



## Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Augusta Elementary School

All Augusta Elementary students made “continuous progress toward mastering the essential curriculum and achieving at their highest potential” with this project!

That is the mission at Augusta Elementary School. Sixteen trees and 235 student volunteers later, we can say they succeeded.

Tree planting day on Friday, October 19 began like many other fall projects—dark and cold.

Cacapon Institute’s Watershed Education Specialist Connor Roessler and the WV Department of Environmental Protection’s Potomac Basin Coordinator Alana Hartman met early on site to lay out all of the planting materials and prep the planting site.

Starting at 8:30am, rotations of students came out for 30-minute sessions to learn about how to properly plant trees and then plant a tree together as a group.

A mix of 11 shade and evergreen trees were planted between the playground and the main road to buffer the school from car



exhaust and noise pollution. Another 5 trees were planted throughout the playground to provide shade in the play area for the students. Species planted include hackberry, red maple, burr oak, scarlet oak, and eastern red cedar.

By all measures, this was a truly

successful project—the trees were planted properly, the students learned about the benefits of trees in reducing stormwater runoff pollution, and the campus looks beautiful.

This was the first CommuniTree planting at Augusta Elementary School, and we hope it isn’t their last.

Way to go, Eagles!

### A word from the Project Leader, Cindy Nester:

*“Many students were not aware of the benefits of trees such as reducing pollution. Our planting day was very fun and even a month later students look at and enjoy the trees.”*



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at [ctree@cacaponinstitute.org](mailto:ctree@cacaponinstitute.org) or by calling 540-335-0687.