

# Charles Town Parks & Recreation

16 Trees – 20 Volunteers – 66 Hours Volunteered

## Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Jefferson Memorial Park

This anecdote from Project Leader Todd Coyle is a perfect example of the CommuniTree motto of “Building Communities from the Roots Up!”:

“One older local gentleman, a long time resident, who regularly walks his dog in the park was walking by when we were prepping for the planting. Jim asked what we were doing and when we explained he nodded and left. He returned a few minutes later without his dog and said he would help us instead of going to the gym. As he began to work another volunteer showed up early. Heather is new to the town and just wanted to get involved.

Jim and Heather began to prep the holes and worked together for the next three and a half hours. They did

*a great job. A week later, at the Charles Town Farmers Market, I saw Jim and Heather run into each other. They smiled and chatted a bit.”*

By planting 16 trees at Jefferson Memorial Park on Saturday, May 20, the Charles Town Parks & Recreation was able to create lasting bonds within their community.

In total, 9 adults and 3 children assisted with planting trees on planting day, several of which had volunteered previously at the park through CommuniTree in [fall 2016](#).

As a special treat, a volunteer who wasn’t able to physically participate in the project baked



brownies for all of the volunteers, while another resident in a wheel chair showed up to give everyone moral support.

The city Maintenance Department will be responsible for maintaining the trees.

This is exactly the type of interaction and community-building experience we want to foster in our CommuniTree plantings!

### A word from the Project Leader, Todd Coyle:

“...A friendship between a long time older resident and a new younger resident was made. I think that the Communitree project is as much about community building as it is about planting trees. This is what makes it worth it.”





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