Revitalizing Glade Spring
Growing a Sense of Place in Rural Appalachia
Passawatami – “This is the Place”

**A Brief Historical Glimpse:**

- The Railroad & Economic Growth
- Railway’s End & Decline
Glade Spring Today

Population

- Total Population: 1,456
- Under 25: 4.9%; Over 62: 22.6%
- 93.8% White

Income

- Per capita income: $16,973
- 12.7% are unemployed
- 24.5% are below the poverty line
- 20.2% of those below the poverty line are employed
- 100% of African-Americans are below the poverty line

Source: 2010 U.S. Census Report
Glade Tomorrow

Rate of Population Growth

Southwest Virginia

- 2000-2020: 3% growth
- Compared to Overall VA: 13% - 2000-2010 & 10% - 2010-2020

Washington County

- 2010 Population: 54,876
- 2020 Projected Population: 56,040
- 2040 Projected Population: 60,402

Glade Spring

- 2010 Population: 1,456
- 2013 Population: 1,462

Source: 2010 U.S. Census Report
Project Glade & Progress

Project Glade

- Founded in 2009
- "Project Glade seeks to promote for the Town of Glade Spring, VA sustainable development that relies on the town’s traditions and on innovations as it engages a dedicated citizenry in the improvement of community life."
Our Objective

- To examine the Town Square area of Glade Spring in order to recommend affordable and creative housing options that can both build on the support of new local businesses while creating a more active sense of place and community.
Focus Group

- October 2014
- Group of 15 Glade Spring community members
  - Project Glade
- Bases for our research

Glade Spring Library
Pedestrian-Friendly Community

• Components: sidewalks, outdoor lighting, benches, landscaping, etc.
• The Vision—connecting Town Square life to the Salt Trail
• Short-term recommendation—connect to the Glade Spring Community Center in Dunn Memorial Park .3 miles from Town Square and to the Fire & Rescue buildings .2 miles from Town Square
Pedestrian-Friendly Community

Glade Spring Town Square

Dunn Memorial Park

Copyright Google Maps
Age-Friendly Community

- U.S. Population 65+
  - 2010: 40.3 million
  - 2050: 84.7 million

- Age-friendly community meets the needs of all ages
Exploring Cohousing

- Communities with intent
- Community for all
  - Sustainable
  - Age-Friendly
  - Life-Enhancing
  - Safe
- Elderspirit in Abingdon, VA
  - Elder cohousing example

Components of a cohousing model:
- Participatory process
- Neighborhood design
- Common facilities
- Resident management
- Non-hierarchical structure and decision-making
- No shared community economy
Challenges

• Project Challenges
  ▫ Research specifically on Glade Spring
    • Demographics
    • Statistics
    • Future trends
  ▫ Divide between the community
  ▫ Identity challenge
    • Tornado 2011

• Future Challenges
  ▫ Funds for everything
    • Sidewalks
    • Streetlights
    • Handicap ramps
    • Health services
    • Housing
  ▫ Volunteers
  ▫ Residents
Conclusion

• Building off other Glade Spring projects
  ▫ E&H and Glade Spring commitment

• Three recommendations
  ▫ Pedestrian Friendly
  ▫ Age-friendly
  ▫ Exploring Cohousing

• Steps towards a more livable, sustainable, and revitalized place
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