

Utica Park Planting

-Submitted by: Shannon Moore
Frederick County Watershed Management Section

A volunteer planting took place April 21, 2007 from 7 am-noon at the new Utica Park in Thurmont, Maryland. The park officially opened on April 26 at 2 pm, and the volunteers were recognized at the event. Utica Park is in the Fishing Creek Watershed.

Mike Kay from the DNR Forest Service developed and donated the Forest Stewardship Plan, provided tree tubes, and lent tools (And Mike- we promise to get you a new mallet to replace the one that disappeared!). Shannon Moore, head of the Frederick County Watershed Management Section, coordinated the project partners as well as outreach, recruitment, and news articles in area newspapers. Jason Jenkins of the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Division managed the purchase, provided the mulch, augured the holes, and coordinated the planting of 483 containerized trees from TreeMendous. Colleen Langan of Potomac Conservancy's Growing Native Program provided 200 seedlings and coordinated volunteers at the planting event. Volunteers included members of the New Forest Society, Cub Scout and Boy Scout pack 570, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Youth Group, the Potomac Conservancy, and a local bicycle group. Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee (MUCFC) donated \$1,000 to the event, and Frederick County Government contributed almost \$25,000.

The park is now open for business! The ballfields on the park will open after July 4 to give time for the turf to grow. The first phase of the park has been built, which includes a gigantic picnic shelter. Future phases include a demonstration farming operation and a potential wetland restoration project. Visit the park at 10200-B Old Frederick Road, Thurmont, MD 21788 and take a look at all of the trees our volunteers and staff planted!