

Community Design Assistance Center
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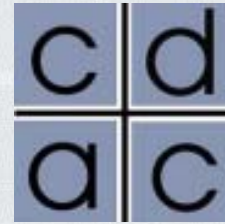
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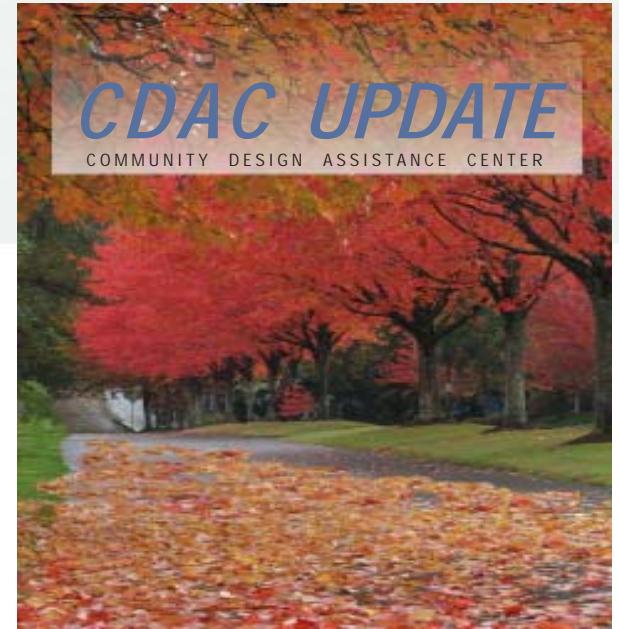


Fall 2006

Success Stories!

Special Pull-out
Lost Communities of Virginia
Order Forms & Chapter
Sponsorship

The Community Design Assistance Center is an outreach center of Virginia Tech's College of Architecture & Urban Studies



About CDAC

Welcome to the Community Design Assistance Center! The Design Center provides assistance in the areas of landscape architecture, planning, architecture, and interior design to non-profit organizations and government agencies that are unable to afford the services of a private consultant or are not ready for that step. Our design work is conceptual in nature and is often used to help clients transform ideas into designs. Many times this conceptual design work is needed as part of grant applications to demonstrate to the funding agency the extent to which they have thought through the request. Students who are hired to work on the projects gain valuable experience related to their future careers.

Our guiding philosophy is *Healthy Living by Design*. This means creating designs that take into consideration the physical, psychological, and intellectual well-being of the users as well as the health of the environment. Such projects include open space master plans, park and greenway designs, outdoor learning landscapes, rain garden designs that reduce and filter stormwater runoff, and architectural work that incorporates ideas for "green" architecture, such as green roofs and sustainable materials.

This newsletter features success stories about several of our projects. Truly the Design Center is a success story in and of itself! Established in 1988, the Center has provided assistance to over 175 communities, impacting thousands and leveraging hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding or donations toward implementation. We have also provided almost 300 students with career-related jobs!

Success Stories!

Buchanan Library

CDAC worked with Friends of the Buchanan County Library, located in Grundy, to provide a design for the library landscape that supports and enhances the library's role as an educational and community center. VT Service Learning partnered with CDAC to help community groups with the first stage of implementation in April, 2006.

Through the [VA Dept of Forestry] grant which CDAC helped us gain, the design they worked with us to create, the hard work of the Service Learning group, and the support of our community, a landscape we can be proud of is becoming a reality at the Buchanan County Public Library.
- Sherry Bright, Library Director



In 2005, CDAC implemented this rain garden in Blacksburg which is similar to the rain garden at Wong Park.

The Wong Park project has been an excellent example of the Town and the University working together for the common good. CDAC creates a great opportunity for the students to get involved in real life planning and implementation for park projects. The Wong Park project will serve as an educational demonstration for the citizens to learn about alternative methods for addressing water runoff. Hopefully citizens can model the park's examples to meet their own needs at home - Dean Crane, Director of Parks and Recreation

Poquoson Museum Project

Poquoson Museum's mission is to "preserve, interpret, document, and educate the public about the history and heritage of the Poquoson community." Seeking to preserve Poquoson's unique heritage, the museum recently purchased a 15-acre farm and salt marsh to create a museum campus that will include a relocated and restored 1945-era general store and pharmacy, farmhouse, interpretative center, barn with vintage agricultural equipment, boat building exhibit, marsh trail, and Back River overlook. The Center assisted the museum by developing a conceptual site master plan, along with the Great Marsh Experience Trail and Back River Overlook concepts.

"this design has...enabled it [the museum] to raise almost \$300,000 for various project elements." John Quarsteing, Administrator of Historic Services and Museums, Newport News..." When this project is completed, it will be one of the best in the area. Thanks [to CDAC] for all of your help, dedication, and expertise in making this trail a reality..." Cliff Coffman, President, Poquoson Museum



Proposed Great Marsh Experience Trail



Community groups implementing a portion of the design(top); Reviewing design ideas(lower left); Existing and proposed design(lower right)

Town of Blacksburg

A recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant has helped jumpstart environmentally conscious efforts in the Town of Blacksburg. The Design Center is a formal partner with the initiative and helped plan the First Annual Sustainable Blacksburg Week during the summer of 2006. The event was so successful that over 30 community groups have since come together to form Sustainable Blacksburg (www.sustainableblacksburg.org).

Several of CDAC's *Healthy Living by Design* projects, including greenways and rain garden designs, such as the Wong Park project, have helped the Town in its environmentally conscious efforts.

City of Radford



Community members construct a portion of the trail

The City of Radford realizes the importance of *Healthy Living by Design* by providing opportunities for interaction with nature, outdoor recreation, and creating a walkable and bikeable community. Projects thus far have included a conceptual master plan for Wildwood Park, open space master plan updates, and a pathways linkage plan. The conceptual design for Wildwood Park helped leverage funding from multiple sources to implement the design. Created in 1993, CDAC's conceptual design for the 50-acre park, is almost fully implemented. The last stage, a nature walk along the limestone cliffs at the park entrance, is now being planned. The project was showcased in July to the U.S. Forest Service representatives from across the east coast, as an example of a highly successful project! We are now working with the City and Pathways for Radford, a local citizens group that promotes bikeways, walkways, and trails, to create a bikeway/walkway linkages plan. This will guide the City toward their goal of becoming a national model for a walkable/bikeable community.

...the plan to be created by CDAC will be instrumental in moving us forward with the actualization of our goal. - Liz Altieri, President of Pathways for Radford



The implemented trail

McGaheysville Dam Site Conceptual Park Design

McGaheysville Dam was built in the 1920s as a power source for the City of Harrisonburg. In 1965 it was damaged during Hurricane Hazel and has been out of use ever since, becoming not only a safety hazard, but an environmental one as well. The dam was recently removed, thus opening up recreational opportunities along that area of the river. The Design Center worked with City staff, area educators, and adjacent property owners and residents to develop a conceptual master plan for the site. This work fits in with the region's goal of developing a blueway that runs between Shenandoah and Port Republic and CDAC's vision of helping to create healthy communities. Work has already begun on implementation and the City is investigating the possibility of a James Madison University administered research station on the site.

What began as a simple river access and boat landing project evolved into a conceptual plan for a riverside park including an outdoor education center, an outfitter's depot, and a park with active and passive experiences that explore the area's history, culture, and environment. This outcome was a result of the vivid imaginations and forward thinking of the students and staff. - Lee Foerster, Director, Parks and Recreation, City of Harrisonburg



Proposed overlook atop former McGaheysville Dam

Current/Recent Projects

- Cornerstone Community Church Conceptual Site Master Plan; Carroll County
- Waldorf School Trails Master Plan; Charlottesville
- Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment; Culpeper County
- Anglers Park Conceptual Master Plan; Danville
- Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History Interior Space Planning
- Ervinton High School Outdoor Learning Landscape; Nora
- Trails Conceptual Master Plan; Floyd County
- Habitat for Humanity Community Computer Generated Rendering; Radford
- Open Space Master Plan Update; Radford
- Trails Linkages Master Plan; Radford
- Police, Fire, and Rescue Training Academy Programming Requirements and Site Recommendations; Roanoke County

Look for our newly designed website to be launched in early 2007!

<http://cdac.arch.vt.edu>

Website redesign by VDS4, a center in the College of Architecture & Urban Studies devoted to developing professional design solutions for visual communication needs, including brand identity, design for print, advertising, and website design. See <http://www.vds4.net/> for more information.