. We all look forward to the shade and beauty they will provide."

-Carolyn Thomas, Science Teacher, Wildwood Middle School

For more information, please visit our website or contact:

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West Virginia Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and Enhancement



Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) is a measure of the trees we live with, the trees that grace our neighborhoods, towns, parks, schools, and roadsides. WV UTC is a collaborative project of the USDA Forest Service, WV Conservation Agency, WV Division of Forestry, WV Division of Highways, and Cacapon Institute.

This collaborative project is working with local government agencies and volunteers to improve our UTC and develop land management strategies at county and municipal levels. Strategies include assessing UTC to determine high priority planting areas, setting UTC goals, and fostering tree planting initiatives. These strategies are increasing the public benefits of UTC such as cleaner air, shade, and less stormwater runoff pollution, not to mention the beauty trees add. Assessing and enhancing UTC is a practical and effective means for urban forestry to positively influence these issues.

As part of this collaboration, CTree enhances UTC by working with citizens and communities to plant trees where they live—in their neighborhoods, along their streets and roadsides, in their parks, and at their schools.



WV Project CommuniTree

2012 Report



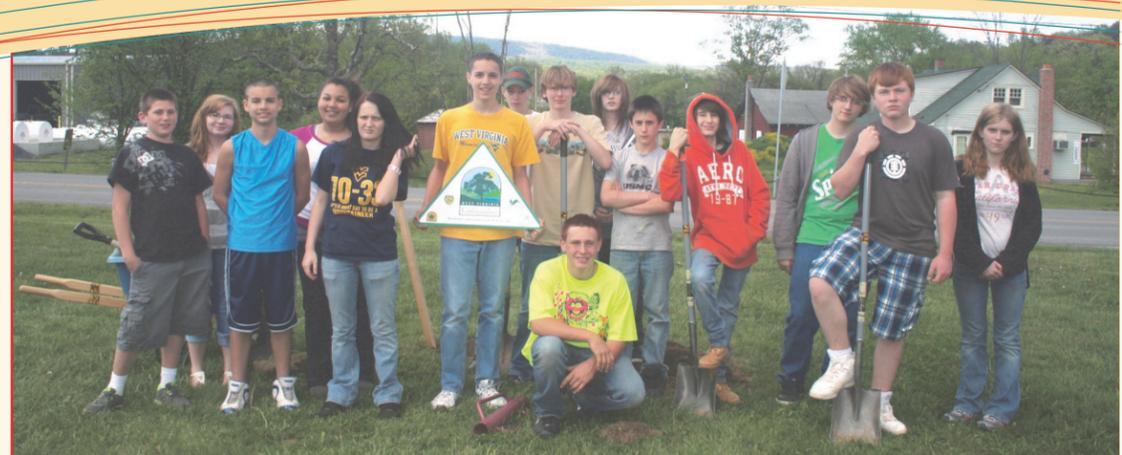
Cacapon Institute

From the Cacapon River to the Potomac to the Chesapeake Bay we protect rivers and watersheds using science and education.

Founded in 1985, Cacapon Institute has grown from a local watershed research and protection group to an organization reaching a broad audience across the Mid-Atlantic.

Our online Potomac Highlands Watershed School is used by tens of thousands of students. Our science projects include watershed research and urban tree canopy studies. As problem solvers we develop real-world conservation projects. We facilitate community and school based hands-on watershed conservation across the Potomac Highlands, Shenandoah Valley, and downstream to the Bay.

Cacapon Institute is an active participant in the WV Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team and Chesapeake Bay Program.



West Virginia Project CommuniTree (CTree) promotes tree planting and education on public land through volunteerism in the Potomac Headwaters of West Virginia (Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, & Pendleton counties).

The program also focuses on enhancing and promoting awareness of watershed and riparian area needs such as storm water management, water quality issues, buffer zone planting, and soil erosion. The project is entirely volunteer based and engages stakeholders in the process of making priority decisions within their respective communities.

CTree is a program of the WV Conservation Agency and the WV Potomac Tributary Team that is engaged in on-the-ground actions throughout the Potomac Highlands.

CTree and its partners invite organizations and agencies to apply for CTree Kits to organize, coordinate, and implement urban tree plantings through a competitive grant process. Groups can apply bi-annually for CTree Kits for spring and fall plantings. CTree Kits include trees in a variety of species and stock sizes, tree tubes or cages for deer protection, and mulch to foster good root growth.

Successful CTree applicants will receive technical assistance from CTree partners, including WV Division of Forestry and WV Conservation Agency.



Spring Awards

- Leetown Izaak Walton League
- Wildwood Middle School
- Capon Bridge Middle School
- Paw Paw K-12 School
- East Hardy Middle School
- Berkeley Co. Farmland Protection Board
- South Branch Watershed Association
- Opequon Creek Project Team
- Eastern Panhandle Trailblazers
- Moorefield Elementary School



Fall Awards

- Izaak Walton League
- Jefferson County Parks and Recreation
- Musselman High School
- Moorefield Elementary School
- Grant County Housing Authority
- Berkeley Springs Tree Board
- WV Department of Natural Resources
- South Jefferson Elementary School
- Wildwood Middle School
- Paw Paw K-12 School
- Opequon Creek Project Team

“Building Communities from the Roots Up”

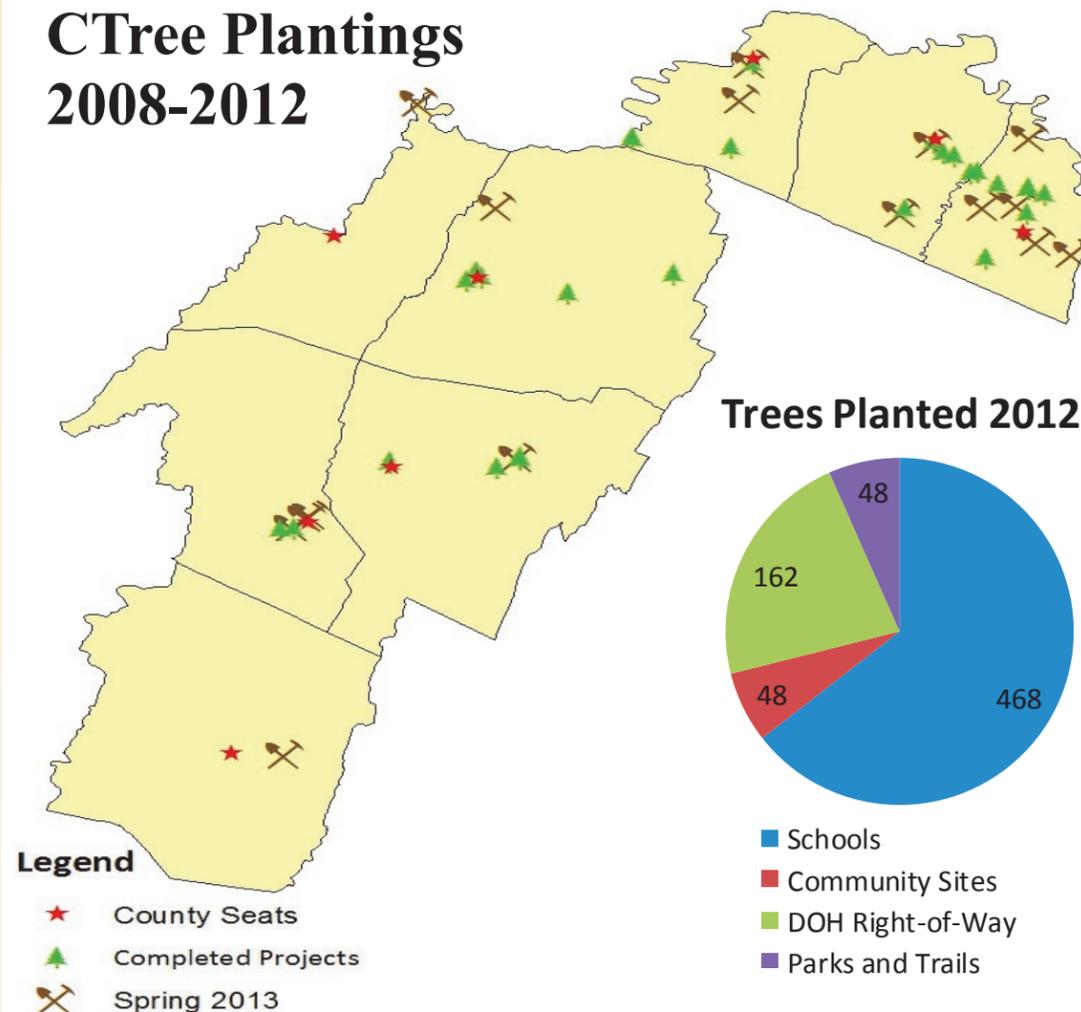
CTree builds communities from the roots up by engaging citizens in education and volunteerism. In 2012, CTree engaged volunteers across the Potomac Headwaters in 21 urban tree plantings at schools, parks, road right-of-ways, and other community spaces.

Together, nearly 1,400 volunteers planted a total of 726 urban trees at planting sites across the Potomac Highlands. Teachers and students, adults and youth, seasoned volunteers and first-time tree planters came together in 2012 to plant native trees in their streets, communities, and neighborhoods. It was through their dedication and hard work that CTree was able to succeed in 2012. Logging nearly 2,500 volunteer hours, these citizens exemplify what it means to build a community from the roots up.

2012 Quick Facts

- 21 Tree Plantings
- 726 Trees Planted
- 1,329 Volunteers
- 2,402 Volunteer Hours
- \$48,987 in-kind services

CTree Plantings 2008-2012

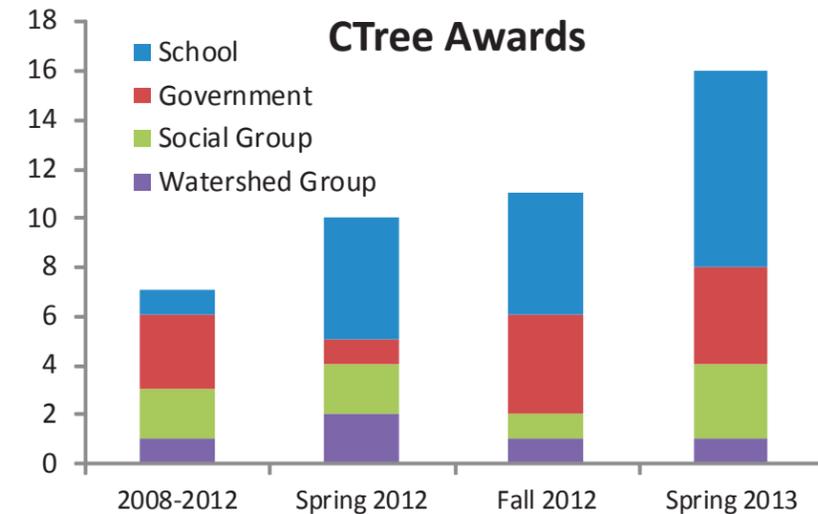


CommuniTree Growth Over Time

Just as our trees grow and mature, so does WV Project CommuniTree. CTree’s modest roots began in 2008 in Moorefield, WV with a model group of citizens interested in protecting their lands and waters through tree plantings that engage the community in education and volunteerism.

Between 2008-2011, CTree engaged multiple communities throughout the Potomac Headwaters in tree planting events that centered around building communities from the roots up—communities that understand the value of urban trees and that work to protect, preserve, and enhance their urban tree canopy. Through the hard work of volunteers and organizational oversight provided by the WV Conservation Agency, CTree’s impact across the Potomac Headwaters continually grew. In 2011, CTree joined the “WV Urban Tree Canopy Assessment & Enhancement” project. CTree plays a critical role in this project as the designated partnership responsible for urban and community tree plantings. Under this project, CTree is overseen by Cacapon Institute.

By 2012, CTree had grown from a seedling to a mature tree engaging volunteers across the Potomac Headwaters. An innovative and efficient process—providing CTree Kits directly in place of monetary reimbursement upon project completion—allowed many groups to apply that would have been unable to spend the money up front. CTree is currently developing projects with 16 groups for Spring 2013 plantings.



Volunteer Highlight

Leetown Izaak Walton League



The Conservation Committee of the Leetown Chapter of the Izaak Walton League (IWL) successfully completed consecutive WV Project CommuniTree plantings in spring and fall 2012.

In spring 2012, the IWL planted 24 flowering trees with students and faculty at North Jefferson Elementary School. In fall 2012, the IWL planted 12 shade trees along the Route 9 Bike Path.

The IWL is just one of many extraordinary examples of organizations that have participated in WV Project CommuniTree and who are dedicated to protecting the environment through the proper planting and maintenance of urban tree canopy.