



WV Project CommuniTree Planting along the Craighill Walking Trail

On a crisp and cool autumn morning on October 24, 2015, volunteers arrived for the tree planting—20 adult volunteers, 5 youth volunteers, and 2 project leaders.

Unbeknownst to many, the property they were about to thrust their shovels into was owned and lived on by George Washington's younger brother, Charles Washington. Charles Town was named after the younger brother who chartered the town and sold lots in the fledgling City.

On this pleasant day, with Charles entombed in his nearby grave, the tree planting began.

The volunteers encircled a tree as Tanner Haid (Cacapon Institute) demonstrated how trees

should be properly planted. However, the young tree needed more than just the proper planting for its roots to spread out to hold it firmly in place. The correct application of mulch was shown and it was noted the mulch enables the ground to maintain water around the infant roots of the tree until the tree has large enough roots to get water from the surrounding soil. The volunteers were informed of all the benefits of trees and of the symbiotic relationship between humans and trees.

With expanded and newfound knowledge, the volunteers began to plant the remaining 23 trees in their holes to grow strong and tall and eventually provide shade and wildlife



viewing for future pedestrians.

Two city council members, Nick Zaglifa and Ann Paonessa, volunteered on planting day to help reinforce the City of Charles Town's support for tree planting projects.

This tree planting is part a larger Charles Town initiative to expand the Craighill Walking Trail in the future onto recently acquired property. Charles Town plans to plant more trees in 2016.

A word from the Project Leader, Seth Rivard:

"The area along Craighill Walking Trail is nicely mowed, but lacked the appeal of trees to breakup the view and provide context along the trail. Now the area looks better and one will be able to envision how the area will look once the trees are mature. The volunteers learned how to plant trees correctly and had a hands on experience reinforce the learning."



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at CTree@CacaponInstitute.Org or by calling 540-335-0687.