

The Great Outdoors at Ocean View Elementary & Willoughby Elementary Just Got Even Better: Thanks to the Work of Local Volunteers!

On Saturday, Feb. 26, dozens of volunteers from the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC), the Norfolk Master Gardeners and Keep Norfolk Beautiful gathered on the grounds of Ocean View Elementary and Willoughby Elementary intent on planting 65 trees. TATC had purchased these native trees from Norfolk Parks and Forestry as part of the organization's 50th anniversary commitment to plant 500 trees in the Hampton Roads area. From there, TATC and its partner agencies agreed that beautifying schools was a great place to start. According to TATC President Lee Lohman, the volunteer turnout was so good the trees were planted quickly, in about an hour, enabling the volunteers to then turn their hands towards cleaning up the fence that sits along the dune and live oak area near the school. That cleanup was accomplished as part of Keep Norfolk Beautiful's Charles Hughes Maritime Forest Cleanup Project. As Lee reflected on our work, he shared these thoughts *"Our Trail Club is proud to celebrate 50 years of commitment to the Virginia environment. It seemed appropriate to beautify an area that is important to children because 50 years from now when TATC celebrates its 100th anniversary some of these children may very well carry on this club's legacy."*