

# Hedgesville Middle School

16 Trees – 73 Volunteers – 119 Hours Volunteered

## Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Hedgesville Middle School

Hedgesville Middle School is fortunate to have great teachers and students, an engaged principal, and hard-working parents and community volunteers that can all come together to make projects like this CommuniTree planting a success!

Janet O'Connell (teacher) and Abigail Benjamin (parent) with the Youth Leadership Academy at the school brought this project to teacher Matthew Collier, who became the Project Leader.

The trees were planted on a perfect, sunny day on Wednesday, April 12.

Classes were split into two groups to work with either Herb Peddicord from WV Division of Forestry or Tanner Haid from Cacapon Institute. Additional

assistance for the students was provided by Abigail Benjamin and Chad Thompson from WV Department of Environmental Protection.

Some of the holes had to be dug in a new location, so several of the students enjoyed helping out with that task.

The first class that came out helped with placing all of the trees, bags of mulch, stakes, and tubes at each hole.

After all the trees were planted, and before the buses came to take the students home, a final group of students helped with watering all of the newly-planted trees.

In addition to the CommuniTree planting, the



students also worked on digging weeds, mulching, and planting new flowers near the main entrance to the school.

Over the course of the day, 60 youth volunteers assisted with planting trees and beautifying the school.

Students and their families, as well as Mr. Collier, will be watering the trees throughout the summer.

Great job, Eagles!

### A word from the Project Leader, Matthew Collier:

*“The most memorable part was seeing the students, faculty, and community members working together for a common goal; making Hedgesville Middle a more environmentally friendly and beautiful school. It made me feel like part of something special seeing everyone take such pride in their school.”*



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