

Mountain Ridge Middle School

16 Trees – 159 Volunteers – 133 Hours Volunteered

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Mountain Ridge Middle School

Cold weather couldn't stop these Green Thumbs!

The Green Thumb Club at Mountain Ridge Middle School hosted this amazing project on Friday, April 20.

Together, over 150 6th grade students helped plant trees throughout the planting day, coming out with their classes in 45 minute rotations.

The trees were planted in a long row to provide shade by increasing tree canopy in the open field behind the school.

The majority of the students participated in Cacapon Institute's watershed education in fall 2017 and were able to recall key parts of the tree and proper planting techniques.

This is the school's second CommuniTree planting with

Cacapon Institute, with the first taking place in [fall 2017](#). They also installed a rain garden in [spring 2016](#) through our Potomac Headwaters Leaders of Watersheds program.

Students are continuing to be actively engaged in this project by assisting with watering the trees the rest of the school year.

Students also have commented on which tree species they would like to plant at home.

This is the ultimate goal—that students will learn about these types of hands-on conservation projects at school and then take what they've learned home to have a positive impact on their communities.



The Green Thumb Club has plans to continue planting trees on this site in future planting seasons.

Most importantly, the students appreciate these projects. According to the Project Leader, Sherry Rommel, “they look forward to seeing... the impact The Cacapon Institute is making in helping them to make their community green, clean, and beautiful!”

A word from the Project Leader, Sherry Rommel:

“You can tell that [Cacapon Institute staff] enjoy what they do, and that feeling makes its way to the students. This is exactly what The Green Thumb Club is looking for: professional experts who encourage our students to appreciate and enjoy their environment and to become good stewards.”



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