



## Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Spring Mills Primary School

**This green school just got a lot greener!**

Spring Mills Primary, which holds the LEED Gold Certification for sustainable school design, wanted to add shade and fruit trees to their otherwise barren campus.

The 24 shade and fruit trees planted this spring through CommuniTree will grow up to become an essential part of the school campus and community.

Connor Roessler with Cacapon Institute led 7 classes, for a total of 154 students, in an education day to learn about the benefits of trees as part of the school's mission to teach an environmentally focused curriculum.

On April 17, these students, as well as some of their parents and

teachers, came out to plant the trees.

The volunteers were assisted by two Cacapon Institute staff as well as Danielle Watson and Suzy Campbell with the WV Conservation Agency.

The students were greeted in the afternoon by Miss Teen West Virginia Earth, a high school student at Spring Mills High. We were also joined by the Deputy Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools, Margaret Kursey, who stopped by to provide support and encouragement to the students.

In addition to the tree planting, the school also purchased bushes, shrubs and flowers to add to the landscaping around the building. This Earth Day project took place on the days



after the CommuniTree planting and included all K-2 grade students. For most of the students, this was their first time ever planting trees!

This planting was transformative for the school and the parents all commented on what a wonderful opportunity this was for their children & for the community.

We look forward to watching these trees, and these students, continue to grow!

### A word from the Project Leader, Nicole Krause:

*“Students learned all about beneficial and helpful trees are to humans, animals and the planet. Making those connections and having a positive hands-on experience in planting trees was incredible. It was awesome watching students get their hands dirty and plant trees they will enjoy when they are adults.”*



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