

Page Jackson Elementary School



Kindergarteners Plant Trees Along School Walking Trail

Page Jackson Elementary School, Charlestown, WV, participated in Cacapon Institute's Potomac Headwaters Leaders of Watersheds Plant-a-Tree project.

Kindergarteners learned the basic structure and benefits of trees for the land, animals, and humans



during a thirty-minute education session.

Students took their new knowledge outdoors to plant twelve native trees at their school. The tree species included: chinkapin oak, scarlet oak, yellow and black birch, sugar maple, and black cherry. The trees are located along the school's extensive walking trail system that

wraps the entire campus. The tree planting project started in Fall 2015 with Cacapon Institute's West Virginia Project CommuniTree (CTree) program. These trees will provide shade, higher wildlife value, erosion control, and an educational resource for the school into the future.

On April 21st, one hundred thirty-eight students, twelve teachers, two parent volunteers, and three maintenance staff made planting day a success. Students reviewed the parts of the tree they learned in the classroom along with learning the importance of planting a tree at the proper depth. All students walked away with dirty hands and a feeling of success.

These students will have the opportunity to watch new growth in the coming years. In five or ten years, when they return for a visit, they can say "I planted that tree! What a



difference it is making for the environment".

The trees are visible from the playground so students can monitor their trees while playing outdoors.

