

Cacapon Institute

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COMMUNITREE APPLICATION

“Building Communities from the Roots Up”



	Spring	Fall
Pre-Proposal Due	February 1 st	July 1 st
Award Notification	February 15 th	July 15 th
Welcome Packets Due	February 15 th	August 15 th
Planting Season	April 1 st – May 15 th	October 1 st – November 15 th
Project Leader Reporting Due	May 16	December 1 st
CTree Care & Maintenance	Ongoing	Ongoing

Cacapon Institute does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex. We strive to be inclusive, regardless of age or disability, and seek a diverse workforce and audience.

WHAT IS “CARLA HARDY WV PROJECT COMMUNITREE”?

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree (CTree) is a program of Cacapon Institute that is supported by the WV Chesapeake Bay Program, including the WV Department of Agriculture, WV Division of Forestry, WV Conservation Agency, and the Eastern Panhandle Regional Development & Planning Council. Technical and financial support is provided by these partners and additional federal, state, and local organizations.

The ultimate goal of CTree is to protect rivers and watersheds by reducing stormwater runoff pollution to help restore local streams, rivers, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. To achieve this goal, CTree promotes planting urban trees on publicly-used lands in the Potomac Highlands.

- **“Urban trees”** are the trees we live with, the trees that grace our towns, neighborhoods, parks, schools, and roadsides. Urban trees protect West Virginia’s rivers by reducing stormwater runoff pollution. They provide many additional environmental, social, and economic benefits to communities.
- **“Publicly-used lands”** include public properties (schools, parks, road right-of-ways, etc.) as well as privately-owned properties that serve a public or community function (HOA common areas, churches, cemeteries, etc.)
- **“Potomac Highlands”** are the eight counties of the eastern panhandle of WV (Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Mineral, Hampshire, Hardy, Grant, and Pendleton counties).

Additional goals for CTree include:

- Increasing urban tree canopy in the Potomac Highlands
- Fostering an increased awareness of local water quality issues
- Educating volunteers on the benefits of trees and proper tree selection and care
- Promoting long-term tree care programs within participating communities
- Connecting volunteers with resources to make positive changes in their communities

The CTree slogan is “Building Communities from the Roots Up!”, so we prioritize projects that engage whole communities and strive for diversity and inclusiveness. ***Of course, with the Covid-19 situation, new social distancing safety measures will be in place this season.*** Cacapon Institute and our partners invite groups in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia to apply for free

“CTree Kits” to plant trees on publicly-used land. Applicants are responsible for:

- 1. Submitting this application by the deadline:**
 - a. February 1st for spring plantings (April 1st – May 15th)
 - b. July 1st for fall plantings (October 1st – November 30th)
- 2. If awarded, planning & implementing a successful community tree planting.** This includes organizing all aspects of the planting, fostering at least \$1,500 in volunteer contribution (see page 13), and submitting the final Planting Report. (There will be flexibility on the volunteer match this season due to Covid-19)
- 3. Maintaining their trees** (see Maintenance Agreement on page 11)

Application requirements, deadlines, and information on how to apply are listed below. **After reading the application groups are encouraged to contact Cacapon Institute’s Communitree Coordinator, Jeff Iliff directly with any questions or concerns by emailing ctree@cacaponinstitute.org or by calling 540-335-0687, or 304-258-8037.** Cacapon Institute staff can meet with you on site to discuss your needs and help you better understand the program and application.

HOW DO WE APPLY FOR CTREE?

Cacapon Institute welcomes applications from any community-based organization, including:

- Service, youth, civic, and social organizations
- Faith-based organizations of all denominations
- Tree boards, watershed groups, and other environmental service organizations
- Public and independent K-12 schools, as well as other educational institutions
- Municipal, county, regional, and state institutions

Application Requirements:

- Project must take place on publicly-used property in the Potomac Highlands
- Demonstrate strong volunteer and education objectives in their proposal
- Explain the [ecological, social, and environmental benefits](#) of their tree planting

Application Components:

- **Cover Sheet** – Page 6 (5 Points)
- **Proposal** – Pages 7-9 (70 Points)
- **Site Checklist** – Page 10 (5 Points)
- **Signed Tree Maintenance Form** – Page 11 (5 Points)
- **Liability Waiver** – Page 12 (5 Points)
- **Estimated Volunteer Contribution** – Page 13 (5 Points)
- **Site Photos and Proposed Planting Plan** (Submit with application – 5 Bonus Points)
- **Past Performance with CTree Projects** (5 Points – Automatic 5 points for all new groups applying for a CTree kit for the first time)

READY TO APPLY?

Once your application is complete, please send your application:

- **By email (*preferred*)**, to Cacapon Institute at ctree@cacaponinstitute.org
- **By postal service**, to Cacapon Institute c/o WV Project CommuniTree at:
 - 10 Rockford Road, Great Cacapon, WV 25422

HOW CAN WE WRITE A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION?

- ✓ **Safety First!** Explain how you will implement safe social distancing for your project.
- ✓ **The most successful applications come from groups that consult with us during the application process.** We can provide a site visit to help you determine the best tree planting site and the best CTree Kit for that particular site, as well as answer any questions you have about the program and your responsibilities.
- ✓ **Read all directions!** Make sure your application includes all necessary components. Pay very close attention to the points system as it will give an indication of which application components we value the most.
- ✓ **Be creative!** Think outside the box and have fun! Preference will be given to applications that encourage community pride and are inclusive of the entire community.
- ✓ **Be specific!** The narrative should be easy to read, clearly written, and should present your ideas in an exciting yet specific manner. Preference will be given to groups that clearly demonstrate their community's needs and how the goals of your project align with the goals of the CTree program.
- ✓ **Find Partners!** Projects are more successful when they have multiple partners with varying skills, experience, and knowledge that add to the overall success of the planting.

Groups applying for CTree Kits for plantings on road right-of-ways along Route 9, Corridor-H, or county roads must follow all local ordinances, laws, and regulations for parking and use and access of road right-of-ways. Safety should always be your first priority.

WHAT ARE "CTREE KITS"?

Cacapon Institute has prepared a list of suggested "CTree Kits" so that successful applicants do not have to take responsibility for purchasing trees and materials. If awarded, Cacapon Institute will purchase your trees, as well as tubes, stakes, cages, etc. at a wholesale rate and deliver them in the form of a "CTree Kit" to one of the four following pickup locations:

Moorefield:	<u>WV Conservation Agency Moorefield Field Office, 60 C Industrial Park Road, Moorefield, WV 26508</u>
Inwood:	<u>WV Division of Forestry, 145 Pilgrim Street, Inwood, WV 25428</u>
Great Cacapon:	<u>10 Rockford Road, Great Cacapon, West Virginia 25422</u>
Wardensville:	<u>28813 WV-55 Wardensville, West Virginia 26851</u>

On your application Cover Sheet, please indicate by "CTree Kit" the mix of trees that *best* fits your site. You'll need to assure us that this is the right CTree Kit for your site by filling out the Site Checklist on page 10.

In your proposal, specifically discuss your CTree Kit choice. ***Be aware that, depending on nursery availability, your kit may not be available exactly as listed in the table below and is subject to changes and variations in species and stock size.***

WHICH “CTREE KIT” SHOULD WE REQUEST?

Below is a list of the CTree Kits that you can request. The species listed are examples of what could be included in each kit, but are not a definitive listing of available species. CTree Kits can be modified to suit your planting site, but any specific requests must be marked by checking “Specific Trees” on Page 6 of your application and then detailing your requests on Page 8.

<u>Kit</u>	<u>Stock Size</u>	<u>Example Projects</u>	<u>Example Species</u> <i>(SUBJECT TO CHANGE¹)</i>
Shade-16	16 7-gallon, 6' (+/-) trees	Rock Spring Church	White oak , red maple , sugar maple , red oak , sycamore , tulip poplar , sweet gum , swamp white oak , river birch , hackberry , American linden
Shade-24	12 7-gallon, 6' (+/-) trees 12 3-gallon, 4' (+/-) trees	Mill Creek Ruritan Club	
Evergreen-24	12 7-gallon, 6' (+/-) trees 12 3-gallon, 4' (+/-) trees	Romney Middle School	
Evergreen-50	6 7-gallon, 6' (+/-) trees 44 3-gallon, 4' (+/-) trees	North Jefferson Elementary School	White pine , eastern red cedar , Norway spruce , arborvitae , American holly , Virginia pine , pitch pine , loblolly pine
Evergreen-100	100 3-gallon 4' (+/-) trees	522 Business Park	
Bantam-24	12 7-gallon, 6' (+/-) trees 12 3-gallon, 4' (+/-) trees	Olivet Cemetery Association	Eastern redbud , serviceberry , flowering dogwood , sweet bay magnolia , hawthorn , Japanese cherry
Mixed-16	16 7-gallon, 6' (+/-) trees	Martin Robinson Delany OLC School	Customizable mixes of shade, evergreen, and flowering trees. Consult with our CommuniTree Coordinator, Jeff Iliff, to determine a mix that best suits your planting site. He can be reached at ctree@cacaponinstitute.org or by phone at 540-335-0687.
Mixed-24	12 7-gallon, 6' (+/-) trees 12 3-gallon, 4' (+/-) trees	Berkeley County PSSD	
Mixed-50	6 7-gallon, 6' (+/-) trees 44 3-gallon, 4' (+/-) trees	Windmill Crossings HOA	
Riparian-50	6 7-gallon, 6' (+/-) trees 44 3-gallon, 4' (+/-) trees	Romney Business Park	Sycamore , swamp white oak , river birch , black cherry , pin oak , black willow , red maple , hackberry , sweet gum
Riparian-100	100 3-gallon, 4' (+/-) trees	Wardensville Garden Market	

¹ Species and stock size are subject to change based on nursery availability

COVER SHEET (5 POINTS)

Group Information

Group Name: _____

Group Type: _____

Name of Project Leader: _____

Job Title: _____

Project Leader Mailing Address: _____

Work Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email: _____

Planting Site Information

Planting Site: _____

Planting Site Type: _____

Project Site Address: _____

Property Owner: _____ Permission for Planting (Check Box)

(Permission must be obtained to be awarded a CTree Kit)

City: _____ County: _____

Project Information

Planting Season: _____

CTree Kit: Mixed-16 Specific Trees? _____

Preferred Pickup Location: Inwood

Tree Pick-up Date: _____ Tree Planting Date: _____

Project Abstract *(Briefly describe your project in less than 3 sentences. If you are requesting specific trees with your tree kit, please note those requests on Page 8):*

If project is accepted, we grant CTree permission to contact us annually and use tree planting and site pictures for future CTree publications. (Check Box)

2.) Description of Need (25 Points)

See page 2 for CTree goals. Preference will be given to groups that demonstrate how their tree planting will reduce stormwater runoff pollution, increase tree canopy, and help “Build Communities from the Roots Up!” Use these goals to help describe in general terms what “problem” your group is addressing.

a. What is the issue you plan to address?

b. If you are requesting specific trees for your CTree Kit, please describe what species you are requesting in this section.

3.) Objectives and Goals of your Project (20 Points)

- a. **What are the short-term and long-term objectives, goals, and benefits of your project?**
Explain how your project specifically addresses the issues described on the previous page.

- b. **Additionally, discuss how your project will foster volunteerism in your community and your plans to educate volunteers about the benefits of, and proper care for, trees, and**

4.) Tree Maintenance & Volunteer Contribution (15 Points)

- a. **Describe how your trees will be maintained (please reference the Maintenance Agreement on Page 11).** *It isn't the number of trees we plant but the number of trees we grow that is the measure of success. Specifically, talk about who will be watering the trees, how often, using what equipment, etc. and how you will maintain your trees over time.*
- b. **How will you exceed the \$1,500 volunteer contribution?**
We understand that because of Covid 19, this season will be a unique situation, so we are relaxing our requirements on volunteer contribution, but encourage you to do your best.

SITE CHECKLIST (5 POINTS)

In 100 words or less, describe your proposed tree planting site. Where are you planting the trees and what does the site currently look like?

What percentage of the site is: Tree Canopy? _____ Mowed Turf? _____ Exposed Soil? _____

Planting Conditions (check all that apply)

Sunlight Exposure – Full sun Part Sun Shade

Topography – Steep slopes Rocky conditions Ditches

Soil Condition – Good (loose/fluffy) Bad (rocks/clay) Not sure

Site Hydrology – Dry (upland) Wet (riparian) Not sure

Site Exposure – Windy Prone to temperature extremes

Has there been recent construction or soil erosion that has exposed soil?

Does the site receive excess salt from roads or any other soil contaminants?

Potential Planting Conflicts (check all that apply)

Utilities – Overhead wires (phone/electric) Underground utilities
(It's the law to call Miss Utility to determine location of underground utilities)

Structures & Infrastructure (Are any of these directly adjacent to the proposed planting site?)

Sidewalks Buildings Roads Other structures

Describe:

Other potential planting conflicts (Are there any other potential planting conflicts?)

Mowing Conflict Heavy pedestrian traffic Other potential conflict

Describe:

MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (5 POINTS)

In consideration of Cacapon Institute providing trees and planting materials through the Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree (CTree), we agree to the following: *(must check all boxes)*

Grant Cacapon Institute staff, volunteers, and contractors permission to inspect and/or provide maintenance recommendations for trees planted at:

Planting Site Address	City	State	Zip
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Provide proper maintenance for trees planted through the program, including:

- **Year 1**
 - ✓ Watering your trees with at least **5-10 gallons of water per tree each week**, as needed, depending on soil conditions and precipitation.
 - ✓ **Maintaining and monitoring tubes, stakes, arbor strap**, and other protective devices and then **removing them after 1 year**.
- **Years 2-5**
 - ✓ **Periodically watering** during droughts, especially in years 2-3
 - ✓ **Annually reapplying a 3-inch deep layer of hardwood mulch, 3 feet in diameter, around each tree**. Mulch should not be piled up against the tree trunk, but should instead maintain a 3-inch gap between the trunk and the start of the mulch ring.
- **Years 5+**
 - ✓ **Continue mulching annually and periodically watering** during droughts
 - ✓ **Not topping, heading, or rounding over any tree** planted through the CTree program. We agree to maintain the tree’s natural canopy shape and size during all pruning events.

Hold Cacapon Institute and its partners, volunteers, and contractors harmless from any liability arising from the planting or care of any trees planted under this agreement.

Failure to fulfill these maintenance requirements will make your group ineligible to apply for CTree Kits and technical assistance in the future.

Name	Date
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Mailing Address

City	State	Zip
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Email	Phone
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LIABILITY WAIVER (5 POINTS)

As the Project Leader, I understand that the volunteers that work on this project freely choose to be involved in activities requiring physical activity, activities in or on waterways, travel, contact with foreign and unidentified substances and other potential risks of injury or death. I agree that the volunteers that work on this project and I will only perform activities which we are competent to perform and feel comfortable doing. The volunteers that work on this project and I assume any and all risks, whether known or unknown, associated with performing each activity.

The volunteers that work on this project and I hereby release Cacapon Institute, our partners and contractors, and all other sponsors and volunteers from any and all actions, causes of action, claims or any liabilities whatsoever, including negligence, for any harm that befalls them or me, or any equipment in my possession or control that arises out of the activities of any volunteer. We also agree to indemnify and hold harmless said parties for any damages or liabilities to third parties that arise out of our activities as volunteers. This waiver has no expiration date.

I hereby release the property owner(s) named below from any and all actions, causes of action, claims or any liabilities whatsoever, including negligence, for any harm that befalls any volunteers or me, or any equipment in our possession or control that arises out of the activities of volunteers or myself.

Property Owner Name: _____

Planting Site Address: _____

This waiver is given in the interest of permitting these volunteer programs to exist and to serve the community at large, and to enable volunteers for this project and me to feel free to participate as a volunteer member without fear of liability.

I understand that it is my responsibility as Project Leader to read and explain this Liability Waiver to all volunteers actively participating in this project and to ensure they fully understand the policy.

Project Leader Name: _____

Date: _____

ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION (5 POINTS)

See examples online at <http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/Forestry/CTree.htm>. Your goal is to demonstrate an estimated contribution of at least \$1,500 through volunteerism and donations.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate/Unit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Leadership, Planning, & Organizing (all volunteerism before planting day)						
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
Planting Day (all volunteerism during planting day)						
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
-					\$22.29	\$ 0.00
Heavy Equipment (all heavy equipment for picking up trees, auguring the holes, etc.)						
-				-		\$ 0.00
-				-		\$ 0.00
-				-		\$ 0.00
-				-		\$ 0.00
-				-		\$ 0.00
Material Donations & Purchases (all additional material donations or project-related purchases)						
Mulch						\$ 0.00
-						\$ 0.00
-						\$ 0.00
-						\$ 0.00
-						\$ 0.00
Total						\$ 0.00