

St. James Knights of Columbus

16 Trees – 27 Volunteers – 60 Hours Volunteered

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at St. James Catholic Church

Church plants trees after Emerald Ash Borer damage clears parking lot!

At St. James Catholic Church, over 30 ash trees have been killed in their parking lot and have been subsequently removed and the stumps ground down to soil level. To bring back some of their critical tree canopy, the St. James Knights of Columbus applied for the church's fourth CommuniTree planting this fall 2017.

The project began on September 25 with an educational activity for Trail Life and American Heritage Girls led by Connor Roessler from Cacapon Institute. Over the course of 40 minutes, the youth learned about the trees they'd be planting and then painted river rocks with the species

name for each tree. A church practitioner picked up the trees and augured the holes for the volunteers.

The tree planting began at 9:00am on Saturday, October 7 with fresh donuts and warm coffee.

Tanner Haid from Cacapon Institute gave a tree planting demonstration covering the goals of this CommuniTree project, the impact that the volunteers will have on their community by planting trees, and how to properly plant a tree.

The sunny weather on this early fall day was perfect for planting trees and the volunteers made quick work of planting all of the trees, which were planted along the front of the church, the



playground, and parking lot planting strips. It took a little over an hour to plant all of the trees and another 45 minutes to complete watering.

Everyone enjoyed being part of a project and they look forward to watching the trees grow and have a lasting impact for years to come.

Previous project pictures and stories can be read [here](#).

This planting went great!

A word from the Project Leader, Michael Azar:

"The kids really enjoyed painting the rocks and see them on display with their trees. Many remember doing our first planting a few years prior and love to watch the trees grow. The educational aspect is key to the event so the volunteers get an appreciation for the need "to grow trees not just plant them."



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