

Lost Communities of Virginia

Since its publication in May 2011, *Lost Communities of Virginia* has continued to pique the interest of readers and history lovers with ties to the state. The book has been recognized with the 2012 Library of Virginia People's Choice Award for Non-Fiction, Preservation Virginia's 2012 Outstanding Historic Preservation Research Effort Award, and a 2013 Leadership in History Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History. Book talks have been presented to many local history and civic groups as well as at the Virginia Festival of the Book, the Library of Virginia, and a Banner Lecture at the Virginia Historical Society.

While a sequel to *Lost Communities of Virginia* is not currently planned, those with an interest in Virginia's small communities can join the conversation on Facebook at [LostCommunitiesOfVirginia](#) while awaiting the release of the *Lost Communities of Virginia Southside Driving Tour* brochure.



Photo by Anne Wernikoff, VT

Lost Communities of Virginia Southside Driving Tour



Virginia's back roads and rural areas are dotted with traces of once-thriving communities. General stores, train depots, schools, churches, banks, and post offices provide intriguing details of a way of life now gone. The *Lost Communities of Virginia Southside Driving Tour* will give people the opportunity to explore a sampling of Virginia's back roads and bring people through parts of Appomattox, Charlotte, Halifax, Pittsylvania, and Campbell Counties. The route is designed as a loop so that people can jump on the route from a multitude of locations. Once completed (spring 2013), the brochure will be available both as a downloadable pdf on the CDAC website and in print at local chambers of commerce and visitors centers throughout the five featured counties. It will be available for free at local chambers of commerce, visitor centers, and on-line at CDAC's website.

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CDAC Highlights

Community Design Assistance Center
College of Architecture & Urban Studies
Virginia Tech
Fall 2013



The Community Design Assistance Center is an outreach center in the College of Architecture & Urban Studies at Virginia Tech that provides assistance in the areas of landscape architecture, architecture, interior design, and planning to non-profit organizations and government agencies in underserved communities. Since our humble beginnings 25 years ago in 1988 through a grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, the Design Center has assisted over 240 communities.

We also continue to embrace new partnerships that further our abilities to assist underserved communities. Most recently this has been a partnership with the Kentucky Division of Forestry and the Virginia Department of Forestry with grant assistance from the Southern Group of State Foresters (US Forest Service) to assist communities in the economically strapped coal regions of southeastern Kentucky and southwest Virginia. The purpose was to help communities develop plans for forest-based recreation and eco-tourism.

We hope you enjoy this issue of CDAC Highlights, which includes a sampling of projects with brief summaries.

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

Project Funding - Southern Group of State Foresters in Cooperation with the Kentucky Division of Forestry

Conceptual Designs; Hazard, KY

Project: The City of Hazard is in a region that has been under economic hardship due to the fluctuation of the coal industry. The region's population suffers from numerous health issues including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity. CDAC worked with the community to develop conceptual designs for community pocket parks in low income neighborhoods, a greenway/bike path along the North Fork of the Kentucky River, updating City Hall Park, and a Coal Miners Memorial Park.



Community Park & Mt. Sports Hall of Fame Site Conceptual Master Plan; Wayland, KY

Project: Develop a conceptual master plan for a softball/little league field that will be the cornerstone of a recreational area with a walking trail, basketball courts, playground, and picnic areas that will help fight obesity and draw people to the town.



Parking Lot Design for Reducing Stormwater Run-off and Main Street Tree Plantings; Paintsville, KY

Project: Develop a conceptual redesign for a parking lot along the main entrance into downtown that addresses stormwater remediation and serves as a demonstration of environmentally-sensitive development while also creating an aesthetic entry to the downtown area. Also add street tree plantings and develop a conceptual streetscape design.



Project funding - Southern Group of State Foresters in Cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry

Cleveland Elementary School Site Redesign, Ball Park Redesign, and Riverwalk Conceptual Designs; Cleveland, VA

Project: Develop designs for developing an RV park and campground at the former Cleveland Elementary School site, concepts for improving the existing park site, and explore the possibility of creating a concept of linking the site with another site to create a river walk.



Wise County Nature and Fitness Trail Conceptual Design; Wise, VA

Project: Develop a conceptual design for a 40-acre site with a series of nature trails of varying degrees of difficulty and exercise stations to help combat obesity. A series of outdoor classroom stations along the trails were also desired as a place for educational sessions. Construction has begun!



Richlands' Clinch River Pedestrian Walkway Extension Conceptual Design; Richlands, VA

Project: Develop a conceptual design that extends the existing walking trail approximately 1.67 miles to complete the connection to downtown and a historic swinging bridge. In addition to connecting people to the river, Richlands intends for the trail to benefit the community through improved health, broader education, additional recreation, and through its economic potential.



Project Funding - Virginia Department of Forestry Urban Forestry & Community Forestry Program

Luray Greenway Extension and Waterfront Pocket Park Conceptual Design; Luray, VA

Project: Extend the award-winning Luray-Hawksbill Greenway Trail to the Ralph H. Dean Recreation Park and add a pocket park located adjacent to Main Street in the Town center.



Conceptual Design for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of the Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil War Era Historic Site and Log Cabin; Clarksville, VA

Project: Develop a conceptual master plan for the site so it can be used for outdoor education and recreation and develop a conceptual design for a visitor's center, and for the preservation and rehabilitation of the Patrick Robert Sydnor Civil War era log cabin. The cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Research indicates the cabin was built during the antebellum era to house the enslaved workers of nearby Prestwold Plantation.



Woodstock Gateway Enhancement Conceptual Design; Woodstock, VA

Project: Create a gateway conceptual design from the I-81 interchange to South Main Street along Route 42 that addresses landscaping, lighting, and signage. Implementation is underway!



Entryway Designs; Pamplin City, VA

Project: Develop conceptual designs for entry areas into town, as well as ideas for a vacant gravel lot adjacent to the Town Hall and Main Street.



Learning Center at Fishburn Forest Conceptual Design; Department of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech; Blacksburg, VA

Project: Develop a conceptual design for a building that can serve as a living lab for a variety of classes that require field work in addition to other uses such as renting the facility to other groups for meetings, conferences, community functions, and opening the site more formally to the public.

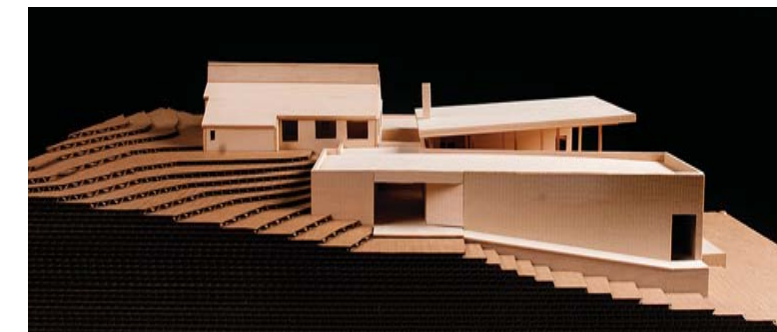


Other Projects

The Reynolds Homestead Conceptual Design Study for Additional Space; Critz, VA

The Reynolds Homestead Community Enrichment Center, an extension of the Virginia Tech campus, provides educational and cultural programs for the residents of Patrick County and the surrounding communities in Virginia and North Carolina.

Project: Develop a conceptual design for an addition to the building.



Scenic River Evaluations;

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) provides field work and evaluative documentation for qualifying Virginia jurisdictions who seek to designate local rivers in the state's Scenic River Designation program.

Project: Help in the determination of eligibility for Scenic River Designation projects for the portions of Bannister River (Pittsylvania County), Dan River (Patrick County), Cranes Nest River (Dickenson County), and Tye River (Nelson county).

