

# Mountain Ridge Middle School

16 Trees – 197 Volunteers – 165 Hours Volunteered

## Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Mountain Ridge Middle School

### Third time is a charm for the Mountain Ridge Middle School Green Thumb Club!

This project started on Thursday, October 18 with in-classroom education at the school led by Cacapon Institute's Watershed Education Specialist, Connor Roessler.

Connor educated the students about the benefits of trees, what is a watershed, and how trees help reduce stormwater runoff pollution and protect rivers and watersheds.

The very next day on Friday, October 19, more than 190 students participated in 45 minute outdoor sessions to help plant the trees.

The goal of this planting was to provide shade on the barren outdoor play

area, beautify the campus, and reduce stormwater runoff and erosion from the site.

Species planted included American lindens, red maples, and white oaks.

The layout of the trees mirrors the previous season's planting at the school.

These students really know how to plant trees and take great pride in continuing to work with Cacapon Institute on CommuniTree plantings.

This was the third CTree project they've organized, with previous plantings in [spring 2018](#) and [fall 2017](#).



In total, they've now planted 48 trees on their campus, which is no small feat. These trees are going to continue to grow and provide benefits to students for decades to come, all thanks to their hard work with Cacapon Institute.

We look forward to helping these "Green Thumbs" again in the future!

## A word from the Project Leader, Sherry Rommel:

*"I enjoy hearing the students repeat vocabulary that they have learned about trees as they are planting. This project is a total hands-on experience that will help students retain the vocabulary and steps necessary in planting trees and caring for them."*



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