



Riverheads Elementary



4th Graders Collect, Plant, and Grow Native Trees at School

Ninety 4th grade students at Riverheads Elementary School in Staunton, VA participated in the PHLOW Growing Native program complete with a project this spring. This season was the fourth time Cacapon Institute worked with lead teacher Luanne Leonard to provide both classroom education and hands on conservation with the school's 4th graders.



Cacapon Institute led students in four one-hour classroom education lessons to reinforce students understanding of watersheds, trees, and the role trees play in healthier streams. Students investigated the ability

of riparian forest buffers to protect our streams.

Lessons connect to state standards with interactive activities that spark learning.

Last fall, students collected native acorns from their homes and neighborhoods to plant collectively and grow at the school in a tub grow-out station. These saplings sprouted this spring.

These oak saplings and a diversity of other native tree whips were planted in pots to be added in Riverheads Elementary's new Grow Out Station. All 180 of these saplings will grow in the fenced station for a year until they are ready to be planted on campus and throughout the student's communities at the conclusion of next school year.

The Growing Native program is teaching students about the

critical importance of having trees in our communities to reduce the amount of



pollution entering our streams, provide oxygen, and create habitat for wildlife.

