

**Newlin Grist Mill
Hardy Plant Society Final Report 2022**

Thank you to the Hardy Plant Society for enhancing the biodiversity of our park, specifically in our Forest Classroom. This is one of four outdoor classrooms utilized for educational programming and public outreach. We strive for a balance between maintaining biodiversity, minimizing human impact, but also providing people with meaningful and educational interactions with nature. Because of this grant, we were able to purchase 25 trees and shrubs (8 different native species). Species planted included Ironwood, Eastern Ninebark, Hackberry, Flowering White Dogwood, American Hazelnut, Witch Hazel, Maple Leaf Viburnum, and Arrowwood Viburnum. The project was completed by Scout Jackson McGehean from Troop 22 as his Eagle project. Jackson led a team of scouts in clearing, prepping, and planting the trees and shrubs. They also constructed a brush fence to delineate the classroom area. Several school groups have already utilized the newly enhanced forest classroom during fall programming. We are excited about the future for this classroom area, and the new plantings will provide additional food and shelter for wildlife which will strengthen the ecosystem and also enhance visitor and school group experiences.



Scouts prepping and clearing the planting area. Work included removal of invasive species.