



## WV Project CommuniTree Planting at the Romney Business Park

### This project involved many great partnerships!

The Hampshire County Development Authority gave permission for the planting at the Romney Business Park, WV Conservation Agency staff took care of the trees in Moorefield until they were picked up, and local youth and FFA members volunteered alongside the Potomac Highlands Master Gardeners on planting day. The City of Romney has agreed to provide water in a tank at the planting location to water the trees in the summer.

On May 20, the Master Gardeners met with Alana Hartman from WV DEP to formally approve the project and start planning.

On June 6, Stephen Starcher with the Potomac

Highlands Master Gardeners and two young men picked up a trailer and tractor from Keyser, retrieved the trees from Moorefield, and delivered the trees to the planting site in Romney. Stephen then went to Keyser again for an augur and returned to the site the next morning with the tractor to begin digging holes.

The volunteers arrived ready to plant trees on Tuesday, June 7, 2016. In total, there were 12 volunteers (7 kids and 5 adults) plus Alana Hartman on planting day. The kids were all very hard workers and enjoyed helping make important decisions, such as planting four large specimens to be ornamental trees along the Industrial



Park driveway. The remaining trees were planted near the creek.

Alana gave a planting demonstration and talked about the benefits of trees, such as stopping sediment from eroding away, filtering the air and providing oxygen, and providing shade for cold-water species in the stream.

After watering the trees, the volunteers shared lunch at a nearby restaurant.

### A word from the Project Leader, Stephen Starcher:

*“The event was a fun memorable experience for the volunteers. The group included a diverse mix of age groups which created an interesting dynamic between the volunteers. All of the participants were exposed to the proper method of planting trees and their importance in a riparian environment.”*



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