



WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Page Jackson Elementary School

This project was truly exceptional, from beginning to end!

Page Jackson Elementary School, on rural farmland outside of Charles Town, had so many great volunteers for this awesome project.

The project began on October 6 and 7, when nearly 300 students in first and second grades, as well as one kindergarten class, learned about trees in their classroom from Cacapon Institute staff. The students learned about the importance of trees, what benefits they provide, and the names for different parts of a tree.

Meanwhile, the Project Leader, Principal Tara Aycock, was working behind the scenes arranging for the holes to

be augured with Jefferson County Schools Maintenance Department, calling Miss Utility, and organizing one of her teachers to pick up the trees.

The tree planting took place on October 13 and 14, 2015. The students were able to apply what they learned in the classroom to the real world by getting their hands in the soil and planting trees. In addition to the nearly 300 well-educated students, over 30 parent volunteers assisted with the project (a CommuniTree record)!

[WHAG-TV](#), [The Martinsburg Journal](#), and [JCS-TV Mascot Roundup](#) all ran news stories about this project.



Each classroom has adopted two trees to care for and plan to track growth and seasonal changes through observations and journaling.

This project has created some much needed shaded spaces along the school's 2-mile walking trail system. The trails are used by students and staff on a regular basis throughout the school year as well as by parents and community members.

A word from the Project Leader, Tara Aycock:

“My favorite part of this project was seeing how involved and engaged the students became with the planting of the trees. The feedback on the instruction came with lots of positive comments from staff and students. We hope to do this in the Spring with our Kindergarteners!”



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at CTree@CacaponInstitute.Org or by calling 540-335-0687.