

CDAC Updates

EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant

The CDAC recently finished a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment grant in 2018 to assess and help communities develop conceptual redevelopment plans for potentially contaminated sites in coal-impacted counties in southwest Virginia. The EPA Assessment Grant provided funding for CDAC to help seven 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.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VA DOF)

CDAC recently received an Urban and Community Forestry grant from the VA DOF. The purpose of this grant is to help communities with urban and community forestry projects that promote healthy living opportunities in communities throughout Virginia. This includes helping communities plan for open space, parks and recreation, tree planting plans, landscaping plans, and greenway designs. CDAC will work with 2-3 communities during 2021-2022.

Other Recent/Current Projects

- Courtland, VA: Helping Hand Cemetery Conceptual Site Master Plan
- Page County, VA: Page County Community Space Conceptual Site Master Plan
- Pound, VA: Conceptual Trailhead Design for the former Bank Building Property and Conceptual Town Connectivity Plan
- Russell County, VA: Conceptual Neighborhood Site Master Plan for the PSA Site
- Sun, VA: Conceptual Redevelopment Plan for the Former Sun Motors Property

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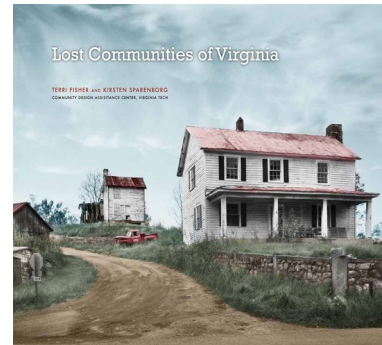


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10th Anniversary of *Lost Communities of Virginia* Book and Driving Tours

Lost Communities of Virginia was published in May 2011, making 2021 its 10th anniversary! The book, which received the 2012 Library of Virginia People's Choice Award for Non-Fiction, 2012 Preservation Virginia Outstanding Historic Preservation Research Effort Award, and the 2013 American Association of State and Local History Leadership in History Award, continues to be a strong seller and is now in its 4th printing. Research into the 30 communities in the book and many others throughout the Commonwealth have led to the development of the Backroads of Southwest Virginia and Southern Driving Tour brochures; the creation of the well-received *Lost Communities of Virginia* Facebook page; and helps to inform CDAC's design projects. Television and radio interviews, magazine and newspaper articles, and author presentations across Virginia have reached a wide group of people interested in these once-thriving places that many know personally from visiting relatives, living in, or just driving through. In addition, the publicity spreads the word about CDAC's services to potential clients. *Lost Communities of Virginia* is available for purchase at many local Virginia bookstores and at online booksellers.

For more information about the *Lost Community of Virginia* book or driving tour brochures, please contact Terri Fisher at tfisher@vt.edu.



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The Community Design Assistance Center (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 recreation, outdoor learning environments, and the design or redevelopment of structures that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient.

CDAC's work focuses on landscape architecture, architecture, interior design. Since its humble beginnings in 1988 through a grant from the U. S. Dept. of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, the Design Center has completed over 300 projects in communities throughout Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Recent grants have included an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant and a Virginia Department of Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Grant. The EPA grant has given CDAC the opportunity to help communities plan for redevelopment of brownfield sites. The DOF grant is focused on creating plans that conserve, protect, and enhance community natural resources.



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CDAC Success Stories

Dante, VA: \$104,000 Genan Foundation Grant Funds Bathhouse At Campground!



The Arty Lee School, which served Dante's African American community, closed in the 1960s but remained an important part of the overall Dante community. In preparation of environmental remediation efforts and demolition, the community worked with CDAC to develop plans for a campground. This would be a much needed overnight lodging amenity to support anticipated growth associated with outdoor recreation and ATV trail development. The campground also establishes connections to the downtown via walking, biking, and ATV trails. The campground is under construction and will have a bathhouse, laundry units, dump station, camp sites, tent pads, additional signage, and a deck that overlooks the nearby creek.

Abingdon, VA: William King Museum of Art (WKMA) Awarded \$275,000 for Campus Renovations



The William King Museum of Art, located in Abingdon, VA, was recently awarded \$275,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The William King Museum of Art is dedicated to utilizing innovative programming to engage, educate, and enrich the quality of life of local residents of all ages through the arts. The significant grant award will help implement portions of a campus master plan that CDAC originally prepared in 2019. The proposed features facilitate healthy living and exercise, sustainability, community engagement, creative thinking, and play. Design features include enhanced ADA accessibility, an amphitheater and lawn event space, sculpture garden paths, native meadows, additional parking, visitor drop-off zones, and welcome plaza.

Virginia Department of Forestry Grant Projects

Rustburg, VA: Campbell County Training School Complex Conceptual Site Master Plan



The Campbell County Training School Complex (CCTSC), also originally known as the Rustburg School, is located on an 8.81-acre parcel in the town of Rustburg in Campbell County at 1470 Village Highway. The training school complex was originally constructed and operated as a Rosenwald School and is significant for having its core campus layout still intact. Today, as the CCTSC forges a new future, it looks to become a place where new memories and relationships can flourish. The central campus is anchored by a central gathering space that includes an iconic maypole, open green space, and additional outdoor seating. Other key design features include: woodland trail, memorial steps and outdoor classroom, community garden, naturalistic play area, tot lot, formalized parking areas, and a plaza that can be used in conjunction with the recently renovated assembly building that hosts large community functions.

Luray, VA: Andrew Jackson School Memorial Park Conceptual Site Master Plan



The West Luray Recreation Center is a former Rosenwald School that has been converted into a community-based recreation center. The West Luray Recreation Center (TheREC) provides a positive activity and learning environment for underserved youth in nearby neighborhoods, Luray, and Page County, including an after-school tutoring program, mentoring, meals, and space for indoor activities and socializing. The final design for TheREC features landscape elements that create a large recreational space for the building. Design elements include community gardening space, pavilion, amphitheater, basketball court, playground, and perimeter walking trail.

EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Projects

Dante, VA: Conceptual Redevelopment of the Steam Building



The Dante steam building, formerly used to heat coal executive homes in Dante, is a privately owned structure. The final design concept captures the property owner's and community's desire to create a space that encourages innovation, creativity, and collaboration. Named "The Plant: Collaboration Center for Innovation", the building becomes an entrepreneurial and research hub in the Clinch River Valley for innovation and entrepreneurial partnership. "The Plant" has the potential to become a model for creative education and technology exploration for rural communities across the country. This design creates a flexible collaboration center that can be used as office space, event space, or for educational instruction.

Whitetop, VA: Conceptual Redevelopment Plan for the Mount Rogers School and Conceptual Site Master Plan



The final design concept transforms the former school and surrounding property into a hub for community gathering, special events, tourist information, and environmental education. It celebrates the unique musical, cultural, and ecological heritage of Whitetop and the Grayson highlands. In conjunction with the conceptual site master plan, designs were created that convert the historic rock school and existing storage building into a multi-purpose building complex with a visitor's center, museum and artisan demonstration space, and an year-round music venue. The redesigned buildings and site master plan create an attractive destination for visitors to the Grayson Highlands while also creating a unique community amenity.

St. Paul, VA: Conceptual Redevelopment Plan for the Western Front Building



The final conceptual redevelopment plan augments the conceptual master plan for the Riverside Drive corridor that was completed by CDAC in fall 2019 which provides a vision for addressing physical blight and underutilized properties along Riverside Drive. The combination of planning efforts will help ensure that St. Paul is an attractive, inviting destination for visitors and entrepreneurs.

The design transforms the Western Front building into a lively distillery. The distillery concepts draws inspiration from the 1920s-era bar and saloon history of Riverside Drive as an iconic moment in St. Paul's past. The distillery and tasting room is a place to have a medium to upscale spirit tasting and dining experience in a small town setting. The interior spaces incorporate visual elements of a speakeasy-esque atmosphere with lounge seating and rich woods paired with jewel tone colors.

Clinchco, VA: Town-Wide and Downtown Conceptual Master Plans



Clincho, Virginia is a small community of about 350 people located in the northern portion of Dickenson County in the valley of the McClure River and near the West Virginia line. CDAC worked with the community to develop a set of conceptual master plans that provided a comprehensive vision for the community. Design elements included a new town entry, bus stop, market pavilion, cafe with musician memorial, multi-generational recreation enhancements, trail connectivity, and a combination cabin/tent campground.