



Mourning Dove Estates HOA

19 Trees — 33 Volunteers — 75 Hours Volunteered

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Mourning Dove Estates Subdivision

Rain, cloudy skies, and mud. This was the situation when the project began on Saturday, October 1st. By later that afternoon, the rain had gone away, the skies had cleared, the mud had dried, and there were 19 beautiful newly-planted trees.

The project leader, Aaron Jewell, and the rest of Mourning Dove Estate HOA's board were all extremely involved throughout this project—from the initial site visit with Cacapon Institute's Tanner Haid to tree planting day.

On the day before the planting, several members of the community went to pick up the CommuniTree kit. In addition to those 16 trees, they also picked up 3 Carla Hardy Memorial Trees to plant with their tree kit,

for a total of 19 trees.

An auger and bobcat were rented to dig the holes, but due to the weather, the ground was too saturated with rain for the machine to be operated without tearing up the grass.

Fortunately, the volunteers were prepared to work hard and offered to dig the holes by hand.

Herb Peddicord with WV Division of Forestry led a tree planting demonstration about the proper ways to plant and maintain trees, as well as the benefits of planting trees and the improvements they'll make for local streams and watersheds.

After the tree planting demonstration, the volunteers got to work.

About half of the volunteers on planting day were kids



who live in the community. The rest of the volunteers were parents and community members who own homes in the neighborhood.

We look forward to planting more trees with these residents again in the future!

A word from the Project Leader, Aaron Jewell:

"Our subdivision is relatively close-knit compared to many these days and it was just refreshing to see so many people out on a cool and rainy day who were excited to be out planting trees. The planting was definitely a memorable experience and it is something we will plan on doing again in the future."



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at ctree@cacaponinstitute.org or by calling 540-335-0687.