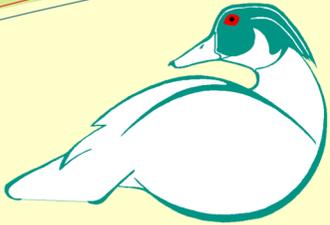


Carla Hardy

WV Project CommuniTree

2016 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 and the larger community how to become problem solvers and address environmental issues. As fact finders we research watershed issues of importance and help create healthy communities alive with trees. We strive to be inclusive and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, faith, or sexual orientation.

We coordinate the [Potomac Watershed Partnership](#), working to protect the lands and waters of the Potomac River Basin. CI is an active participant in the [WV DEP Chesapeake Bay Program](#) and contributor to the [EPA Chesapeake Bay Program](#).



Carla Hardy WV 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 a program of Cacapon Institute supported by the WV DEP Chesapeake Bay Program including WV Conservation Agency, WV Division of Forestry, and Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council. 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 (20)

- [Chapel View HOA](#)
- [Deerfield Village HOA](#)
- [Franklin Elem. School](#)
- [Green Meadows HOA](#)
- [Hammonds Mill HOA](#)
- [Moorefield Middle School](#)
- [Moorefield Town Park](#)
- [Nat'l Humane Edu. Society](#)
- [Olivet Cemetery Board](#)
- [Pendleton County Parks](#)
- [Pleasant View Elem. School](#)
- [Potomac Highlands Master Gardeners](#)
- [Quad/Graphics Inc.](#)
- [River Ridge HOA](#)
- [River Road Sodbusters 4-H Club](#)
- [Shepherd Env. Org.](#)
- [Spruce Hill North HOA](#)
- [Union Education Complex](#)
- [Villages of Washington Trails HOA](#)
- [Warm Springs Watershed Association](#)



Fall Awards (14)

- [Burlington United Methodist Family Services](#)
- [Charles Town Parks & Rec.](#)
- [Fairways of Stonebridge HOA](#)
- [Hammonds Mill HOA](#)
- [James Rumsey Technical Institute](#)
- [Moorefield Middle School](#)
- [Mourning Dove Estates HOA](#)
- [Nat'l Humane Edu. Society](#)
- [Olivet Cemetery Board](#)
- [Potomac Highlands Guild](#)
- [South Fork Ruritan Club](#)
- [Spruce Hill North HOA](#)
- [Tomahawk Int. School](#)
- [Windmill Crossing HOA](#)

“Building Communities from the Roots Up”

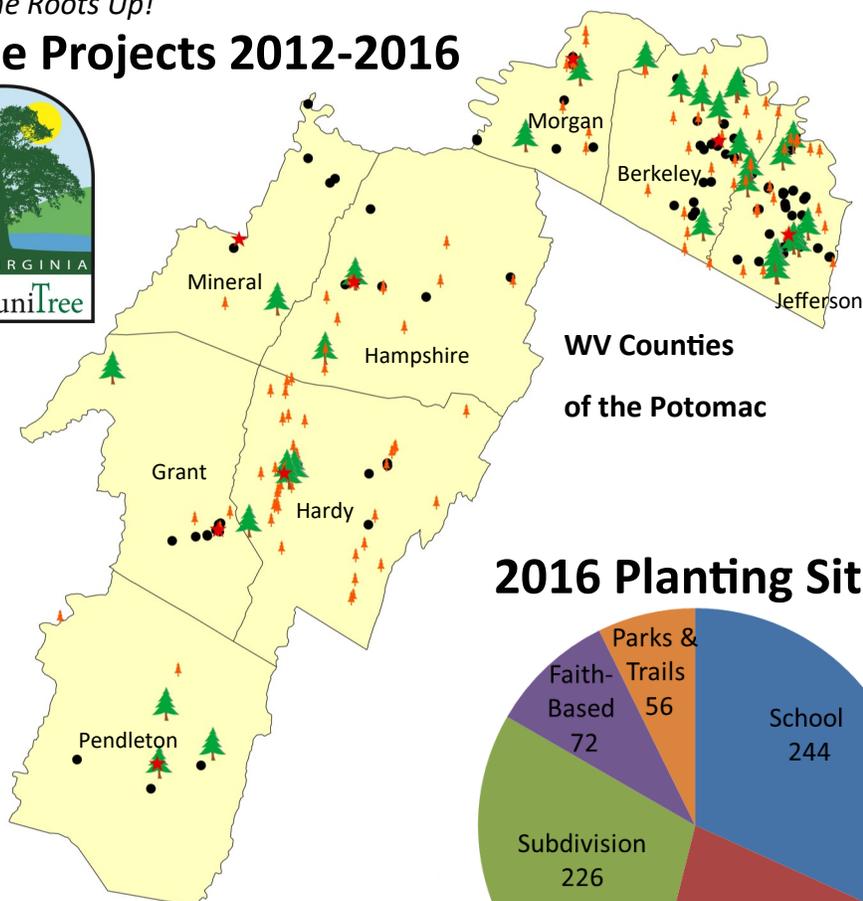
CTree builds communities from the roots up by engaging citizens in education and volunteerism. In 2016, CTree engaged volunteers in 34 urban tree plantings at schools, parks, subdivisions, cemeteries, churches, and other community spaces.

Together nearly 2,600 volunteers planted a total of 1,186 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 2016 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 2016. Logging over 5,100 volunteer hours, these citizens exemplify “Building Communities from the Roots Up!”

2016 Quick Facts

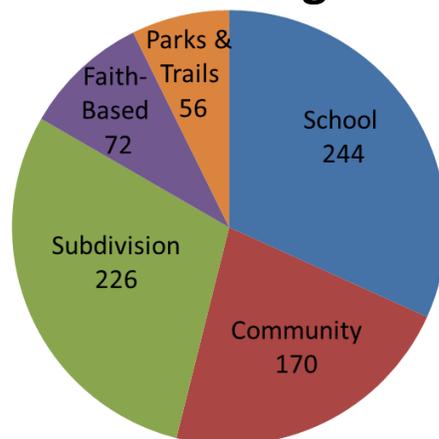
- **34** Tree Planting Events
- **1,186** Trees Planted
- **2,591** Volunteers
- **5,135** Volunteer Hours
- **\$112,240** Volunteer

CTree Projects 2012-2016



WV Counties of the Potomac

2016 Planting Sites



- 2016 Projects (34)
- Past Projects (107)
- Carla Hardy Memorial Trees (404)
- County Seats



Volunteer Highlight

National Humane Education Society



What a world of difference a year can make!

In 2016, The National Humane Education Society completely transformed their 10 acre property at Briggs Animal Adoption Center by participating in two CTree plantings.

Altogether, they planted 40 trees throughout their property to increase wildlife habitat in accordance with their mission of treating all animals with kindness.

In addition to the tree plantings, they also created a mile-long walking trail, fostered several acres of grassland bird habitat, and planted two large fields of wildflowers for pollinator forage and habitat.

Their staff is dedicated to tree maintenance and has developed great plans for stewarding their trees in the coming years.

Congratulations to everyone involved!

Memories of Carla Hardy, founder of CTree, 1971-2016

Carla Hardy, beloved conservationist and champion of trees, died on July 14, 2016 after a brief illness. Carla worked for the WV Conservation Agency, where she wore many hats. She was the WVCA representative for the Chesapeake Bay Program, project manager for multiple watershed-based implementation projects, and of course, co-creator and agency administrator of WV Project CommuniTree (CTree).

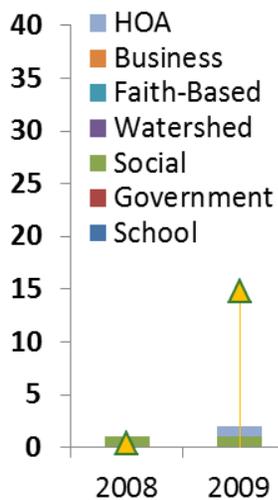
Carla loved to plant trees. In 2008, she began to engage community volunteers in planting trees in public spaces, an idea that would eventually grow into CTree, the largest volunteer tree planting and stewardship program in the state of WV. Since the program began offering CTree Kits in 2012, there have been 141 community tree planting projects where over 4,600 trees have been planted by more than 10,000 volunteers.

On news of Carla's passing, Cacapon Institute renamed the program in her memory. Now known as the Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree, going forward every CTree planted will have Carla's name on it. Additionally, 404 Carla Hardy Memorial Trees were planted this fall in honor of Carla's legacy in 30 cities throughout West Virginia, mostly in the Potomac Headwaters where Carla contributed so much to the WVCA and conservation districts.

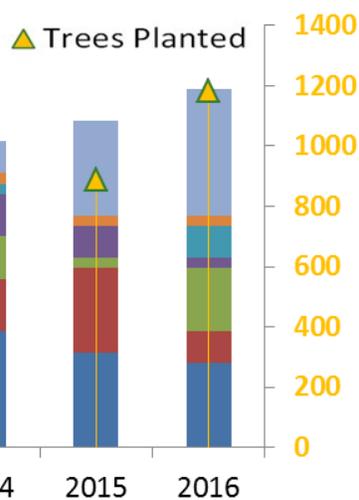
Forests will grow in her name.

-Neil Gillies, Science Director, Cacapon Institute

CTree Groups



Trees Planted



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

"The reason we continue to do planting projects with Cacapon Institute is because it's so simple. We really do have more than enough assistance, from planning to completion..."
-Jimmy Gossard, Hammonds Mill HOA

"The fact that the trees were provided at no cost was another benefit since we are a non profit agency."
-Matt Everline, Burlington United Methodist Family Services

"Working with CommuniTree has been a wonderful experience...We look forward to future tree plantings!"
-Hilary Legge, National Humane Education Society

"Seeing all of the neighbors get together with their families to accomplish this community task was fun. It is events like this that really bring communities together."
-Greg Cyr, Spruce Hill North HOA

"The best part is that our students received hands on education and contributed to the heritage of Tomahawk that they will remember for a lifetime."
- Ty Tyson, Tomahawk Intermediate School

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This report is a publication of Cacapon Institute. Visit CacaponInstitute.org or contact:

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West Virginia Urban Tree Canopy Assessment & Enhancement



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, Department of Environmental Protection, Region 9, and Cacapon Institute.

Cacapon Institute is working with local communities to increase UTC by determining 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 ROW.

(Inset: Annual benefits of CTree's planted in 2012-2015 after 20 years of growth. The full report can be found by visiting the Publications tab at CacaponInstitute.org.)

