

Boonsboro Elementary



4th Graders Dig In for a Cleaner Bay

One hundred students at Boonsboro Elementary School, Boonsboro, Maryland, participated in planting trees at their school as part of the Growing Native education program experience. Students participated in four hours of education lead by Suzi Taylor, Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Students learned about their local watershed and the Chesapeake Bay watershed, stormwater runoff pollution, and the important role trees play within our environment.



Students planted twelve trees at their school. Three serviceberries were planted along the drive into the school that when flowering, will add beauty to the front of the school, produce berries for birds, and absorb excess water from impervious surfaces nearby. The remaining trees were a variety of shade tree species that were planted throughout the playground.

When mature, these shade trees will be approximately 80-100 feet tall and will provide vital shade during the hot months, increase the tree canopy at the school, and decrease the amount of runoff coming from the school property.

Each student group was able to plant two trees. The first tree was used as a demonstration on how to properly plant a tree, including the critical step of ensuring the tree is not planted too deep. These plantings were led by Cacapon Institute staff along with Suzi Taylor. The second tree was planted solely by the students with careful observation from staff to ensure the procedure was followed. Students dug in and had a great time planting their trees.

Students voted on the names of their tree and looked forward to watching their growth. For years to come, those students will remember their tree and know they made a difference for the school, the local watershed, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Seven teachers and the school



principal were essential in helping with the planning and execution of the planting. The school continues to maintain the trees and monitor their growth. Teachers are looking forward to involving the newly planted trees in science, math, and art classes.



Growing Native is a program of the Potomac Watershed Partnership funded by the USDA Forest Service.

