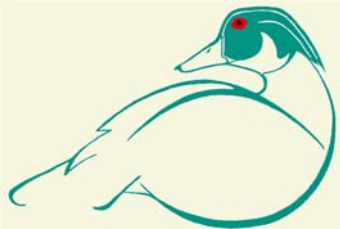


WV Project CommuniTree

2013 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 and 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 Bay Tributary Team and Chesapeake Bay Program.



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

The program also focuses on enhancing urban tree canopy (UTC) and promoting awareness of watershed and riparian area needs such as stormwater management, improved water quality, buffer zone planting, and erosion prevention. 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

Berkeley Springs High
 Blue Ridge Watershed Association
 Brandywine Elementary
 City of Carpendale
 City of Ranson
 Grant County Housing Authority
 Jefferson County Parks and Recreation
 Martinsburg High
 Moorefield Intermediate
 Morgan County Commission
 Musselman WET Club
 Petersburg Elementary
 Petersburg High
 Shepherd University Environmental Org.
 South Branch Watershed Coalition
 St. James Knights of Columbus

“Building Communities from the Roots Up”

CTree builds communities from the roots up by engaging citizens in education and volunteerism. In 2013, CTree engaged volunteers across the Potomac Headwaters in 26 urban tree plantings at schools, parks, road right-of-ways, and other community spaces.

Together, over 1,700 volunteers planted a total of 1,032 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 2013 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 2013. Logging over 2,700 volunteer hours, these citizens exemplify “building communities from the roots up”

2013 Quick Facts

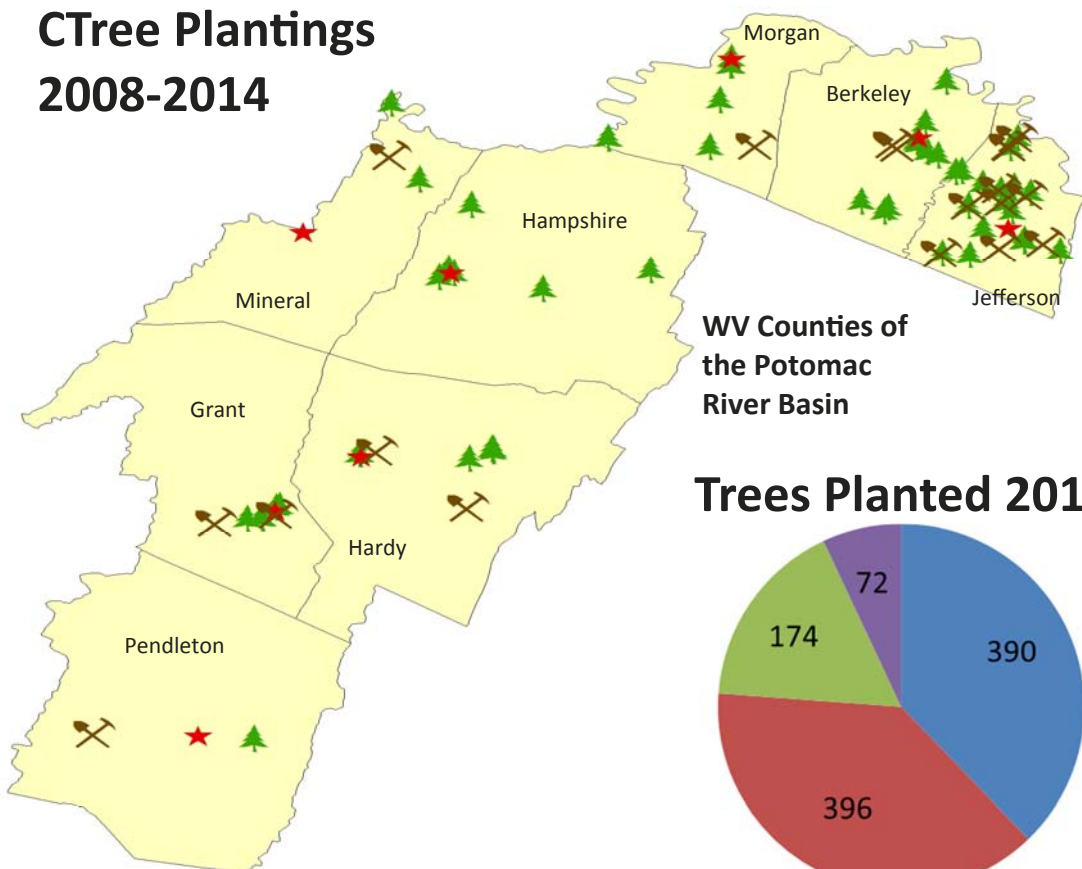
- 26 Tree Plantings
- 1,032 Trees Planted
- 1,748 Volunteers
- 2,724 Volunteer Hours
- \$66,431 in-kind services



Fall Awards

Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks and Rec
 Elks Run Watershed Group
 Mountain Ridge Intermediate
 Riverside Design LLC & Western MD Junior Chamber of Commerce
 Shepherdstown Community Club
 St. James Knights of Columbus
 St. Joseph Knights of Columbus
 Town of Bath
 Tuscawilla Hills HOA
 Wildwood Middle

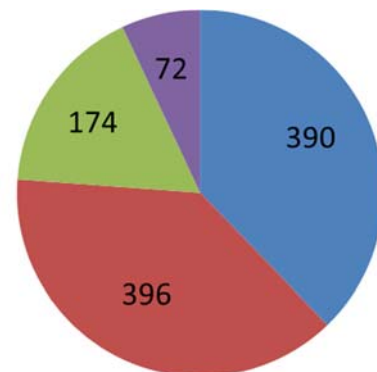
CTree Plantings 2008-2014



- Spring 2014 Projects (19)
- County Seats
- Completed Projects (56)

WV Counties of the Potomac River Basin

Trees Planted 2013



- Schools
- Community Sites
- DOH Right-of-Way
- Parks and Trails



Volunteer Highlight Wildwood Middle School

Wildwood Middle School has held environmental education days since 2009. Under the direction of teachers, including Charity Marstiller, Caroline Moffat, and Carolyn Thomas, students have planted well over 100 trees. They have supported Jefferson County's Urban Tree Canopy Goal since 2010.



In spring and fall of 2012 Ctree provided kits for plantings along the parking lot for shade, stormwater runoff pollution reduction and erosion control. In spring 2013, they installed a rain garden and exemplified stewardship by mulching existing trees. Fall 2013 was their third CTree project as they planted 24 trees and shrubs for wildlife habitat.

Congratulations to Wildwood Middle School! Keep up the good work!

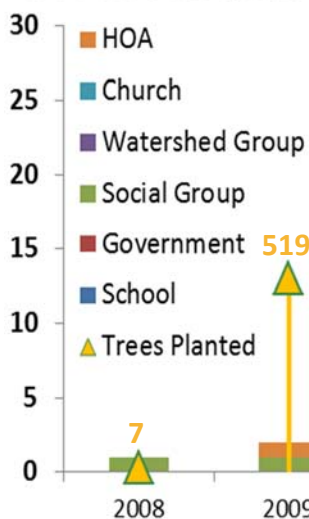
A Word From Founding Member Carla Hardy

It has been exciting to be involved and watch WV Project CommuniTree grow from an impromptu tree planting at Baker Park during the fall of 2008 into an organized, fully funded volunteer based program. The late Arthur Halterman was one of the first organizers and founders of CTree. He would be proud to see how many volunteers, young and old, have stepped up to the plate to plant trees within their communities over the past six years.

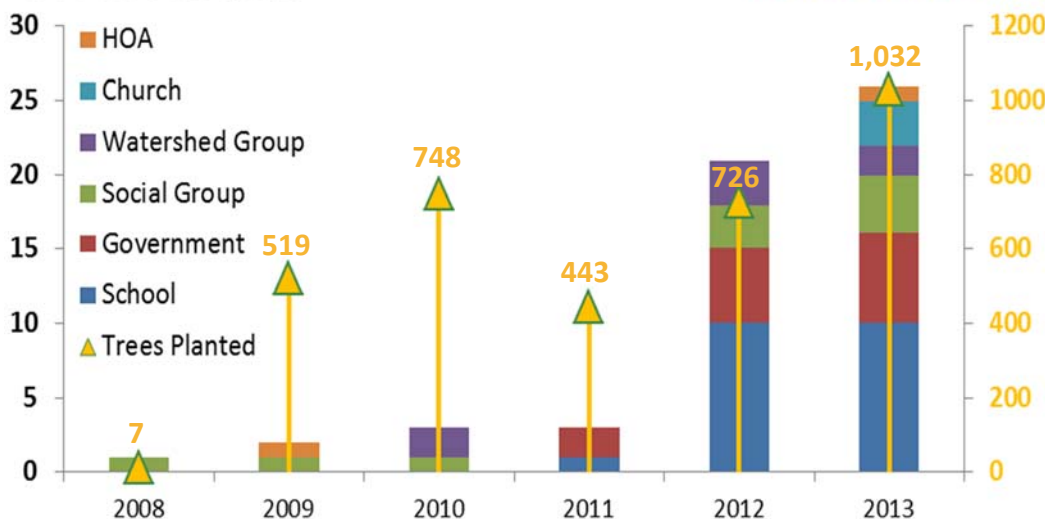
These trees will serve generations to come. Trees impact us in so many ways- they protect the environment from floods, erosion, drought and the impact of climate change. They provide wood, non-timber products, food sources, energy, homes for flora and fauna, biodiversity preservation, medicinal herbs, water, oxygen and are a source of nature tourism for our great state. As CTree has grown in popularity across the Potomac Headwaters, the economic and environmental benefits our volunteers are providing with their time and dedication is commendable. Not only are they planting memories, they are planting opportunities!

-Carla Hardy, Watershed Program Coordinator for WVCA

CTree Awards



Trees Planted





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

"It was a great pleasure to have worked with the youth living on site. Projects such as this helps them to take pride in where they live."

-Dennis Rogers, Executive Director, Grant County Housing Authority

"The student volunteers learned a great deal from the tree planting experience, from grant writing and environmental stewardship to community building and volunteering."

-Adam Cook, FFA Teacher, Martinsburg High School

"The CTree representatives were magnificent—they were always available to answer questions and give advice. "

-Arthur Wineburg, Board Member, Shepherdstown Community Club

"Learning happens in so many ways and in so many forums. It is nice, as a teacher, to be able to bring non-traditional learning situations to our students."

-Sheena Vanmeter, Principal, Moorefield Intermediate School

"Every time the volunteers drive by they can feel proud that they planted those trees. Offering people an easy opportunity to care about something is a win for all."

-Beth Brent, President, Elks Run Watershed Group

For more information,
click on the Forestry tab.
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West Virginia Urban Tree Canopy

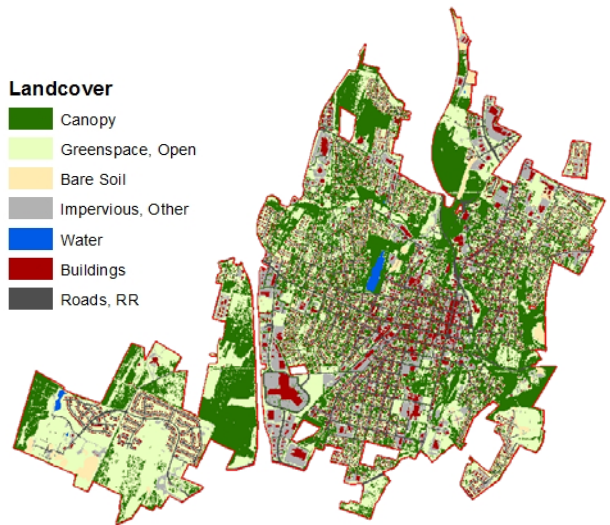
Assessment and Enhancement



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

This project has recently completed a UTC assessment for The City of Martinsburg and is working on developing a street tree inventory for The Town of Bath. **More information on these studies can be found on the publications page at www.cacaponinstitute.org.**



Martinsburg Urban Tree Canopy Assessment