

Driswood Elementary



4th Graders Plant Shade Trees for the Walking Circle



The 4th grade classes at Driswood Elementary School, WV, participated in the Growing Native education program this spring. Students spent four educational hours learning about watersheds, stormwater runoff pollution, and the importance of trees. Education sessions were led by Potomac Valley Audubon Society.

Students had the opportunity to plant eight trees and two shrubs on

their school campus. The two black chokeberry shrubs were planted at the front of the school next to the flag pole. These shrubs will not only beautify the grassy area, but will provide enhanced wildlife habitat to the existing trees. The eight trees were planted on the school playground. The trees planted were a mix of shade tree species that will grow tall and provide a refuge from the hot sun. The playground consists of play equipment and a large walking circle. The walking circle had no shade cover, and the teachers are excited to have a cool place to stand while overseeing the students.

Five Kohl's employees from the Ranson, WV, store participated in the tree planting through their Kohl's Cares volunteer program. This is the second year that Cacapon Institute has worked with the Ranson Kohl's on their environmental initiative linked with Earth Day. The volunteers assisted in planting and mulching the trees with the students and helped to fill each of the ooze tubes placed around the trees. The ooze tubes allow water so slowly seep out of the bottom and continually provide water during the hot summer



months. The Kohl's volunteers brought an exciting energy to the hot day and motivated students to learn how to properly plant trees. Students will be able to enjoy these trees for years as they grow and shade the walking circle.



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

