

Mountain Ridge Middle School

16 Trees – 197 Volunteers – 164 Hours Volunteered

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Mountain Ridge Middle School

The "Green Thumb Club" Strikes Again!

Mountain Ridge Middle School is home to the "Green Thumb Club", a garden club led by teacher Sherry Rommel. This fall, they applied for a Mixed-16 CTree Kit to plant trees along the front and side of the school.

Before planting day, students in the sixth grade participated in an Education Day provided by Cacapon Institute's Connor Roessler on September 29, 2017.

On the morning of the tree planting, October 6, an adult volunteer helped with clearing out the holes, which were augured before the tree planting.

Students were divided into small groups with supervision provided from

their science teachers, Cacapon Institute, and volunteers with the Berkeley County Public Sewer Service District. Each group participated in a brief discussion to recap what they learned during the Education Day.

Then, they broke off into smaller groups to learn how to properly plant, mulch, and water their trees.

In total, 192 students participated in planting trees at this project.

This was the Green Thumb Club's second project with Cacapon Institute.

In [spring 2016](#), they installed a native plant rain garden to help reduce stormwater runoff pollution on their campus.



The 16 trees they planted through CommuniTree this season will build upon that project by increasing tree canopy at the school and further reducing stormwater runoff pollution.

The school is developing long-term plans for continuing to plant more trees in the future, as well as maintaining the existing trees and rain garden.

Great job, Green Club!

A word from the Project Leader, Sherry Rommel:

"The planting day was great! The Cacapon Institute is so professional and kid friendly. The event, from the beginning planning stages to the day of planting, went very smoothly and timely. The kids talked all day about how much they learned. I heard lots of comments, such as, "I never knew...."and "I want a tree like that at home."



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