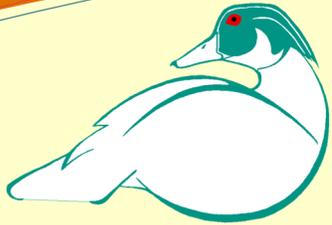


# WV Project CommuniTree

## 2015 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, CI has grown from a local watershed research and protection group to an organization reaching a broad audience across the Mid-Atlantic.

Our vision is a future where polluted watersheds are history. As educators we teach students first and then, through them, we reach the larger community. As problem solvers we find solutions and build partnerships to address environmental problems. As fact finders we research watershed issues of importance. As foresters we are creating healthy communities alive with trees.

We coordinate the [Potomac Watershed Partnership](#), working to protecting the lands and waters of the Potomac River Basin. CI is an active participant in the WV DEP Chesapeake Bay Program and contributes to the [EPA Chesapeake Bay Program's](#) Education and Forestry workgroups in Annapolis.



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

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

CTree plantings are entirely volunteer based and engage stakeholders in the process of making priority decisions within their respective communities.

CTree is supported by the [WV DEP Chesapeake Bay Program](#) including [WV Conservation Agency](#), [WV Division of Forestry](#), [Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council](#), and Cacapon Institute. We offer volunteers an opportunity to be engaged in on-the-ground actions throughout the Potomac Highlands.

We invite community organizations to apply for CTree and to organize, coordinate, and implement urban tree plantings. Groups are encouraged to 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.



## Spring Awards

- [Berkeley County Council](#)
- [Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority](#)
- [Breckenridge HOA](#)
- [Camp Frame 4H Assoc.](#)
- [City of Ranson](#)
- [Deerfield Village HOA](#)
- [Eagle Intermediate](#)
- [Frankfort Intermediate](#)
- [Franklin Elementary](#)
- [Grant County Extension Service](#)
- [Hammond's Mill HOA](#)
- [Hampshire High](#)
- [Moorefield High School Envirothon Team](#)
- [Paw Paw K-12 School](#)
- [Shepherd Env. Organization](#)
- [Sleepy Creek Watershed Association](#)
- [TA Lowery Elementary](#)
- [Village of Washington Trail HOA](#)



## Fall Awards

- [Berkeley County Council](#)
- [Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition](#)
- [City of Charles Town](#)
- [Fairways West HOA](#)
- [Hammond's Mill HOA](#)
- [Moorefield Parks & Rec](#)
- [Page Jackson Elementary](#)
- [Pendleton County Extension Service](#)
- [Quad/Graphics Inc.](#)
- [Tabler Station Manor HOA](#)
- [Village of Washington Trail HOA](#)
- [Warm Springs Watershed Association](#)
- [Wildflower Ridge HOA](#)

# "Building Communities from the Roots Up"

CTree builds communities from the roots up by engaging citizens in education and volunteerism. In 2015, CTree engaged volunteers in 31 urban tree plantings at schools, parks, road right-of-ways, business parks, and other community spaces.

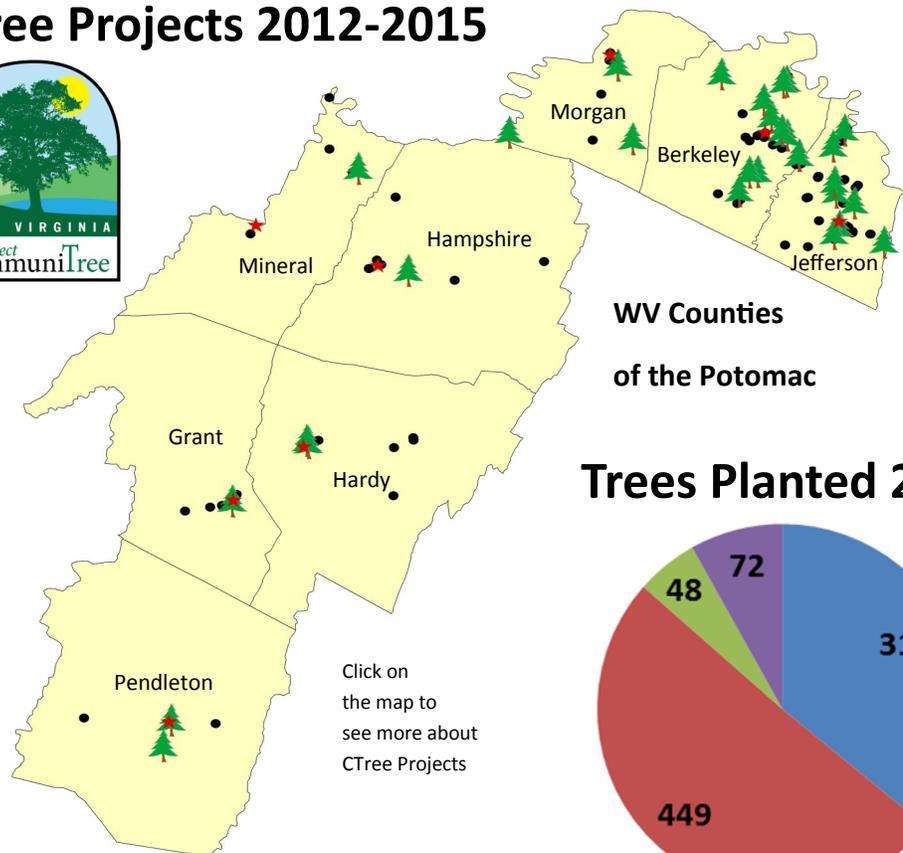
Together more than 2,300 volunteers planted a total of 888 urban trees at planting sites across the Potomac Highlands. Teachers and students, adults and youth, seasoned volunteers and first-time tree planters came together in 2015 to plant native trees along their streets and in their communities. It was through their

dedication and hard work that CTree was able to succeed in 2015. Logging nearly 3,900 volunteer hours, these citizens exemplify "Building Communities from the Roots Up!"

## 2015 Quick Facts

- **31** Tree Planting Events
- **888** Trees Planted
- **2,367** Volunteers
- **3,878** Volunteer Hours
- **\$77,957** Volunteer Contribution

## CTree Projects 2012-2015

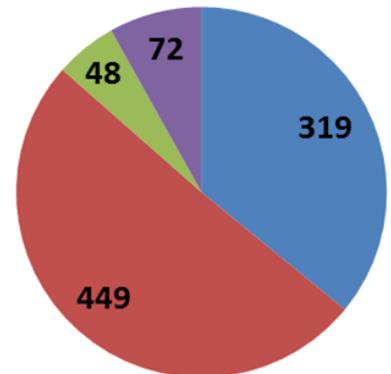


WV Counties of the Potomac

Click on the map to see more about CTree Projects

- 2015 Projects (31)
- Past Projects (76)
- County Seats

## Trees Planted 2015



- School
- Community
- DOH Right of Way
- Parks & Trails



## Volunteer Highlight

[Page Jackson Elementary School](#)



Students, staff, and parents from Page Jackson Elementary School in Charles Town planted a mix of 24 shade trees along the school's walking trail.

Twelve classes, ranging from grades K-2, worked with Cacapon Institute staff in-classroom to learn about the different parts of trees and the benefits of trees and tree canopy.

Over the course of two days, nearly 300 students planted the trees with the support of 15 teachers and 35 parents (a CTree record for the most parent volunteers at a planting).

The CTree Project Leader, Principal Tara Aycock, engaged the broader community and gained local spotlight on [WHAG-TV](#), [the Martinsburg Journal](#), and [JCS-TV Mascot Roundup](#).

## Reflections on WV Project CommuniTree

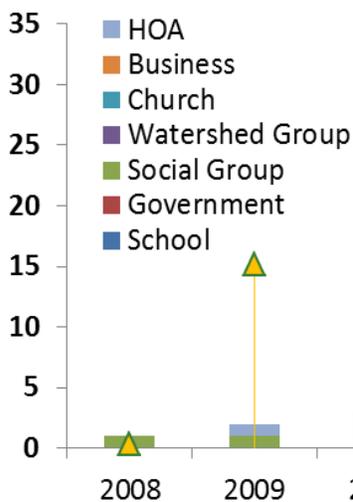
"CTree continues to provide significant benefits at the community level while addressing multiple state-wide issues. The [West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry](#) program has identified several key issues that are positively influenced by tree planting efforts and enhanced municipal forestry programs. CTree provides critical support with addressing these issues in several ways.

- Volunteer tree plantings help communities create long-term urban forestry programs.
- Planting trees in urban areas helps mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Urban trees filter and reduce particulate matter and airborne pollutants.
- Forested riparian buffers will significantly improve drinking water sources while helping to protect critical watersheds like the Chesapeake Bay.
- Increasing canopy cover can mitigate storm water runoff, slow water flow within urban areas, promote groundwater infiltration, and reduce flooding.

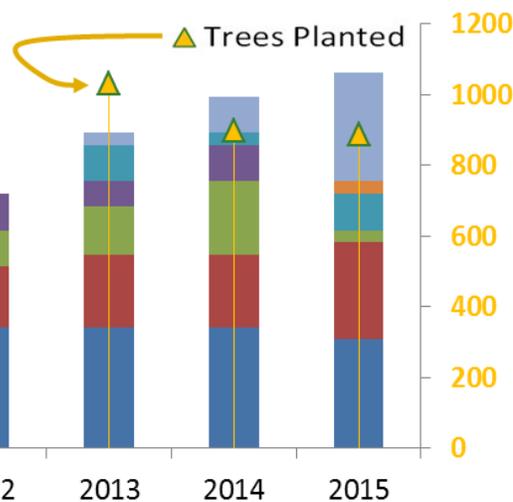
CTree is a tremendous success that demonstrates the significant role urban trees, volunteers, and collaboration all play in enhancing the quality of life for West Virginians."

-Bob Hannah, State Urban Forestry Coordinator, WV Division of Forestry

## CTree Awards



## Trees Planted





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

*"Blue Ridge Elementary students loved the actual planting. They really liked being outdoors and the hand on lessons."* -Carl Drumgoole, Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition

*"It was an excellent opportunity to make a positive impact to the plant as the improvements drive our companies core values."* -Anthony Lewis, Quad/Graphics Inc.

*"It is great that neighbors are able to come out of the homes and share laughs while planting trees and bettering the environment."*

-Rachel Dines, Villages of Washington Trail HOA

*"I think what made this event especially successful was the organization provided by the Girl Scouts. From beginning to end, they were full partners, and not just there to watch."*

-Kate Lehman, Warm Springs Watershed Association

*"I think that we all benefited from this experience by not only learning about tree varieties and how to plant them but by meeting each other and getting to know the community members a little better."*

-Jill Dunleavy, Wildflower Ridge HOA

This report is a publication of Cacapon Institute. Visit [CacaponInstitute.Org](http://CacaponInstitute.Org) or contact:

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## West Virginia Urban Tree Canopy Assessment & Enhancement



Existing Landcover at

Sam Michaels Park

95 acres of lawn &

33 acres of

Tree

Canopy



Proposed Landcover at

Sam Michaels Park

3 acres of

Landscape

Trees



9 acres of Reforestation

11 acres of Grasslands

Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) is the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above. WV UTC Assessment & Enhancement is a collaborative effort between the USDA Forest Service, WV Conservation Agency, Division of Forestry, Division of Highways, and Cacapon Institute.

We are working with local governments and volunteers to increase UTC by improving land management. 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 including cleaner air, more shade, and less stormwater runoff pollution. CTree enhances UTC by working with communities to plant trees where they live—in their neighborhoods, parks, schoolyards, churchyards, and on the roadside. (Inset: [Jefferson County Parks UTC Analysis](#). Fifty-seven acres of greenspace are proposed

for conversion to 6 acres of landscape trees, 40 acres of no-mow reforestation areas, and 11 acres of low-mow grasslands throughout the county's ten parks.) Please visit the Forestry Tab at [CacaponInstitute.Org](http://CacaponInstitute.Org) to read more about urban tree canopy assessment and enhancement projects.