

Sleepy Creek Urban Tree Planting Project

The Sleepy Creek Project Team hosted an urban tree planting project at Cacapon South Subdivision in Berkeley Springs West Virginia. Approximately 527 native trees were planted in this region on October 16, 2010.

The Sleepy Creek Project Team is comprised of the West Virginia Conservation Agency, Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, West Virginia Division of Forestry, and Sleepy Creek Watershed Association.

Funding for the planting project was provided by Sleepy Creek Watershed Association 319 grant, West Virginia CommuniTree Program and the Chesapeake Bay Program. The total budget for this project was approximately \$10,000.

The project team began preparation for the tree planting in July. Landowners were recruited by the project team through emails and flyers. More than 25 landowners participated in the project. A maintenance agreement was developed by the project team, which stated that each participating landowner would be required to water and provide maintenance to the trees for a five year period. Additionally, the project team was granted site access to the landowner's property during the contract period to review progress project and use the sites for educational purposes.

The tree planting project provided several environmental benefits to this urban area. The trees planted were native species of the area. The new trees planted will help reduce storm water runoff to Indian Run, an impaired tributary to Sleepy Creek, and restore the forest population. Many of the ash trees in this region have died off due to the invasive emerald ash bore.

During the week of October 12- 16 volunteers began preparing for the project. Volunteers made cages to protect the trees from deer and other wildlife. Supplies for the project such as top soil, rebar, cages and trees was delivered by volunteers and landowners. On Saturday October 16, more than 70 volunteers participated in the event. Before the event began volunteers were trained on the proper way to plant trees. Volunteers were then assigned to the individual project sites. Landowners and volunteers worked for about 6 hours to plant all of the trees in this area. The overall project was a tremendous success and will be a pilot project for future urban reforestation projects.



Photos from left to right: Volunteers makes cages. Volunteers learn about the project. Volunteers learn the proper way to plant a tree. Trees planted at one of the project sites. The CommuniTree planting project completed. Volunteers work on planting trees.

