



WV Project CommuniTree Planting at the Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority

Great job, Berkeley County Council and EPTA volunteers!

Berkeley County Council and the Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority (EPTA) partnered on this project to plant a mix of 16 shade and flowering trees at the EPTA facility outside of Martinsburg on October 24, 2015.

Plenty of volunteers showed up to plant the 16 trees. Volunteers included Berkeley County Council and EPTA staff, CTree Liaison Matt Pennington (Region 9), and Cacapon Institute's BMP Tracker, Kat Cooper.

In a surprise twist of fate, the two-man hand augur that was rented to help pre-dig holes ended up breaking after digging only one hole! Fortunately, the

ground was soft and it was easy enough to dig the rest of the holes by hand. The augur was abandoned for shovels and the volunteers got to work.

After they were finished digging the holes, Matt Pennington gave a detailed planting demonstration. This was helpful for all of the volunteers—even the people who participated last season learned something new.

Three of the 16 trees from this planting were used to replant trees that failed to establish from the planting in [spring 2015](#). In total, there are 29 new trees at EPTA planted through WV Project CommuniTree in 2015. Once mature, these trees will provide shade and wildlife habitat, enhance



EPTA aesthetics, and reduce stormwater runoff pollution in Berkeley County.

Overall, this planting project went very well. Everyone involved was very appreciative of the project and the work required to implement it.

A word from the Project Leader, Chris Overton:

“From a coordination standpoint, the best part of WV Project CommuniTree is the ease of planting. Since [CTree Kits] were assembled and ready for EPTA staff members, pre-planting planning activities were able to be more heavily focused on soliciting volunteers and coordinating transportation, for example, than finding the right supplies, etc... This seems to be a more efficient use of project personnel time, effort, and energy.”

