



24 Trees – 83 Volunteers – 90 Hours Volunteered

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Romney Middle School

Romney Middle School is “Home of the Pioneers”, and as of Tuesday, May 9, also the home of 24 new shade, flowering, and evergreen trees.

This project started off like many other projects—with hard-working volunteers planning and organizing, meeting and strategizing, for how to have the best planting day possible.

Project Leader Crystal Rexrode met with Tyler Williamson from WV Division of Forestry to plan for the project while her husband and brother-in-law picked up the trees from Moorefield. The Hampshire County FFA students from the neighboring high school augured the holes.

When planting day finally arrived, Crystal and her students were excited to

plant their trees!

Three separate groups of approximately twenty students each rotated out for 40 minute sessions.

During each session, the students were divided into smaller groups to

learn how to either plant and cage evergreen trees with Tyler or how to plant and install stakes and tubes around deciduous trees with Jeff Iliff from Cacapon Institute.

In the afternoon, another group of 20 students assisted with watering all of the trees.

According to Crystal, “the students have continued to talk about the trees, and take pride when other staff



members and parents comment on the trees and how nice they look.”

The students will continue to water the trees for the remainder of the school year, and the school has already purchased long water hoses to make sure the water gets to each and every tree. The school custodian will assist with watering during the summer.

Great job, Pioneers!

A word from the Project Leader, Crystal Rexrode:

“I enjoy seeing students get their hands dirty. I think many students in this generation have had limited experience with planting and working the ground... However, they are very excited to inform me everyday since, that the trees are looking good, getting water, and still standing straight.”



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