

Spring Mills High School

16 Trees – 98 Volunteers – 265 Hours Volunteered

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Spring Mills High School

FFA students team up with Art students for this awesome STEAM planting!

STEAM—which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math—is a growing field in school’s across the country.

It can be difficult to design & implement a project that incorporates science and the arts, but that’s exactly what Spring Mills High School accomplished with this CommuniTree planting on Thursday, April 19.

All through the month of April, art teacher Mindy Sizemore’s students painted all of the tree stakes and sealed them with polyurethane to increase their longevity.

On a separate front, teacher Tyler Butts work together with his FFA

students to develop a planting plan for the trees, mark the site with flags, call Miss Utility, augur the holes, and pick up the trees.

On planting day, everything came together for an awesome project!

Two groups of FFA students, for a total of 55 students, helped plant the trees.

Cacapon Institute staff led the students in planting the trees, as well as installing the mulch, hammering in the stakes, tying on the arbor tie, and putting on the bark protector tube.

The arts students toured the school grounds in the afternoon to see all of their tree stakes once they were installed.

Species planted include burr



oak, willow oak, and eastern redbud.

Tyler is working on developing a “Supervised Agricultural Experience” for several of his students to be responsible for watering the trees throughout the coming summer. These students will report in with Tyler each week.

It’s wonderful to have so many diverse groups of students coming together to accomplish such a great project!

A word from the Project Leader, Tyler Butts:

“[My favorite part of CommuniTree was] collaborating with other students and staff in the building and getting other students involved that typically wouldn’t be.”



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at ctree@cacaponinstitute.org or by calling 540-335-0687.