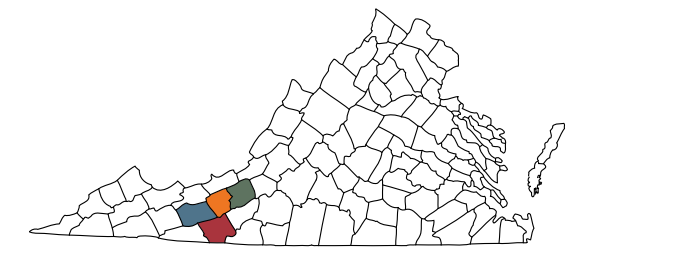




## SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA BACKROADS OF

### GET OFF THE INTERSTATE and really experience Virginia!

Lost Communities of Virginia Driving Tours guide you through communities that are off the beaten path. Discover forgotten main streets, general stores, train depots, schools, churches, banks, post offices, and farms. Visit local restaurants, family-owned businesses, small museums, and other interesting cultural sites. Experience the history, flavor, landscapes, and occasional lost communities of backroads Virginia.



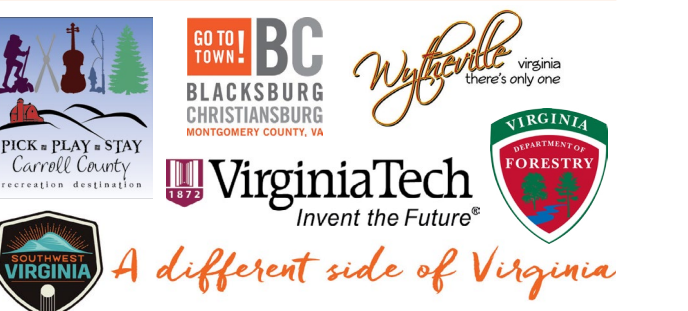
The Lost Communities of Virginia book and continuing initiative strive to make a wide audience aware of the many small, once thriving communities in Virginia. Our back road driving tours through Virginia's small communities suggest historical points of interest, provide unique cultural experiences, and support local businesses that exemplify the ideals of the tour through their buildings, landscapes, or history.

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK:** LostCommunitiesOfVirginia

The Community Design Assistance Center is an outreach center of Virginia Tech's College of Architecture & Urban Studies. Since 1988, CDAC has assisted communities, civic groups, and nonprofit organizations in improving their natural and built environments through research, engagement, and interdisciplinary student. Students engage with communities, connecting university knowledge with real world experience.

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK:** CommunityDesignAssistanceCenter

Cover photo: Wythe County - Grahams Forge. Brochure ©2017



## POINTS OF INTEREST

Lost Communities of Virginia Driving Tours are envisioned as loops through multi-county areas. Travelers can begin and end the tour anywhere along the route and travel in either direction. The main route connects many of the communities and points of interest featured on the tour. Alternate routes are side trips to other interesting locations. The route follows scenic roads with beautiful landscapes and vernacular buildings that may pique your curiosity as well. You can find more information about places highlighted on the map in the brochure. Completing the entire route will take several days, but feel free to sample parts of the route as you have time. Main highways are shown on the map to show easy access to and from the tour route.

For more information and an online version of the map visit the Community Design Assistance Center's website at [cdac.arch.vt.edu](http://cdac.arch.vt.edu). Use the following information and key to find suggested stops and hidden places along your driving tour. Refer to the icons to get the most out of each stop.

- |  |                    |  |                              |  |                           |
|--|--------------------|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
|  | <b>CARROLL</b>     |  | <b>FRESH PRODUCE</b>         |  | <b>OVERNIGHT STAY</b>     |
|  | <b>MONTGOMERY</b>  |  | <b>HISTORY &amp; CULTURE</b> |  | <b>PHOTOS ONLY</b>        |
|  | <b>PULASKI</b>     |  | <b>INFORMATION</b>           |  | <b>PICNIC AREA</b>        |
|  | <b>WYTHE</b>       |  | <b>IRON FURNACE</b>          |  | <b>DINING</b>             |
|  | <b>ANTIQUES</b>    |  | <b>LOST COMMUNITY</b>        |  | <b>SHOPPING</b>           |
|  | <b>SEE CHARGED</b> |  | <b>MUSIC</b>                 |  | <b>TRAIL/WALKING TOUR</b> |

## CARROLL COUNTY

Formed in 1842 from Grayson County, Named for Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Later grew to include part of Patrick County. | [pickplaystay.com](http://pickplaystay.com)

- BYLLESBY | D7**
- 1. Buck Dam | D6** **Buck Dam Road/Route 737** | Note: gravel road | Appalachian Power hydroelectric dam. The New River Trail passes through here.
- 2. Byllesby Dam | D7** **Byllesby Road/Route 602** | Appalachian Power hydroelectric dam and recreation area. The New River Trail passes through here.

- CANA | F9**
- 3. Flower Gap Road/Route 691 | F8, F9**





Carroll County  
Groundhog Lookout Picnic Area

## BACKROADS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

The tour is a large loop over back roads in the counties of Carroll, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe. You'll see working farms with animals



Wythe County  
Kimberlin Lutheran Cemetery

and crops. You'll be captivated by dramatic mountain and valley views. You'll crisscross railroads and rivers that were once industrial drivers of the region, turning natural resources to commodities and providing a way to send them to market. You'll follow roads traveled by the earliest settlers in the region and see their homes and churches.

Watch for the remnants of communities and industry: an old store at a crossroads, a one room school, a train depot, a stone iron furnace in a field, railroad tracks removed to become a trail. Visit historic downtowns like Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Fries, Hillsville, Pulaski, and Wytheville.



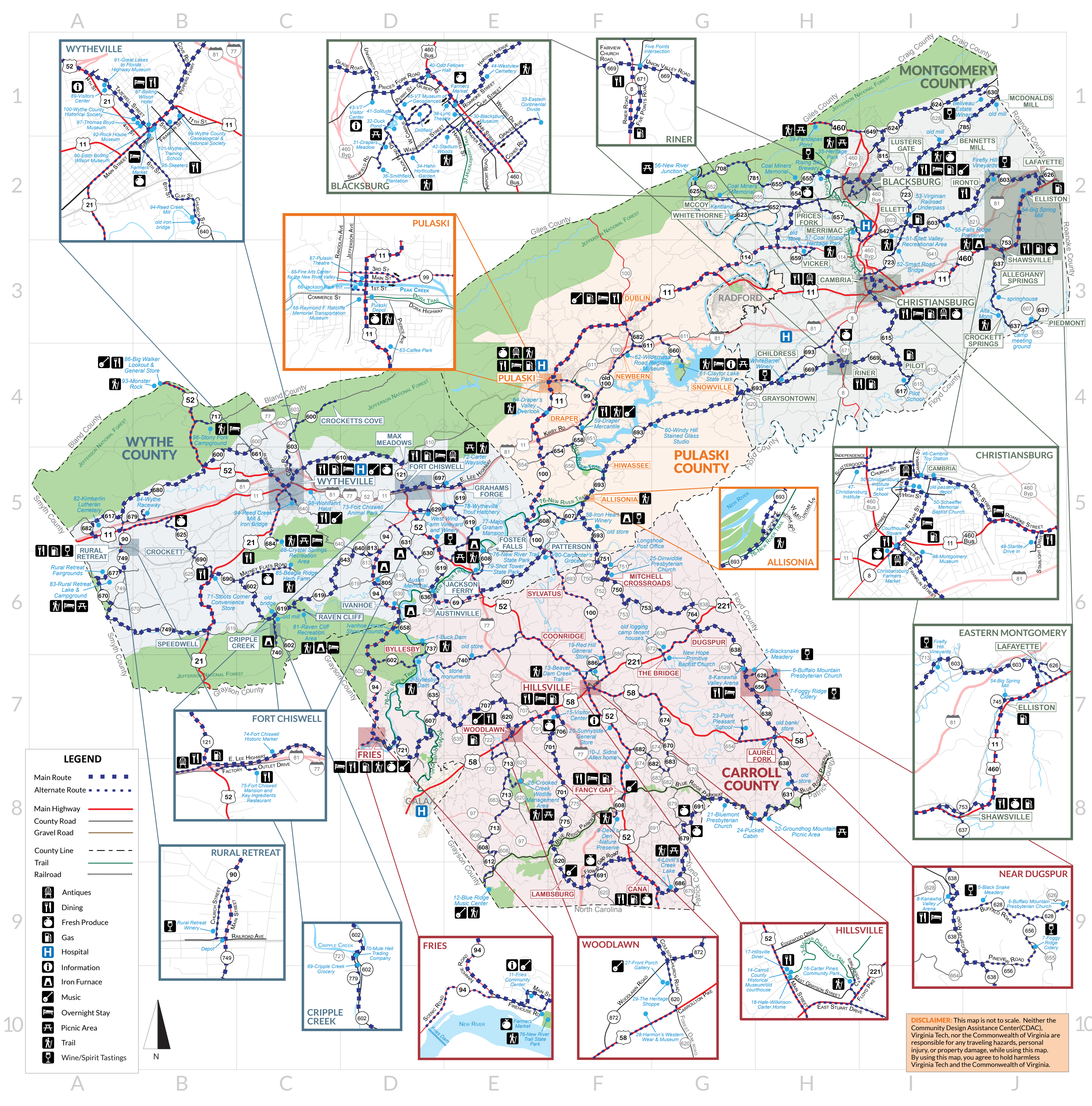
Pulaski County  
Draper Mercantile



Montgomery County  
New River



Carroll County  
Old Courthouse



Wythe County  
Wytheville

## CAUTION WHEN DRIVING Tips & Tricks for a Safe Trip

- Many roads are scenic and only 2 lanes. Unless otherwise noted, all roads were paved and passable when we visited, but be alert to changes and obey speed limits.
- Watch for animals and slow vehicles like farm machinery and respect their speed. Remember, many people live here because they cherish the peace and quiet and slower pace.
- The entire route will take more than one day to travel. There are bed and breakfasts and hotels in the area if you'd like to make this a longer adventure.
- Local businesses included in the brochure tell stories of the community's past, provide unique cultural experiences, or are located in a historic building. Due to space constraints, just a sampling of these businesses are included here. You're encouraged to be curious and sample the local flavors.
- There are a few places listed in the brochure that are not open to the public, but are identifiable landmarks along the route. Please respect the privacy of the property owners.
- Cell phone signal is likely to be spotty.
- Virginia Tech parking passes are needed on campus. Virginia Wildlife Area Management Access Permits are required where noted.



Wythe County  
Cedar Springs store



Carroll County



Montgomery County  
Elliston



Wythe County  
Raven Cliff Furnace

While all efforts have been made to create a map that is easy to follow and correct, roads can change or not look quite the same on a map as they do when you are on them. Consider bringing a copy of DeLorme's Virginia Atlas and Gazetteer or a GPS device to help you out of tight spots!