

Shepherd Environmental Org.

24 Trees — 45 Volunteers — 153 Hours Volunteered

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Shepherd University

This was Shepherd Environmental Organization's **sixth** CommuniTree planting at Shepherd University!

In total, 154 trees have been planted through CommuniTree, including 24 evergreen trees this spring 2017 on Saturday, April 1, as well as 16 trees in [spring 2016](#), 50 in [spring 2015](#), 16 in [fall 2014](#), 24 in [spring 2014](#), and 24 in [spring 2013](#).

All of their past projects were major successes with great volunteer turnout and this project was no exception!

37 volunteers showed up to assist with planting trees on planting day, including students from the Biology Club (BBB) and Shepherd Environmental Organization (SEO), as well as other students, faculty, and members of the community.

This spring, they decided to plant a mix of 24 evergreen trees and aimed to plant as many different species as

possible to increase the diversity of their tree species. They planted eastern red cedar, American holly, southern magnolia, loblolly pine, pitch pine, Virginia pine, and eastern white pine.

Future classes will be able to use this diverse mix of evergreen trees for identification purposes to learn how to properly identify evergreen trees based off their bark, number of needles, etc.

The maintenance department used a backhoe to dig the holes before the students arrived. The holes ended up being rather large, but fortunately the campus has a supply of topsoil available so the volunteers were able to fill in the holes completely using some of that topsoil.

Jeff Iliff from Cacapon Institute



gave a planting demonstration to all of the volunteers who then broke into smaller groups to plant trees.

After all the trees were planted, including the 6 southern magnolias near the president's house, the volunteers met at the Byrd Science building for pizza. An additional three eastern redbud trees were procured by the school to be planted at the sustainability site.

These outstanding students were great volunteers!

A word from the Project Leader, Brady Burker:

"The event was a lot of fun. The best part was how willing everyone was to get dirty and muddy. Everyone there learned the proper way to plant trees."



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