Groups planted trees on Bell County reclaimed surface mine site

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BELL COUNTY, Ky. (WYMT) - Groups from across Kentucky planted hundreds of trees on Good Friday on a reclaimed mine site in Bell County for Arbor Day.

This is part of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative.

Representatives from the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Surface Mining, Division of Forestry, The American Chestnut Foundation and students from Right Fork Elementary planted the chestnut trees on 37 acres on a J.W. Resources surface mine site at Straight Creek operations near Stoney Fork.

“The goal of this planting is to re-establish these blight resisting trees where they used to be a dominant part of the forest and having children involved with that is just a win-win situation,” said Michael French, a forester with The American Chestnut Foundation.

This is part of a project to return reclaimed surface mine sites back to land use.