

New Urban Forestry Coordinator

Cacapon Institute (CI) is pleased to announce the hire of Tanner Haid as our new Urban Forestry Coordinator, a position made possible by a grant from the USDA Forest Service in partnership with the WV Division of Forestry, Division of Highways, and WV Conservation Agency's Project CommuniTree. CommuniTree promotes urban tree planting and public education through volunteerism on a regional scale.

Tanner comes to CI with a degree in Environmental Studies and work experience with the USGS and USDA and in the non-profit sector. Tanner will be working to increase public benefits from 'urban trees', the trees that grace our neighborhoods, parks, schools and roadsides. His chief focus will be working on a multi-year project to increase urban tree canopy (UTC) in towns and communities of the Potomac Basin of West Virginia. The Potomac Basin, represented by the eight counties of the greater Eastern Panhandle, is one of the fastest developing regions of the state. This growth brings benefits but also brings potential negative impacts to air and water quality that threaten quality of life and public health. Assessing and enhancing UTC is a practical and effective means to positively influence these issues because trees reduce air pollution and canopy cover protects streams and improves water quality.

CI's UTC project will strengthen Project CommuniTrees's growing partnership of federal & state agencies, local governments, private organizations, and citizen volunteers. CI will help to identify high priority developed lands and foster UTC management strategies at county and municipal levels. UTC management strategies will involve setting UTC goals and adopting UTC plans that fostering tree preservation and planting initiatives.

If your school, watershed association, Adopt-A-Highway group, or town is interested in planting and protecting trees contact the Urban Forestry Coordinator at thaid@cacaponinstitute.org or 304-856-1385. We invite you to learn more about Project CommuniTree at <http://www.wvca.us/bay/communitree.cfm>.