LBAR 3910: Practicum in Liberal Arts

Developing Community with Appalachia

AUBURN

An Alternative Spring Break Experience...

The Course Objectives:

- Students should be able to demonstrate a better understanding of societies or communities different from their own.
- Students should be better able to analyze an issue of cultural or social difference.
- Students should understand strategies for making a difference in or working with a community different from their own.
- Students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the causes and conditions of rural poverty in Appalachia.

The Clearfork Community Institute

seeks to establish and exercise community involvement that defines rural Appalachia's sustainability and supportability by facilitating and prioritizing knowledge gained through work and reflection in place-based community.

Made by Tyler Ritchotte

Principles of the Institute

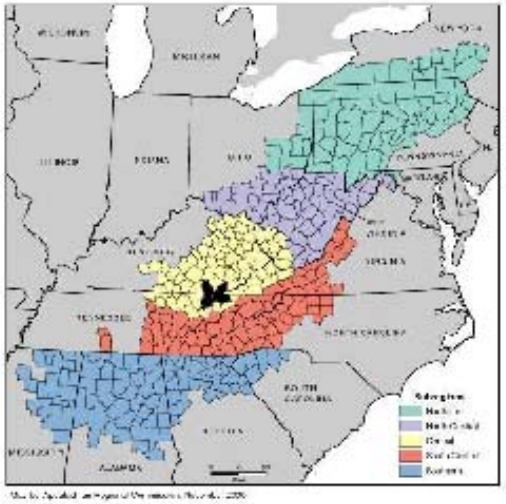
- Co-learning process - allows peers to learn from one another emphasizing communication, volunteerism, research and action. Co-learning is an egalitarian approach to learning methods.
- Intergenerational Learning: provides a context that transcends an individual's limited perspective and demonstrates that knowledge can span at least three generations in the past and future.
- A Renewed Sense of the Commons: "the commons include all the assets we inherit together and are morally obligated to pass on, undiminished, to future generations." Peter Barnes
- Spirit Culture:ignites the passion of individuals and the collective to bring forth rites of passage, spirit-culture celebrate achievements and experience the freedom to initiate the rebirth of a region.
- Permaculture Principles:use an approach to human settlement design that mimic the relationships found in human ecological systems to minimize labor-input while maximizing the quality of life.
- Economic Realities: CCI reflects and works with the economic reality of the Valley in cash, trade and culture.

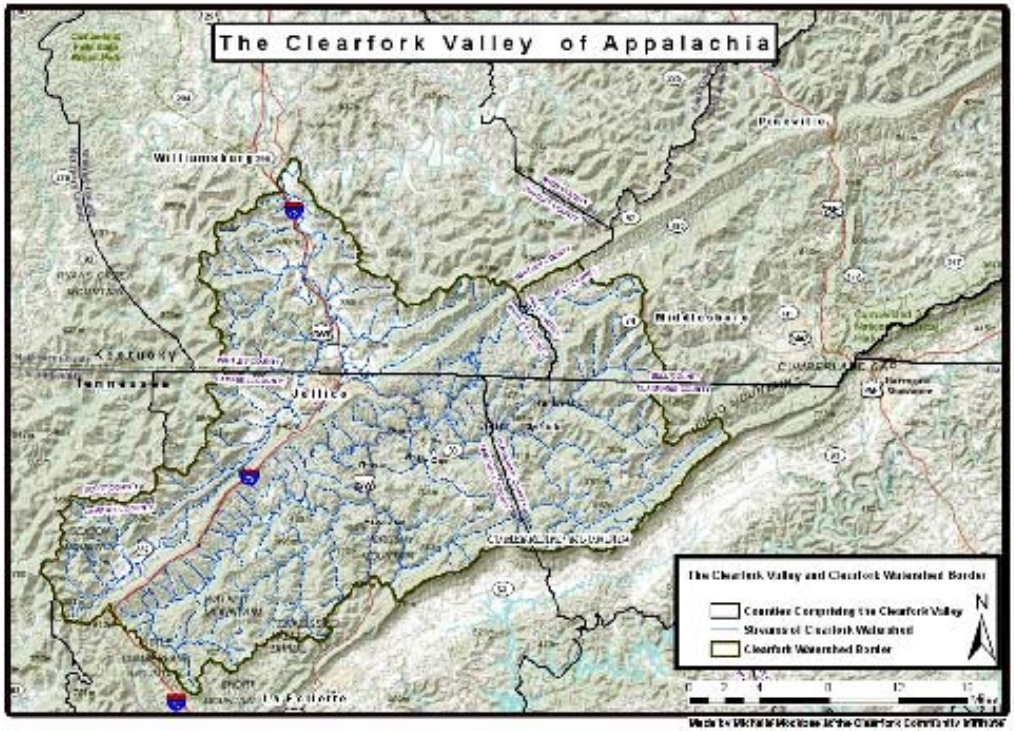
Practicing Democracy through Volunteers in Partnership: a program of the Clearfork Community Institute

Local residents along with volunteers from outside communities, colleges, or organizations work in a partnership to explore equitable solutions for just community development.

The Clearfork Valley

The Clearfork Valley is bound by two mountain ranges. On the Northern side is Pine Mountain and the Southern Side is Cumberland Mountain. The ranges run parallel on a slight Northeast diagonal. Within the bounds of these ranges are 12 unincorporated rural communities. Politically, the Valley crosses two counties in Tennessee-Claiborne and Campbell-and two in Kentucky-Whitley and Bell. The Clearfork Valley can be easily drawn on a map by connecting four cities-Jellico, Pineville, Middlesboro and LaFollette.



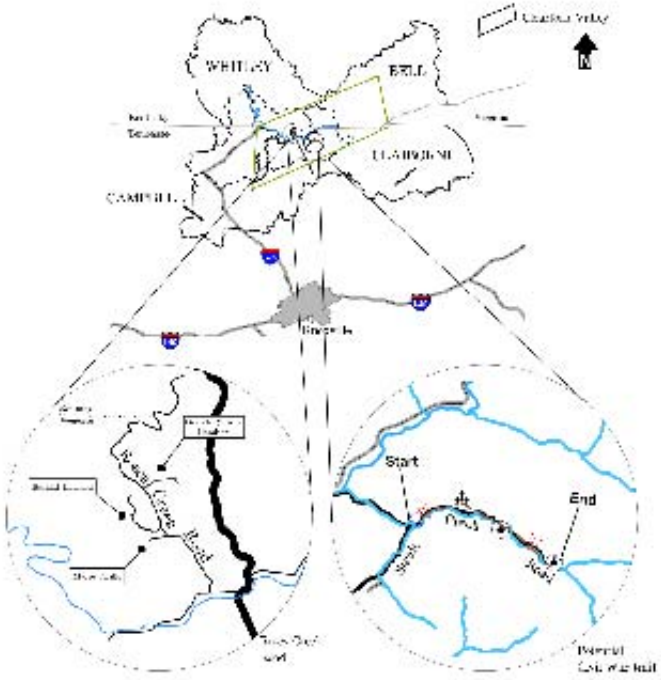


"The land trust knows and understands the importance of community but we have not ben as good at defining what we have. We always say the same thing, we own 450 acres and have 21 families who live here but what does that really mean? With the mapping project, we can beginto look at what it really means, what are the assets in our community and how can we build on them to develop a stronger community. Even though a map is just a miniature 'picture' of a very large space, it will enable us to identify important features of the land, what developments have been made to the land, what destruction has happened to the land and water, what is important to the families, and what needs to be preserved. When we talk about a 99 year lease for our families, this mapping project will be a record for that generation, telling a story of what was important to us and that we came from not just 450 acres and 21 families."

-Tonia Brookman, Executive Director of the Woodland Community Land Trust, Clairfield, TN

The Clearfork Mapping Collaborative: Pilot Study

In One Year:
1 Private Resident
12 WCLT Resident Parcels
6 Common Grounds of WCLT
1 Historical Preservation Trail



GOALS

Conceptual Framework grounded in…

Research Questions

How do coalfield residents plan and develop a just and equitable economy?

What CPAR and PGIS research techniques best fit with the community to understand place-based assets for sustainability that is socially just?

How do we create opportunities for collaborative involvement in community-based planning and development?

What aspects of land hold cultural, natural and infrastructural significance; and what of those assets exist and do not exist in the Clearfork Valley?

How are the results of this collaborative mapping pilot study validated for academic institutions, business and community development professionals and government agencies, to act on?

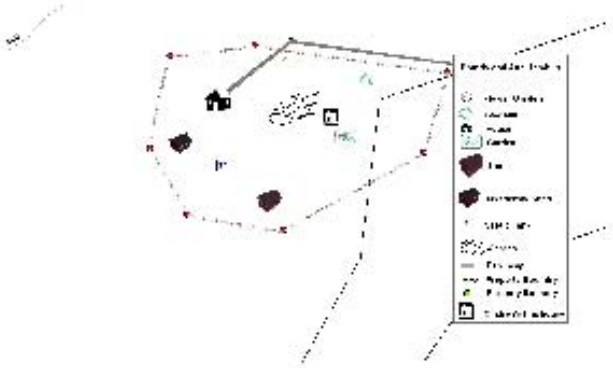
METHODS

VALIDITY

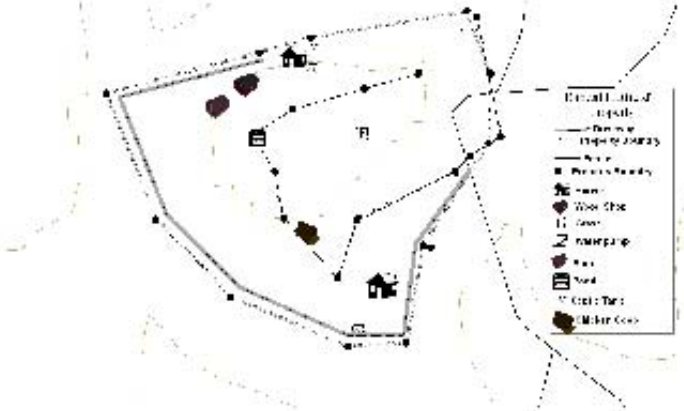
Kalah Mapping Brandy & Ana Hamblin's Property

"When we went to Eagan, I worked on mapping the area using a hand-held GPS to plot points. We determined the perimeter of a piece of property based on what the landowner told us and we collected the datafrom there. The process took a little estimation but for the most part it was simple and exact." Kalah Palmer

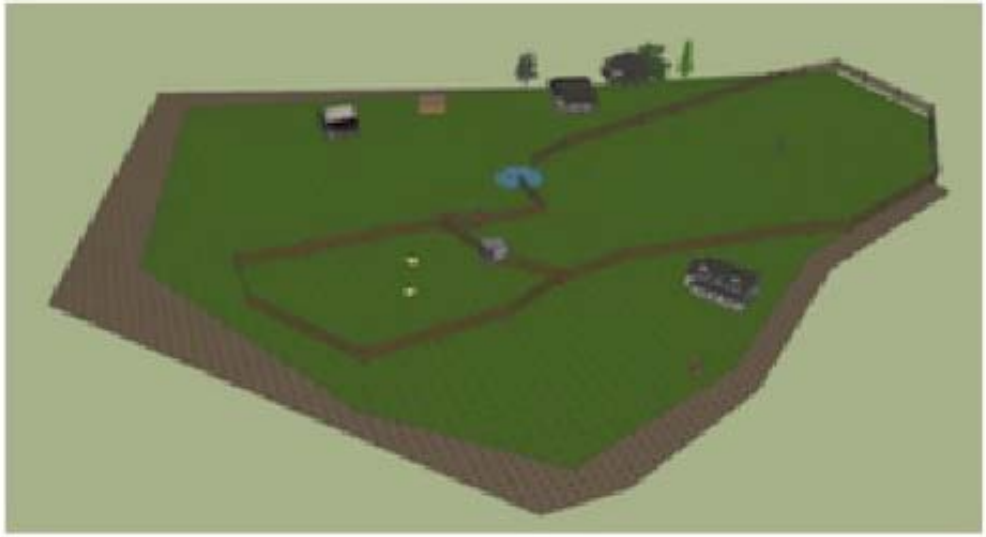
"It is nice to map the land, because if the kids want to see it or if we want to make new plans for the land, we have something useful to look at and plan from." Ana Hamblin



Ballard Mapping Randal Hatfield's Property



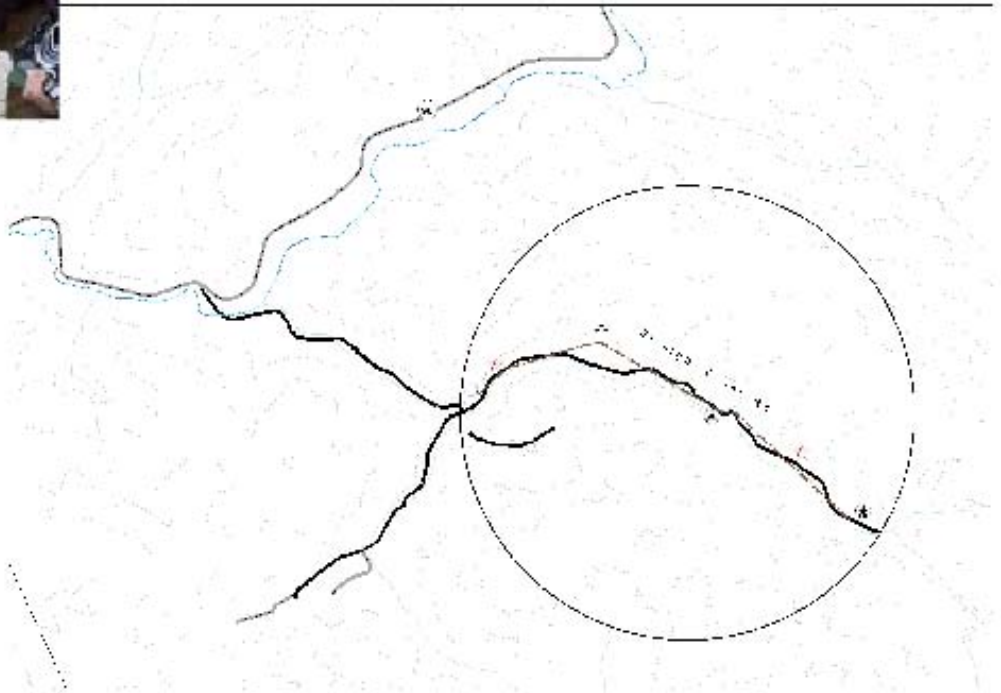
"Don't treat your land like dirt"
-Randal Hatfield



Chris Mapping Potential Trail with Resident Gary Garret

"It would be a great tool to record the history of our land and our people. It would be really neat to say this guy lived here in 1818, and now look at what is here today."
Gary Garrett

This trail has the potential to be a historical preservation and tourism site.



Pilot Study Conclusion

What's Next for the Clearfork Asset-Mapping Community Collaborative?

- Community Planning Meeting to Interpret our Findings
- Growing Together…Increase participation in local and visiting Volunteers In Partnership
- Increase in local Youth Leadership efforts through our VIP program
- Create an easy and accessible training program to meet requests for local citizens to map their assets and incorporate their database into the larger planning and design process
- Gain access to appropriate funding to support the Clearfork Community Institute Research Center in efforts to complete a comprehensive Clearfork Valley asset mapping project
- Complete asset-mapping project that through the process creates everyday implementable actions to better the quality of life of participants
- Create popular education literature and statistics for community planning and developments to create a spatially just sustainability
- Finally… to Celebrate our Culture and Heritage through the power of story

Our Partnership Continued...

On behalf of Auburn and The Clearfork Community Institute, we would like to acknowledge:

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