

Dungannon, VA: Town Playground Conceptual Design

The final design concept options provide a variety of recreation spaces that Dungannon currently does not have. These include a community splash pad, themed playground equipment designed for different age groups, and environmental learning opportunities. To complement the Dungannon Depot across the street, there is a new miniature train loop as well as a train-themed splash pad are also proposed. Funded through a VA Department of Forestry grant.

Prestonsburg, KY: Trail Town Conceptual Master Plan



An abundance of natural resources surround Prestonsburg. These natural resources provide residents and visitors with a wealth of opportunities for an outdoor lifestyle. The city sought to strengthen their trail connections in order to capitalize on their natural, historic, and cultural assets for community and economic development. CDAC created a conceptual trail master plan that connects trail networks to public spaces and provides recommendations for effective wayfinding signage to aid in their trail town certification efforts. This project was funded through a grant from the KY Division of Forestry.

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Statewide: Lost Communities of Virginia Driving Tours

In the spirit of the award-winning *Lost Communities of Virginia* book, CDAC is developing driving tour brochures for 4-5 county regions in the Commonwealth. You'll drive backroads, passing through small, once-thriving communities with suggested stops at places that tell stories of the places, provide unique cultural experiences, and patronize local businesses that exemplify the ideals of the tour through their buildings, landscapes, or history. The tours connect to major highways so you can drive as much or as little as you like in a day or a weekend visit.

Covering the counties of Appomattox, Campbell, Charlotte, Halifax, and Pittsylvania, the *Lost Communities of Virginia* Southside Driving Tour brochure is now available on our website for download and in print from local tourism offices. The *Lost Communities of Virginia* Backroads of Southwest Virginia Driving Tour brochure covering Carroll, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe Counties available on our website and in print through the tourism offices. The brochures can be found at: cdac.arch.vt.edu/tour.html

If interested in possible inclusion on a future route, please contact Terri Fisher at tlfisher@vt.edu



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CDAC believes every community deserves quality design that promotes a healthy, sustainable way of life.

CDAC is an outreach center in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, that assists communities, civic groups, and nonprofit organizations in improving their natural and built environments through research, community engagement, and interdisciplinary design. We provide opportunities for students to engage with communities, connecting university knowledge with real world experience. CDAC believes every community deserves quality design that promotes a healthy, sustainable way of life. This design philosophy is reflected in projects such as trails for health and fitness, parks for outdoor relaxation, outdoor learning environments, and plantings to reduce erosion and stormwater runoff. CDAC's work focuses on landscape architecture, architecture, interior design, and planning.

Since its humble beginnings 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 280 communities throughout Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Recent grants have included Forestry Competitive Grants (FCG) and an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant. The FCG project is to assist Appalachian communities in VA, KY, & NC develop conceptual plans that conserve, protect, and enhance community natural resources. The EPA grant will allow CDAC to help communities plan for redevelopment of brownfield sites.

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

CDAC Success Stories

Jonesborough, TN: Town Receives \$500,000 Grant



In 2015, CDAC worked with the Town of Jonesborough to develop a conceptual design for a neighborhood park adjacent to a new senior center and on the site of the current public works facility. CDAC also created a conceptual master plan for relocating the public works facility. The project was funded through an \$18,714 Forest Competitive Grant through the VA Department of Forestry. CDAC's conceptual designs were instrumental in the town receiving a \$500,000 grant from the Local Parks and Recreation Fund toward implementation.

Pearisburg, VA: Sports Complex/Town Park Conceptual Master Plan



The purpose of this project was to develop a conceptual master plan update for the Pearisburg Town Park that benefits families, seniors, and youth and improved the quality of life by building community pride and contributing to the tourism economy of Pearisburg. Additionally, the town sought to create the opportunity for an adult league baseball/ softball facility on a nearby undeveloped town property on Tannery Road by the New River. The town envisioned creating a recreational complex of facilities with updated features for every stage of life with a focus on updating their youth sports fields and supporting facilities. It was envisioned that the Pearisburg Town Park become a location where youth baseball and softball clubs could play, train, and host regional tournaments. The park's open space, mature shade trees, walking trail, and bird watching would continue to offer the town and Giles County a clean, well-maintained nature park. The project was funded in part through a grant from the VA Department of Forestry.

Stecoah, NC: Stecoah Valley Center Receives \$100,000 Grant



In 2015, CDAC worked with the Stecoah Valley Center to improve their 10 acre site. The center provides after school arts programs, performance space, an art gallery, event space, and a museum for Cherokee history. CDAC worked with the community to develop a conceptual master plan to enhance the cultural and environmental quality of the grounds. The design included plant materials significant to Cherokee heritage, Appalachian and Cherokee interpretive stations, and a courtyard deck area featuring sculptures related to Cherokee heritage. CDAC's services were provided through a \$16,000 NC Forest Service grant. The Stecoah Valley Arts Center was recently awarded \$100,000 by the John William Pope Foundation for an outdoor Cherokee art project. "The Courtyard project will provide awareness of the EBCI's role in the Stecoah community and experiential learning opportunities for students and visitors in the area.

Dante, VA: Conceptual Downtown Master Plan and Park Design



This project was a two-part project for the Dante community toward developing a conceptual downtown master plan that featured public open space. The Virginia Tech Landscape Architecture Program held a charrette to begin generating a host of ideas to improve public open space located by the former trail depot for use by Dante residents and visitors. In the second phase of work, CDAC worked with the community to refine the initial concepts into a final conceptual master plan for the downtown area with planting recommendations. Funding was provided, in part, by the VA Department of Forestry. The Dante community has already received KaBoom! grant to install the playground equipment.

CDAC Receives EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant

In 2015, the CDAC received a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment grant to assess and help communities develop conceptual redevelopment plans for potentially contaminated sites in southwest Virginia communities. The EPA Assessment Grant provided funding for CDAC to help communities determine if a site was contaminated (and if so, with what) and then plan for the possible redevelopment of that site through a conceptual design and community engagement process. EPA does not require or commit communities to any cleanup if the community participated in this process.

Damascus VA: Conceptual Redevelopment Plan for the Former Chevron Property



CDAC worked with the Damascus community to identify a new use for the former Chevron site at the corner of East Laurel Avenue and South Legion Street and then develop a conceptual redevelopment plan. CDAC provided the community with two redevelopment plan options to provide flexibility in future development options. Concept 1 includes flexible retail space on the first floor and a bed and breakfast-type business on the second floor. The simple L-shaped building helps define the edge of Legion Street while creating a courtyard that opens onto Laurel Avenue. In Concept 2, there are retail spaces and a three-story multi-purpose space on the ground floor. The multi-purpose space could be used as an indoor climbing gym or banquet hall. A Phase I Environmental Assessment was conducted

Blowing Rock, NC: American Legion Site Conceptual Design



CDAC worked with a stakeholders committee to create a conceptual master plan to improve the pedestrian connections behind the American Legion building and to downtown, address silt deposits adversely affecting Mayview Lake, and prepare a tree replacement plan to encourage greater species diversity. Fund-raising is underway.

Saltville VA: Conceptual Town Connectivity Plan and Town Shop Site Conceptual Redevelopment Plan



The town's location has an ecological and historical significance that goes back millions of years when the town's location was a shallow inland salt-water sea. During the last Ice Age, salt deposits attracted animals such as Mastodons and Woolly Mammoths. While great efforts have been made to bolster Saltville as a recreation destination, there are still vital resources not in place. The town does not have any lodging. The goal of this project was to create a town-wide trail linkage master plan and create a conceptual redevelopment plan with a variety of lodging options at the former Town Shop site that will improve quality of life by supporting the town's economic and environmental sustainability efforts. Phase I & II Environmental Assessments were conducted.

Olive Hill, KY: Casey Park Conceptual Design



Two massive floods in May and July of 2010 nearly destroyed Olive Hill, KY's downtown area. This project, known as "Casey Park," provides town beautification, nature appreciation, outdoor education, and economic development. The final design concept includes riparian plantings to help reduce stormwater run-off, educational opportunities, trails, and an event space.