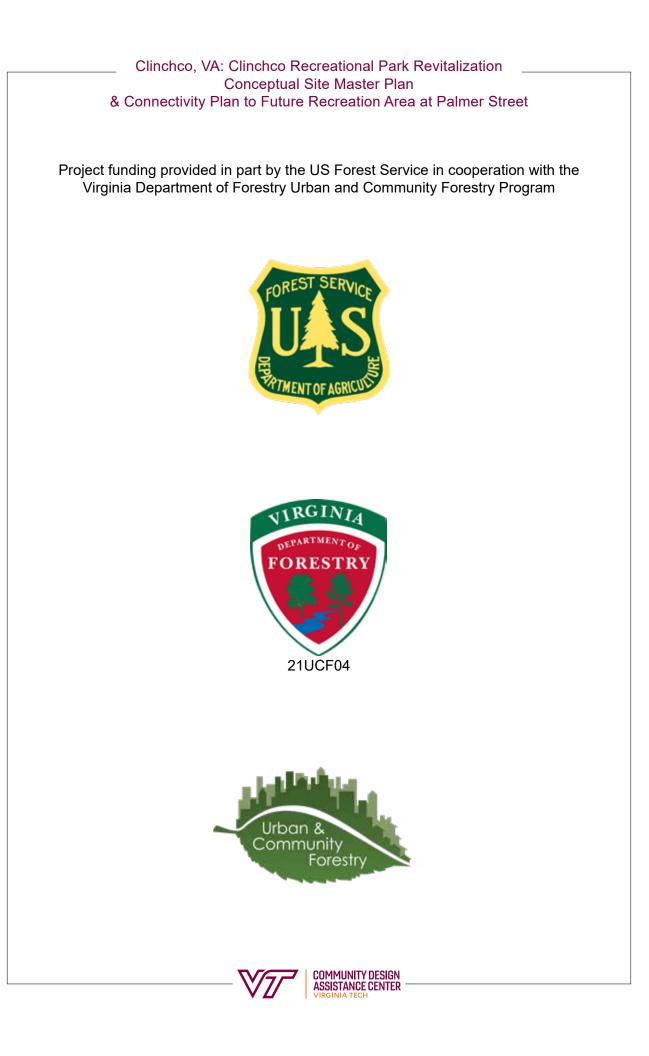


Prepared for the Town of Clinchco Town Council February 2023





PROJECT TEAM

Elizabeth Gilboy, Director

Hayley Harrington, Landscape Designer

The **Community Design Assistance Center** (CDAC) is an outreach center in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design at Virginia Tech that assists communities, neighborhood groups, and non-profit organizations in improving the natural and built environments. Assistance is provided in the areas of landscape architecture, architecture, planning, and interior design. Working with communities, the conceptual planning and design provides communities with a graphic vision of their project that can then be used for grant applications and fundraising for the next steps toward implementation.

Community Design Assistance Center 101 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060 p: 540.231.5644 https://cdac.aad.vt.edu



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Town Clerk, Town of Clinchco

and

Those who volunteered their time for the betterment of Clinchco.



Conceptual Site Master Plan & Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Part 1: Introduction and Background	
Background	2
Project Description	2
Design Process Summary	6
Part 2: Final Design Concept	
Conceptual Site Master Plan Design Description	8
Site Plan	11
Alternate Site Plan - Expanded Playground Fence	12
Perspective 1: View from Carson Street	13
Perspective 2: Covered Pedestrian Bridge	14
Perspective 3: Playground Precedent Images	15 16
Suggested Plantings for Water Retention and Erosion Control	17
Suggested Plantings for Edible Forest Garden	18
Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street	19
Design Description	19
Connectivity Plan Between Recreational Park and Future Recreation Area	21
Part 3: Site Inventory and Analysis	
Clinchco Recreational Park Inventory and Analysis Summary	23
Site Aerial Showing Approximate Property Boundaries	26
Site Inventory and Analysis	27
Site Topography and Slope Inventory	28
Existing Conditions Images	29
nventory for Potential Trail Locations	30
Part 4: Preliminary Design Concepts	
Introduction	32
Preliminary Design Concept 1: Large Skate Park with Exercise Stations	32
Design Description	32
Site Plan	35
Perspective and Precedent Images	36
Preliminary Design Concept 2: Smaller Skate Park with Edible Forest Garden	38
Design Description	38
Site Plan	40
Perspective and Precedent Images	41
Plant Palettes	43
Design Descriptions	43
Suggested Plantings for Water Retention and Erosion Control Suggested Plantings for Edible Forest Garden	45
	46

TABLE OF CONTENTS		
	& Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street	
	Conceptual Site Master Plan	
	_ Clinchco, VA: Clinchco Recreational Park Revitalization _	

Part 5: Appendix

Meeting Notes	48
Initial Stakeholder Input Meeting - August 30th, 2022	48
Preliminary Design Presentation - December 14th, 2022	48



PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



Clinchco, VA: Clinchco Recreational Park Revitalization _____ Conceptual Site Master Plan Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION AND BAC

Background

Clinchco, 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. It is accessed by Routes 63 and 83, which pass through the town.

Clinchco started as a coal mining town in the late 1800s. The town was built by the Clinchfield Coal Corporation to support their mining efforts and later founded in 1917. As part of the establishment of the town, Clinchfield Coal Corporation constructed well-built homes for the workers. Like many coal communities, the mines attracted workers from all over the world. Other early industries included lumbering for the Yellow Poplar Lumber Company and building the railroad. Clinchco reached peak population and economic success in the 1940s. During this time the streets would be packed on Saturdays when people from Clinchco and nearby communities would come into town. This boom continued until the 1950s when the decline began.

Clinchco is striving to move forward, "reconstructing itself" for a better future. As one of the first steps in this process, a town-wide master plan and a downtown master plan were created by CDAC with community input through an EPA Brownfields Assessment grant in 2021.

Project Description

2

As a step toward implementing aspects of the plans, the town would like to provide recreational spaces for residents and visitors. Longer term, a network of trails would connect the downtown, points of interest around town, downtown green space, become UTV and golf cart friendly, and create opportunities for overnight stays. Shorter term, the town would like to improve and augment Clinchco Recreational Park, a small recreational area in the Carson Street/Mill Creek area as well as provide a trail connection from this park to a future recreation area at the end of Palmer Street, which could serve both locals and visitors.

The town has been actively pursuing grants to begin implementing aspects of the master plan. One of these areas is near the Community Center, basketball court, and across Mill Creek from the Community Center where a vacant mobile home sits. Together the area is referred to as the Clinchco Recreational Park. The town received funding from Dickenson County to purchase new playground equipment for the tot lot playground located within the fenced area by the Community Center and new basketball goal posts and bleachers for the basketball court. The town would like to improve the area where the mobile home sits with a small skate park once the mobile home is removed and improve the playground equipment at the Community Center. A conceptual master plan was needed for this grouping of recreational sites to create the Clinchco Recreational Park.

The Mill Creek banks are overgrown with weeds and will soon be cleaned up. A plant



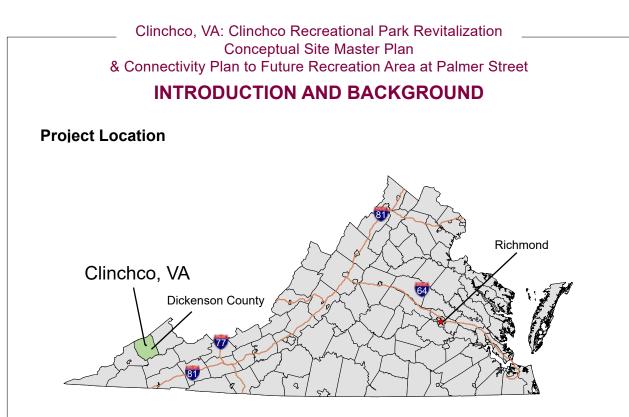
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

palette of riparian plants was also needed. Riparian plants that grow along streams can help control erosion and help filter and clean water.

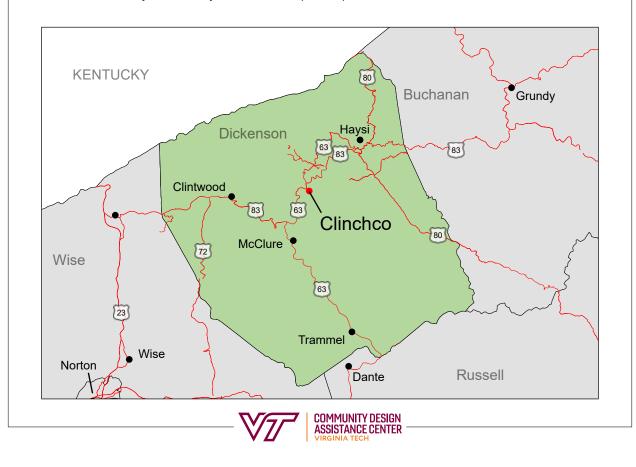
A conceptual connectivity master plan was also needed to depict a trail connection from the Clinchco Recreational Park to the future recreation area at the end of Palmer Street (no official name for this park exists yet).

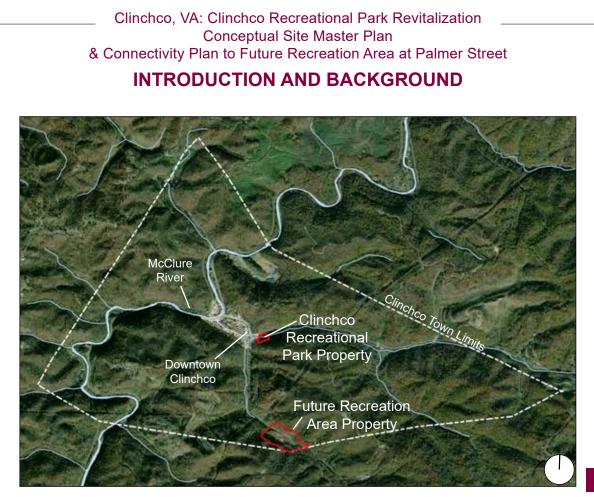
CDAC worked with a stakeholders committee to create the conceptual site master plan for Clinchco Recreational Park and the connectivity plan to the Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street.





The Town of Clinchco is located within Dickenson County in the Appalachian Plateau region of Southwest Virginia along the Virginia/Kentucky Border (above). Within Dickenson County, Clinchco is located approximately eleven miles west of the Town of Clintwood and seven miles east of the Town of Haysi. Dickenson County borders Buchanan County to the east, Russell County to the south, Wise county to the west, and Pike County, Kentucky to the north (below).





Clinchco is approximately 2.7 square miles in size and is characterized primarily by its mountainous terrain (above). The Clinchco Recreational Park is located immediately east of the downtown area (below).



Clinchco, VA: Clinchco Recreational Park Revitalization _____ Conceptual Site Master Plan & Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Design Process Summary

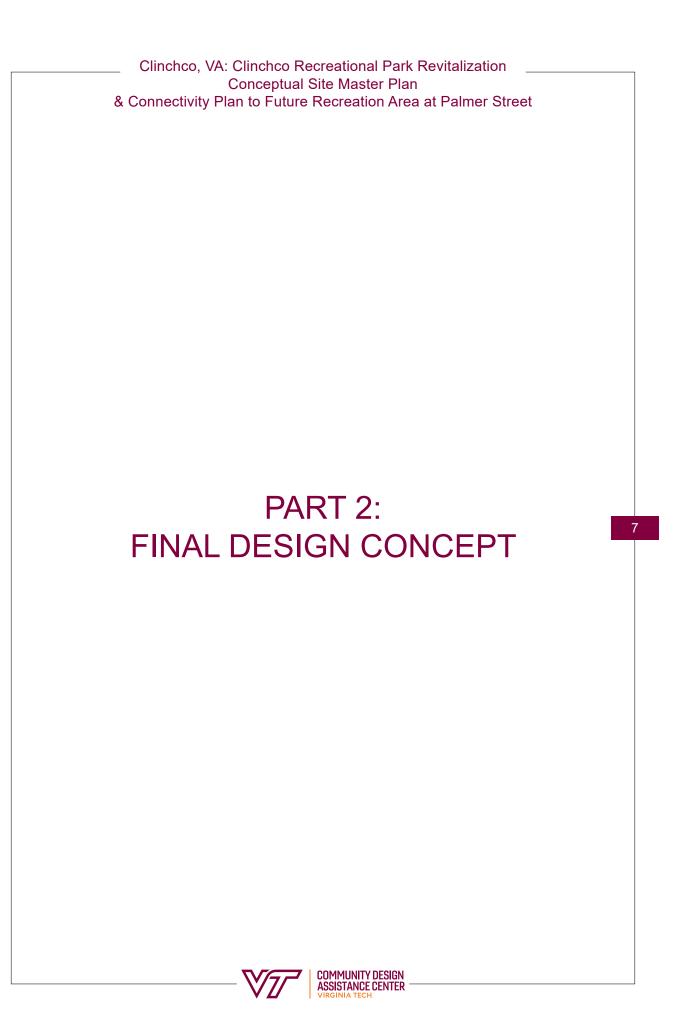
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The design process began with a site visit on August 30th, 2022, where the project team met with stakeholders from town council at the Town of Clinchco Town Hall and discussed their vision for the recreational park and connectivity plan. The CDAC team had the opportunity to visit the park and surrounding areas with stakeholders to further understand their vision. Input and site photos created a comprehensive foundation that the CDAC team used to develop two preliminary conceptual site master plans for the reimagined Clinchco Recreational Park and a comprehensive inventory for discussing the connectivity plan.

The CDAC team presented the preliminary design concepts to stakeholders at Town Hall on December 14th, 2022. Following the presentation, stakeholders provided feedback about what they liked and disliked about each design. Final design concepts were presented virtually on February 1st, 2023.

Meeting notes from the stakeholder input session and preliminary design presentation can be found in the appendix.





FINAL DESIGN CONCEPT

Conceptual Site Master Plan Design Description

The final conceptual design envisions Clinchco Recreational Park as a connected space that offers recreational opportunities for a variety of age groups. Carson Street is transformed into a pedestrian walkway throughout the park property and a sidewalk connects the park to downtown Clinchco and trails throughout town.

<u>Playground</u>

The playground equipment is oriented so the widest side of the primary play structure is running perpendicular to Clinchco Main Street, with its largest slides facing north toward the street. Additional equipment in this area includes the recently purchased "moon climber" and "leaf balance beam" play elements, two refurbished swings, and a small playhouse that could be prefabricated or constructed out of recycled wood. This concept also includes additional bench seating throughout the playground area.

Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) acts as safety surfacing and covers a contiguous area consisting of most of the fenced playground area to meet minimum safety use zone requirements.

Basketball Court

8

The basketball court is re-striped to reflect the installation of two new goal posts. The newly re-striped court would be the approximate dimensions of a regulation court for junior high school basketball (74' x 42').

Replaced Vegetation around Mill Creek

The final design includes a plant palette that recommends eight different native grasses, sedges, and herbaceous perennials that could be used to replace the vegetation around Mill Creek and help control erosion. Plants were selected based on their ability to thrive in wet, poor-quality clay soils and control erosion; their disease, pest, and deer resistance; their ability to thrive in part shade; and their low maintenance requirements and visual attractiveness. Between July and October, pink, blue, and white blossoms provide additional color throughout the site. Selected plants have a mature growth height of between one and seven feet, with the idea that taller plants would be planted closer to stream banks for an average of 2-3 feet of vertical plant growth from ground level to allow for increased visibility.

Covered Pedestrian Bridge at Carson Street

This concept proposes a covered pedestrian walkway with benches at the existing Carson Street bridge location. A covered walkway in this location would offer a shaded and covered vantage point of the basketball court, skate park, and edible forest garden. To meet clearance requirements for overhead power lines, the structure would need to be approximately eight feet tall in its entirety, requiring a minimally pitched roof to maximize overhead space. This structure could be fabricated out of metal, which is typically lighter and more weather resistant than wood. A metal structure would require fewer support beams compared to a wood structure of similar



FINAL DESIGN CONCEPT

size, which could allow it to be anchored to the ground on either side of Mill Creek, minimizing the need for additional reinforcements.

This structure would include backless benches to allow visitors to choose whether to face the basketball court, the edible forest garden, skate park, and community center, or one another in conversation. Safety rails are added around the edges of the existing bridge structure for added security and visitor comfort.

Prefabricated Pedestrian Bridge

The final concept envisions an additional pedestrian connection spanning Mill Creek between the playground and skate park areas in the form of a prefabricated pedestrian bridge. This prefabricated bridge offers connectivity between the two areas, and would include a gate on the playground side for added safety.

Skate Park

The skate park proposed in the final design is approximately 2500 square feet and consists of a variety of compact poured concrete elements. CDAC recommends Clinchco work directly with a skate park design and installation company for the final skate park design to ensure its success and longevity.

To address drainage concerns created by the skate park without significantly impacting surface runoff into Mill Creek, a small rain garden would be located within the skate park to capture and retain its surface runoff. This rain garden will also serve as an educational opportunity for the community; since a properly functioning rain garden can offer a fairly simple solution to small-scale drainage issues, this installation can also serve as an educational model for community members wanting to learn more about rain gardens or those considering installing rain gardens on their own properties. This should also be discussed with the skate park design and installation company.

9

Edible Forest Garden

The final design concept proposes a tiered edible forest garden consisting of multiple varieties of compact edible trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. This garden would consist of three tiered levels of planting beds to utilize the natural slope of the land south of the current mobile home area to construct terraces that maximize sunlight. Recommended plantings include a palette of edible dwarf, semi-dwarf, and small fruit trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials that have the potential to survive and produce fruitful harvests in poor, wet, and clay soils on a north-facing slope. Selected varieties have shown tolerance to partial shade and clay or poorly-drained soils, though some healthy, well-drained soil would need to be brought to the site in most edible gardening installations in Clinchco. The tiered planters help prevent the erosion of this soil. Selected varieties also handle moist, humid climates like that of Clinchco better and with more disease and mildew resistance compared to other varieties within the same species.



FINAL DESIGN CONCEPT

To simplify the purchasing process and verify regional plant availability, varieties were selected from stock at Edible Landscaping, an edible plant nursery located in Afton, Virginia. CDAC is not affiliated with Edible Landscaping and cannot confirm the continued availability of these varieties or officially recommend their services, but attempted to suggest varieties that could be reasonably obtained from a single source within Virginia. There may be nurseries closer to Clinchco that also sell edible plants.

Edible forest gardens provide multigenerational recreation and education opportunities while also providing fresh, healthy food for the community. Routine maintenance and upkeep will be required, especially when plants are first establishing themselves, but selected varieties may require considerably less maintenance than other varieties within the same species. Co-planting with edible nitrogen-fixing plants will allow for more successful harvests year after year with fewer fertilizers compared to a monoculture garden.

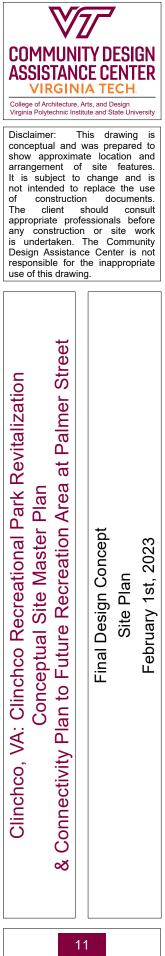
Grass Play Area

Since the home adjacent to the playground immediately to the west on Clinchco Main Street will be removed as part of an upcoming FEMA project, this area will become open space managed by the town. The final design concept envisions this property as an open, grassy play area adjacent to the playground. This area could be left open or fenced similarly to the playground area. The fence between this property and the playground could either be retained for delineation of space or removed to connect the two spaces and increase the overall playground area.

The following pages contain the conceptual site master plan, perspectives, and precedent images.







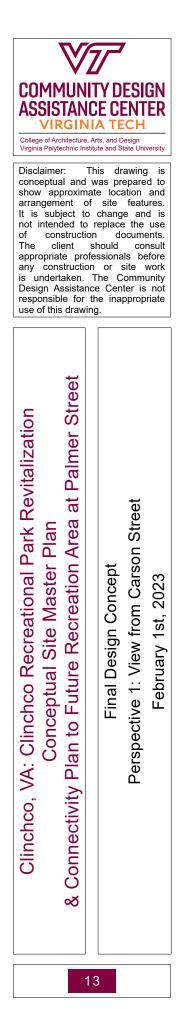






Perspective 1: View from Carson Street

This perspective shows a view from Carson Street behind the playground. The replaced vegetation at Mill Creek, playground picnic shelter, community center, and pedestrian bridges are visible to the left of the pedestrian path. The edible forest garden, picnic tables, and skate park are visible to the right.





Perspective 2: Covered Pedestrian Bridge

This perspective shows the covered pedestrian bridge located at the existing bridge across Carson Street. The covered structure stands at 8' tall to allow adequate clearance for the power lines above and features added rails around the existing bridge for safe observation. Backless benches allow visitors to face each other in conversation or have a covered view of the park or basketball court. The edible forest garden is visible in the background.





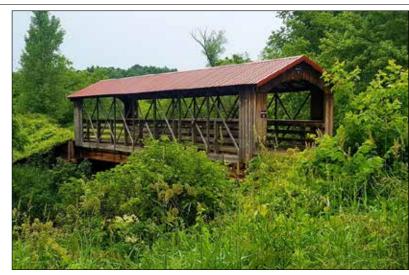
Perspective 3: Playground

This perspective shows the updated playground with recently purchased equipment, refurbished swings, and an added playhouse. The house located at the adjacent property west of the park has been removed and its lot now provides additional open play space. The prefabricated pedestrian bridge, edible forest garden, and skate park are visible in the background.





An example of a prefabricated pedestrian bridge, which would connect the playground to Carson Street, the skate park, and the edible forest garden.



A small covered pedestrian bridge at Carson Street would provide shade and rain cover near the basketball court.



The covered pedestrian bridge could use a metal frame and be anchored around Mill Creek, limiting requirements for additional supports and reinforcements.



Backless benches beneath the covered pedestrian bridge give visitors the option to face Mill Creek, the playground, the basketball court, or one another in conversation.



A poured concrete skate park can pack a variety of elements for skaters of all levels in a compact space and last many years with limited maintenance.



A small rain garden within the skate park provides an educational opportunity and can capture surface runoff and mitigate additional drainage concerns around Mill Creek.



The property adjacent to the park on the west side will be demolished and the land could be repurposed as a grassy play yard for young children.



An example of tiered garden beds, which help protect and drain soil and ensure plantings receive adequate sunlight.



A playhouse like the one pictured above can provide additional play opportunities for younger children and maximize playground space.





Bushy Bluestem, Andropogon glomeratus Clump-forming, warm-season native ornamental grass easily grown in full sun in wet soil. Virtually maintenance-free, pest and disease resistant. Attracts birds and butterflies.

Height: 3 to 6 feet Spread: 2 to 3 feet Bloom Time: August to November Bloom Description: White, sometimes pink Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium to high moisture Maintenance: Low



Sallow Sedge, Carex Iurida Tufted native sedge easily grown in moist soil. Best for rain gardens and around bodies of water. Pest resistant and excellent for erosion control.

Height: 1.5 to 3 feet Spread: 1 to 2 feet Bloom Time: March to May Bloom Description: Green/Yellow Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Medium to high moisture Maintenance: Low



White Turtlehead, Chelone glabra Clump-forming, leafy-stemmed native perennial best grown in wet soil in part shade. Slowly spreads by rhizomes. No serious insect or disease problems and good for erosion control.

Height: 2 to 3 feet Spread: 1.5 to 2.5 feet Bloom Time: August to October Bloom Description: White/pink Sun: Part shade to full shade Water: High moisture Maintenance: Low



Joe-Pye Weed, Eutrochium fistulosum Tall and showy native perennial easily grown in low moist ground. No serious insect or disease problems. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies.

Height: 4 to 7 feet Spread: 2 to 4 feet Bloom Time: July to September Bloom Description: Pink Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Moderate to high moisture Maintenance: Low



Woolgrass Bulrush, Scirpus cyperinus

Grass-like native aquatic sedge easily grown in moist to wet soils including mud and shallow standing water. No serious pest or disease problems.

Height: 3 to 5 feet Spread: 2 to 4 feet Bloom Time: May to June Bloom Description: Green/brown Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Medium to high moisture Maintenance: Low



Tussock Sedge, Carex stricta

Dense and rhizomatous native evergreen sedge easily grown in moist to wet soils and standing water. No serious pest or disease problems. Excellent for erosion control

Height: 1 to 3 feet Spread: 1 to 2 feet Bloom Time: May to June Bloom Description: Red/brown Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Medium to high moisture Maintenance: Low



Great Blue Lobelia. Lobelia siphilitica Clump-forming native perennial with dark blue tubular flowers easily grown in wet soil. No known serious insect or disease problems

Height: 2 to 3 feet Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet Bloom Time: July to October Bloom Description: Blue Sun: Part shade to full shade Water: High moisture Maintenance: Low



Culver's Root. Veronicastrum virginicum Large and showy native perennial easily grown in medium to wet soil and full sun. No serious insect or disease problems. Blooms attract butterflies.

Height: 4 to 6 feet Spread: 2 to 4 feet Bloom Time: June to September Bloom Description: White Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Low to high moisture Maintenance: Low



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Tennosui Pear, Pyrus communis x Pyrus pyrifolia Small tree thought to be a cross between a Tennessee European pear and a Hosui Asian pear. Self-fertile and exceptional pest and disease resistance compared to other pears.

Height: 12 to 15 feet Spread: 12 to 15 feet Harvest Period: July to August Sun: Full sun Water: Medium to High Maintenance: Low to medium Self Pollinating: Yes



Celeste Fig, Ficus carica 'Celeste' Also known as sugar fig. Small tree or large shrub with hardy, sweet fruits and excellent pest and disease resistance. Tolerant of part shade and well-drained clay soils.

Height: 5 to 10 feet Spread: 5 to 10 feet Harvest Period: August to September Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium to low Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



Sweet Scarlet Goumi, Elaeagnus multiflora 'Sweet Scarlet' Medium shrub with attractive foliage and juicy, scarlet red aromatic fruits with flavor similar to pie cherries. Good fresh and in preserves. Nitrogen fixer.

Height: 5 to 6 feet Spread: 5 to 6 feet Harvest Period: July Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium to high Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



Virginia Wild Strawberry, Fragaria virginiana Ground-hugging herbaceous plant with tiny, tasty fruits. Good for underplanting around taller plants. Fibrous root system excellent for erosion control.

Height: 0.5 to 1 feet Spread: 0.5 to 1 feet Harvest Period: May to October Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Low to medium Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



Stanley Plum, Prunus domestica 'Stanley' Small tree with large, high quality plum with a dark blue skin and a greenish-yellow flesh. Good fresh and canned. Also good dried as prunes.

Height: 8 to 12 feet Spread: 6 to 10 feet Harvest Period: August to September Sun: Full sun Water: Medium to High Maintenance: Medium Self Pollinating: Yes



Regent Serviceberry, Amelanchier alnifolia 'Regent' Hardy shrub with good red fall color and abundant white flowers in spring with sweet, blueberry-like fruit. Excellent for fresh eating. No serious maintenance issues.

Height: 4 to 6 feet Spread: 4 to 6 feet Harvest Period: June Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



Cherry Red Currant, Ribes rubrum Small shrub with large, bright red, tasty and flavorful sweet/tart berries. Also good for jams and jellies. Mildew resistant and very shade tolerant

Height: 3 to 5 feet Spread: 3 to 5 feet Harvest Period: July to August Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Low to medium Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



and disease resistance.

Height: 2 to 3 feet Spread: 2 to 3 feet Harvest Period: June to July Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium Maintenance: Medium Self Pollinating: Yes

Jewel Black Raspberry, Rubus idaeus 'Jewel Black' Vigorously producing variety of early-fruiting, native black raspberries great for eating, canning, and baking. Very good pest



show approximate location and arrangement of site features. It is subject to change and is not intended to replace the use of construction documents. The client should consult appropriate professionals before any construction or site work is undertaken. The Community Design Assistance Center is not responsible for the inappropriate use of this drawing.



FINAL DESIGN CONCEPT

Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street

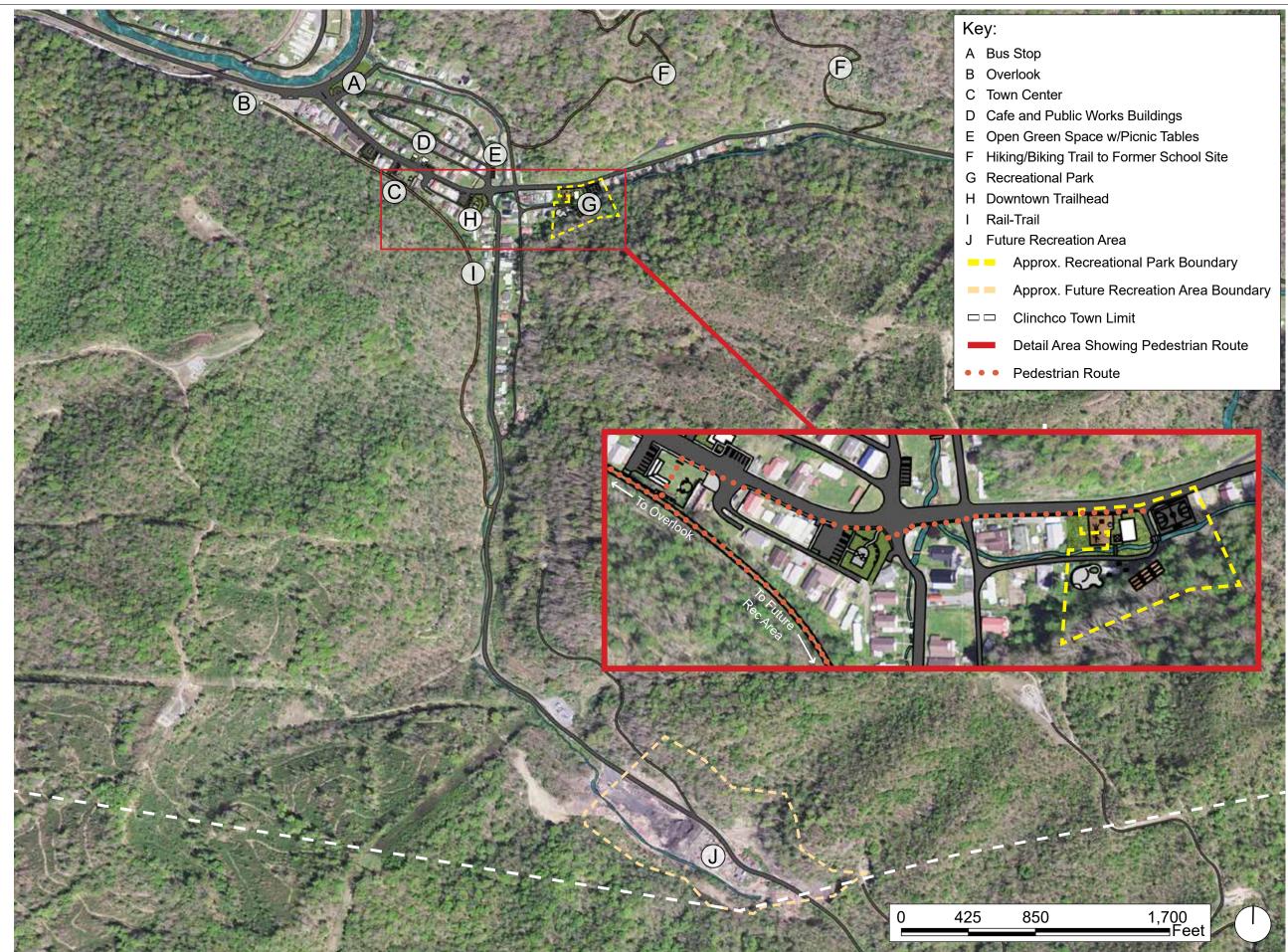
Design Description

The plan to connect the Clinchco Recreational Park with the future recreation area located at the former ballfield site on Palmer Street draws upon the larger town-wide master plan created by CDAC for Clinchco in 2021. This plan shows the sidewalk connection from the park to downtown Clinchco, where visitors could connect to the proposed Rail-Trail via access steps at town center and travel south towards Carson Street.

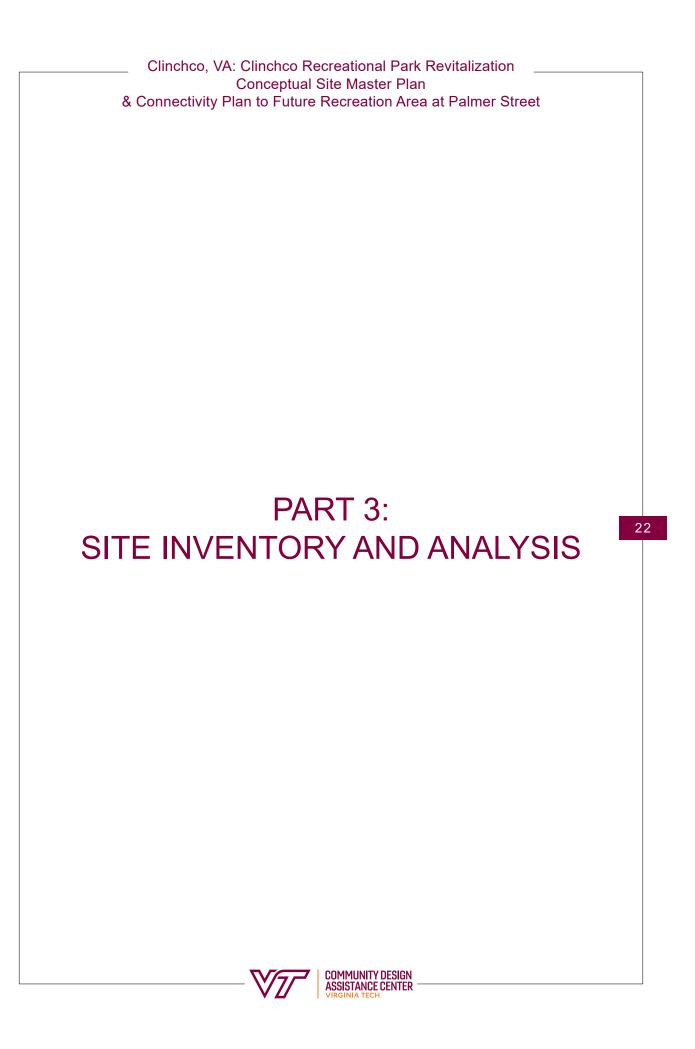
The following page contains the final conceptual connectivity plan.











SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Clinchco Recreational Park Inventory and Analysis Summary

Lot Lines

Due to the limited availability of accurate and up-to-date information about property lines throughout Dickenson County, the CDAC team created a working estimate of the lot lines for the property based on information available in the property deed. The deed provided dimensions for the property relative to an unknown point of beginning along the south line of Clinchco Main Street. While the property lines shown throughout the project reflect the deed in size, shape, and general location, the exact placement and angle of the lot lines was approximated based on available imagery and may not be entirely accurate.

The park property consists of seven adjacent lots with a total area of approximately 1.5 acres.

Topography

The CDAC team created topographic contour lines at 2 ft intervals based on Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) scans available from the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN). These contour lines were then used to generate a raster slope inventory that shows minimally and heavily sloped areas. The portion of the property located adjacent and north of the existing mobile home is relatively flat. The area located south of the tree line, including the area south of the basketball court, is very steeply sloped and not suitable for most development.

Existing Conditions

The existing park area consists of multiple, somewhat disconnected areas including the following:

- A fenced playground area geared toward younger children, where existing equipment was removed in 2022 to make way for recently purchased equipment. This area also includes a picnic shelter, which will remain in place as part of the final design.
- A community center building, currently leased to Clinchco AME Baptist Church and utilized by the community for various events and gatherings. The Town of Clinchco intends to continue the lease of this building to the church.
- A fenced basketball court area with recently installed goalposts and bleachers.
- Mill Creek, which runs nearly parallel to Clinchco Main St, and through the center of the site. The banks of Mill Creek are overgrown with weeds that will be removed and should be replaced with vegetation that helps stabilize creek banks and control erosion.
- A vacant mobile home, which was acquired by the town in 2021 and will be demolished for future development.
- Steeply sloped land along the existing tree line, which is generally prohibitive for development.



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SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Carson Street, a small connector street between Clinchco Main Street and Gilmore Street, runs through the property between the community center and basketball court, then makes a right angle and continues parallel to Mill Creek to the south along the site. This street is currently closed to vehicular traffic due to damages sustained to the existing bridge spanning Mill Street, though ATV and UTV riders continue to ride throughout the area and utilize an informal turnaround at the base of the slope. The town intends to close off Carson Street to all vehicular traffic including ATVs and UTVs throughout the park.

Recently Purchased Playground Equipment

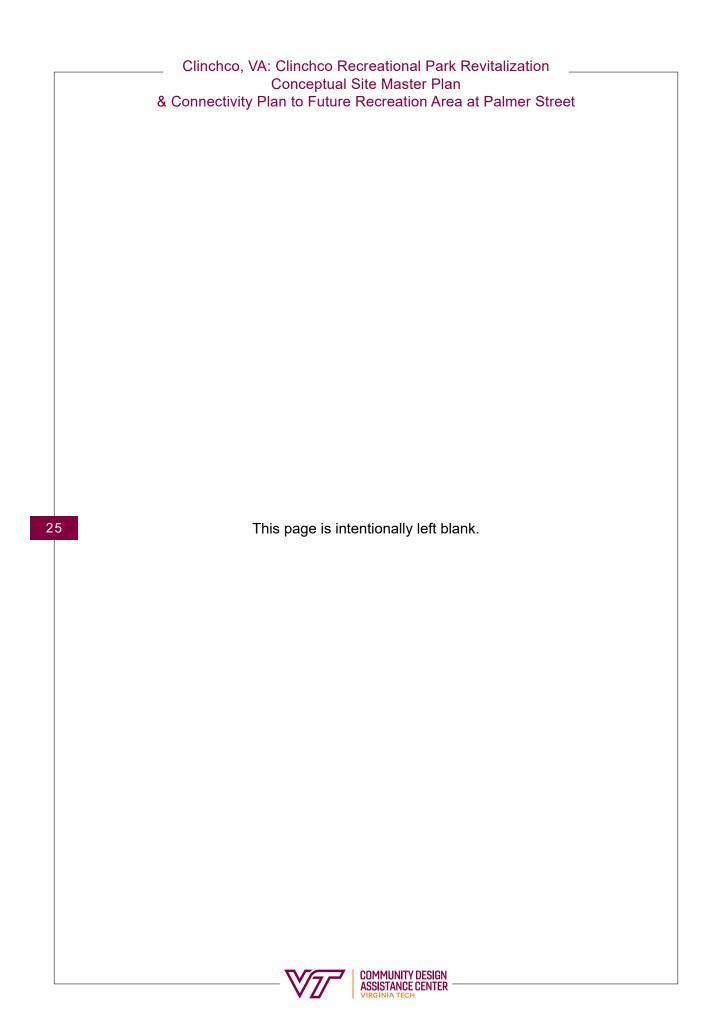
The town recently acquired new playground equipment, which will be installed after the completion of this project. New equipment includes a large jungle gym structure, a balance beam with leaf-shaped posts, and a "moon climber" structure; all of which were included in the preliminary and final designs. The town is also hoping to refurbish some of the swings previously located at the playground.

Inventory for Potential Trail Locations

The CDAC team prepared an inventory of existing and historical features that impact the location of potential trail locations, including abandoned rail lines, unmarked roads, rivers, streams, historic mining features, and existing connections. This inventory helped CDAC identify possible routes connecting Clinchco Recreational Park to the future recreation area at Palmer Street

The following pages contain site aerials, inventory and analysis drawings, and existing conditions images.



















1: Photo capturing the in-progress equipment removal process in August 2022. Smaller playground equipment had already been removed.



2: New playground equipment was purchased through a grant from Dickenson County in summer 2022 and will be installed after the ongoing playground equipment removal process is complete.



3: An example of erosion from Mill Creek near the picnic shelter toward the south end of the playground area.



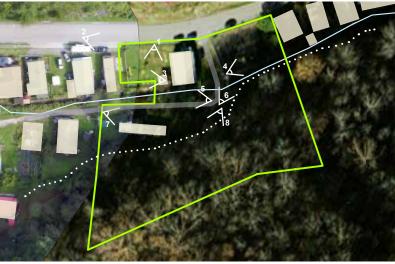
4: Two new basketball hoops and new bleachers were purchased at the same time as the new playground equipment and were installed at the existing basketball court in summer 2022.



5: A retaining wall separates Mill Creek from the playground and basketball court. While there is seldom flooding from water level rise, poor drainage infrastructure throughout the town can cause flooding.



6: Carson Street, which runs through the park, is closed to vehicular traffic near the park entrance, but the entrance at the other end of Carson Street remains open. This road is commonly traveled by ATV.



Existing Conditions Image Locator Map

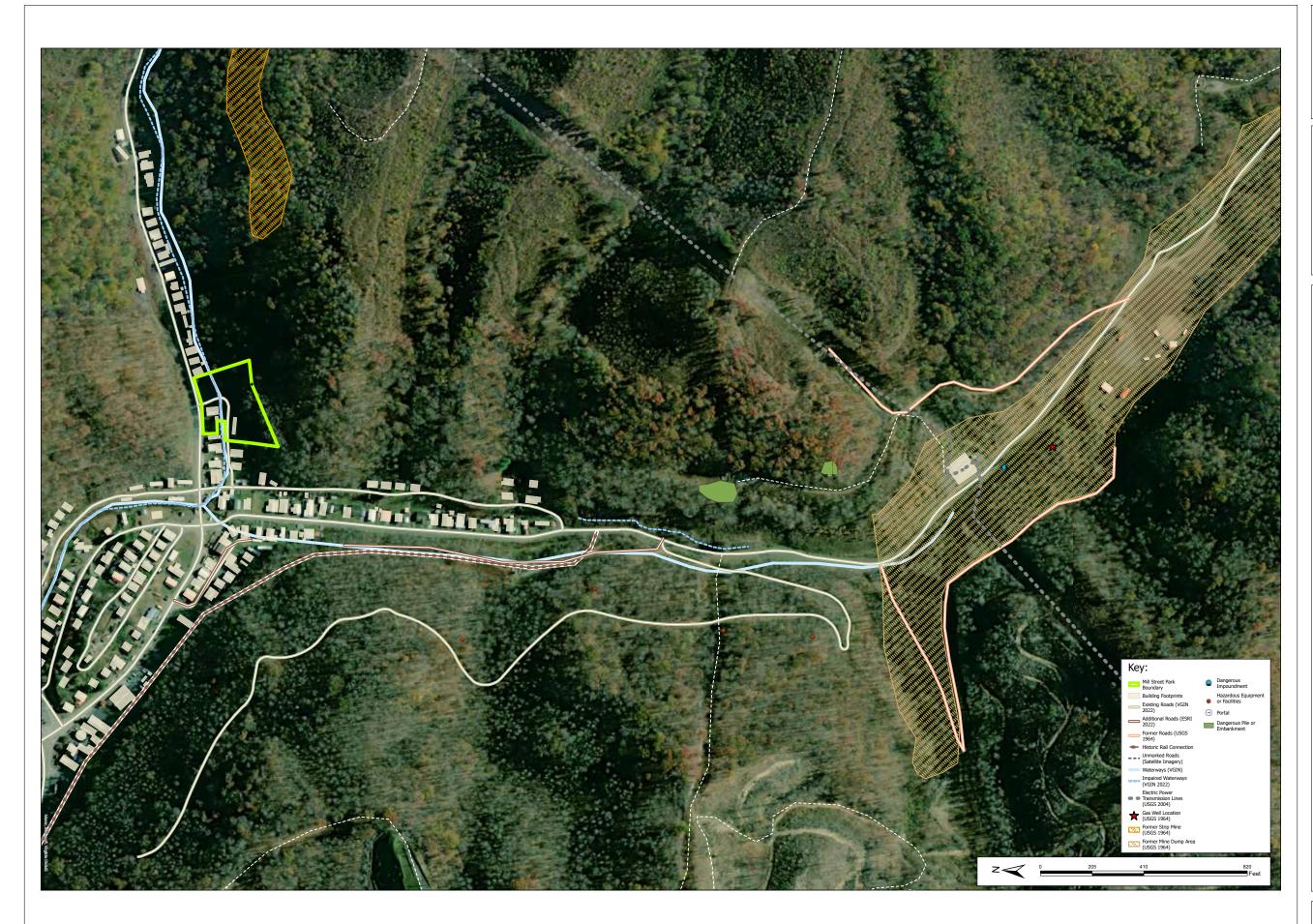


7: Adjacent property with a vacant mobile home was acquired by the Town of Clinchco in summer 2021, which will be removed prior to redevelopment.



8: A small ATV turnaround is located south of the barricaded area on Carson Street.







Clinchco, VA: Clinchco Recreational Park Revitalization _____
Conceptual Site Master Plan
& Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street

PART 4: PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS

31



COMMUNITY DESIGN ASSISTANCE CENTER

Clinchco, VA: Clinchco Recreational Park Revitalization Conceptual Site Master Plan & Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street

PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS

Introduction

Based on initial ideas from stakeholders, the CDAC team created two preliminary design concepts. Both concepts share a number of commonalities: creating a functional configuration for the recently purchased playground equipment, replacing the existing vegetation around Mill Creek with plantings that help with erosion control, establishing an additional pedestrian connection across Mill Creek, and including a skate park. Both concepts recommend a poured concrete skate park compared to installing prefabricated ramps and skate elements due to long-term safety and maintenance concerns. The two concepts also use bollards to eliminate vehicular and ATV/UTV access to the site at either end on Carson Street. The first concept differentiates itself with a larger skate park, a rain garden, and exercise stations south of Mill Creek. The second concept offers a smaller skate park, edible forest garden, and LOVEworks sign in the same location.

The following pages include the preliminary design descriptions, master plans, perspectives, precedent images, and preliminary plant selections and descriptions for both concepts.

Preliminary Design Concept 1: Large Skate Park with Exercise Stations

Design Description

<u>Playground</u>

32

The playground equipment in this concept is oriented so the widest side of the primary play structure is running perpendicular to Clinchco Main Street, with its largest slides facing north toward the street. Additional equipment in this area includes the recently purchased "moon climber" and "leaf balance beam" play elements, two refurbished swings, and a small playhouse that could be prefabricated or constructed out of recycled wood.

Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) acts as safety surfacing and covers a contiguous area consisting of most of the fenced playground area to meet minimum safety use zone requirements.

Basketball Court

The basketball court in this concept is re-striped to reflect the installation of two new goal posts. The newly re-striped court would be the approximate dimensions of a regulation court for junior high school basketball (74' x 42').

Covered Pedestrian Bridge

A covered pedestrian bridge is proposed spanning Mill Creek between the playground and skate park areas. This bridge could have fold-down bench seating to save space compared to typical benches but still provide additional functionality.



Clinchco, VA: Clinchco Recreational Park Revitalization Conceptual Site Master Plan Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street

PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS

Skate Park

This concept offers a larger skate park compared to Concept 2, with multiple different types of ramps and skating elements that can accompany multiple skaters simultaneously. This skate park has a skate-up ramp from Carson Street, allowing skaters to enter the park directly from the pedestrian walkway without having to carry equipment up steps or across grass. This concept also includes a small retention wall with built-in bench seating south of its main "kidney bowl", which could be used for observation or hanging out. This retention wall could include protective finishes and details to prevent damage from skaters. Additional picnic bench seating around the skate park gives skaters a place to lay down their belongings and onlookers a place to sit and watch people skate.

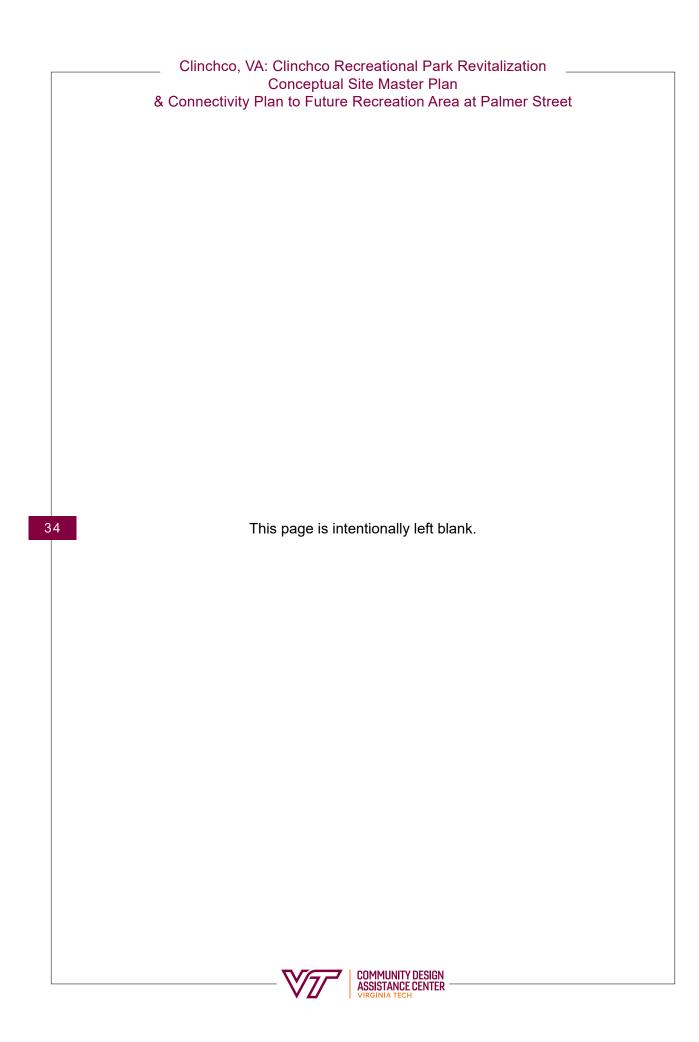
Rain Garden

This concept envisions a small rain garden between the skate-up ramp for the skate park and the outdoor fitness area. This rain garden would collect runoff from behind the skate park retaining wall and serve as an educational opportunity for the community. Since a properly functioning rain garden can offer a fairly simple solution to smallscale drainage issues, this particular installation can serve as an educational model for community members wanting to learn more about rain gardens or those considering installing rain gardens on their own properties.

Outdoor Fitness Area

A compact outdoor fitness area is located perpendicular to the Carson Street entrance off Clinchco Main Street near the current ATV turnaround area. This section of the park would include multiple exercise stations and benches for rest and would promote the use of the park across multiple generations as an active element geared towards older teenagers and adults.











Perspective 1: View from Carson Street Showing Skate Park and Covered Pedestrian Bridge

This perspective shows the larger skate park with skate-up entrance, the covered bridge, and the main playground equipment piece oriented perpendicular to Clinchco Main Street. This perspective also shows the enhanced riparian vegetation around Mill Creek toward the right and the edge of the rain garden toward the left.



An example of a small, enclosed-style pedestrian bridge.



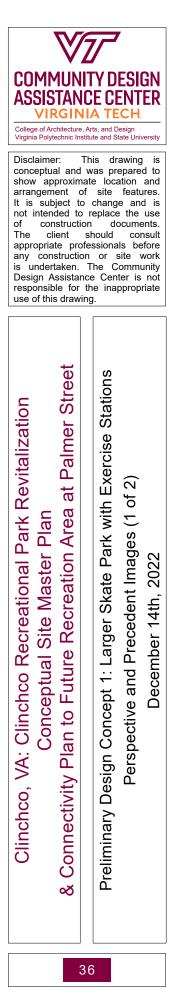
The bridge could have fold-down seats to save space and provide space for additional functions.



An example of a medium-size concrete skate park with multiple different types of ramps and elements.



The seating at the retaining wall (not pictured above) could have anti-skate features for safety.





Perspective 2: Playground with Main Equipment Oriented Perpendicular to Clinchco Main Street This perspective shows the recently purchased playground equipment, reclaimed wood playhouse, and relocated swings with the new largest piece of equipment oriented perpendicular to Clinchco Main Street.



provide multigenerational recreation opportunities.



An example of an outdoor fitness area, which could Reclaimed wood from removed trees around the site could be repurposed to make a playhouse for the playground.



An example of a prefabricated wood playhouse, which could be an alternative to a reclaimed wood playhouse.



An example of a rain garden, which could improve drainage around the skate park and serve as an educational example for DIY projects.



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Conceptual Site Master Plan
& Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street

PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS

Preliminary Design Concept 2: Smaller Skate Park with Edible Forest Garden

Design Description

Playground

The playground equipment in this concept is oriented so the widest side of the primary play structure is running parallel to Clinchco Main Street, with its largest slides facing west. Additional equipment in this area includes the recently purchased "moon climber" and "leaf balance beam" play elements and two refurbished swings. This concept also includes additional bench seating throughout the playground area. A circle of "seats" made from recycled tree stumps is located in the far northeast corner of the existing fenced playground area.

Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) acts as safety surfacing and covers a contiguous area consisting of most of the fenced playground area to meet minimum safety use zone requirements. The stump seats would be relocated outside of the fenced playground area.

Basketball Court

The basketball court in this concept retains its existing striping and is not re-striped to reflect the installation of the new goal posts.

Prefabricated Pedestrian Bridge

Instead of a covered bridge, this concept envisions a prefabricated pedestrian bridge spanning Mill Creek between the playground and skate park areas. This prefabricated bridge would still offer connectivity between the two areas, but require less intensive construction than a covered bridge. This bridge would also comply to clearance requirements below the overhead power lines.

Covered Walkway at Existing Carson Street Bridge

This concept proposes a covered pedestrian walkway with benches at the existing Carson Street bridge location. A covered walkway in this location would offer a shaded and covered vantage point of the basketball court, skate park, and edible forest garden, and might see fewer construction issues compared to a covered bridge behind the fenced playground area due to its utilization of existing infrastructure.

Skate Spot

A smaller, "skate spot"-style skate park featuring well-designed but simple poured concrete elements is proposed in this concept. This skate park would offer skaters of multiple abilities a place to gather and refine their skills. While the size and shape of this skate park would only allow for one or two skaters at a time, similar capacity limits are common in skate parks of all sizes and offer skaters the opportunity to observe one another while waiting their turn.



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PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS

Edible Forest Garden

A tiered edible forest garden consisting of multiple varieties of compact edible trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants is proposed in this concept. This garden would utilize the natural slope of the land south of the current mobile home area to construct terraces that maximize sunlight. In this concept, the tree line would need to be pulled back slightly to allow for terracing. More information about these plants is available on pages 43 and 46.

LOVEworks Sign

The final detail proposed in this concept is a LOVEworks sign. LOVEworks is statewide branding initiative by the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) to promote travel in Virginia and strengthen awareness of the "Virginia is for Lovers" message. Qualifying applicants may receive up to \$1500 to participate in this statewide branding initiative. Information about the LOVEworks program can be found at https://www.vatc.org/loveworkreimbursement/. This sign could be created by a local group and include details relevant to Clinchco's history, as well as create a photo opportunity that draws visitors into the park.











Perspective 3: View from Carson Street Showing Edible Forest Garden, Skate Spot, and Prefabricated Pedestrian Bridge This perspective shows part of the edible forest garden, the smaller, skate spot-style skate park, prefabricated pedestrian bridge, and largest piece of playground equipment oriented parallel to Clinchco Main Street. This perspective also shows the enhanced riparian planting at Mill Creek toward the right.



An example of a prefabricated pedestrian bridge, which could connect the playground to Carson Street.

A well-designed but simple skate spot can provide compact fun and learning opportunities for skaters of all levels.

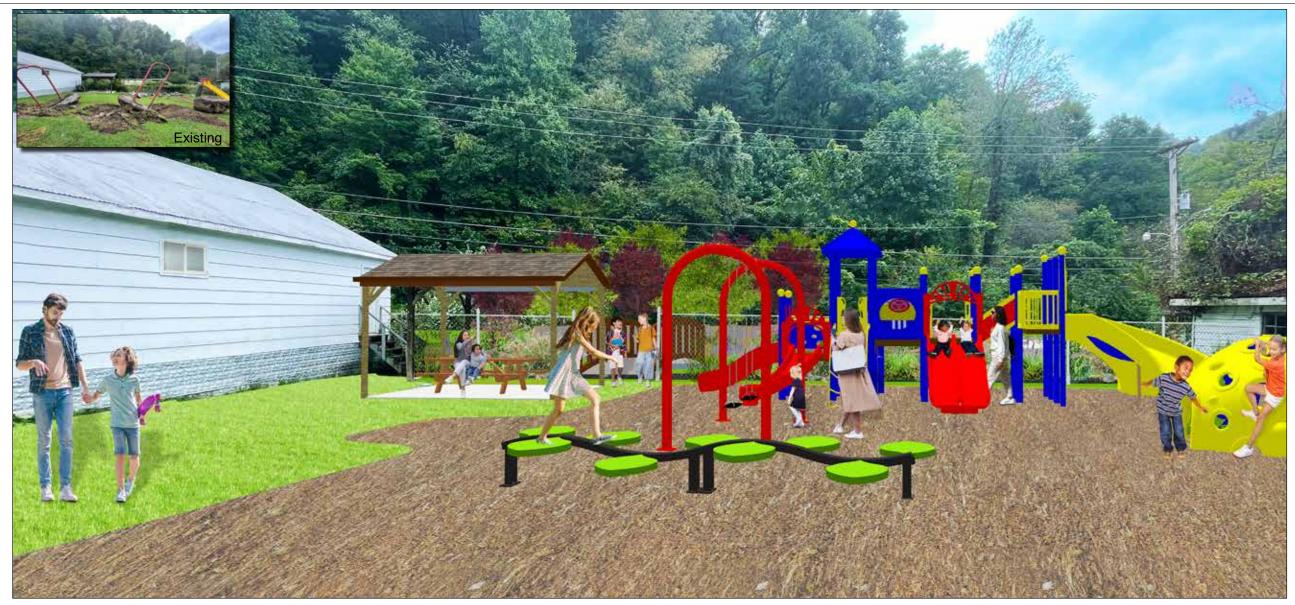
An example of tiered garden beds, which help protect and drain soil and ensure plantings receive adequate sunlight.



the park.

A Virginia LOVEWorks Sign could be designed to reflect Clinchco's history and culture and could draw visitors to





Perspective 4: Playground With New Equipment Oriented Parallel to Clinchco Main Street This perspective shows the recently purchased playground equipment and relocated swings with the largest piece of equipment oriented parallel to Clinchco Main Street.



located at the existing bridge at Carson Street.



A more open-type covered pedestrian bridge could be An example of a bench that would be suitable for the open-type covered pedestrian bridge.



Reclaimed wood from removed trees could be used to This concept includes additional benches like the one make stump seats, which would be out of frame to the above or similar around the playground area. left in this perspective.





Clinchco, VA: Clinchco Recreational Park Revitalization _____ Conceptual Site Master Plan & Connectivity Plan to Future Recreation Area at Palmer Street

PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS

Plant Palettes

Design Descriptions

Suggested Plantings for Water Retention and Erosion Control

This palette recommends eight different native grasses, sedges, and herbaceous perennials that could be used to replace the vegetation around Mill Creek and help control erosion. Plants were selected based on their ability to thrive in wet, poorquality clay soils and control erosion; their disease, pest, and deer resistance; their ability to thrive in part shade; and their low maintenance requirements and visual attractiveness. Between July and October, pink, blue, and white blossoms provide additional color throughout the site. Selected plants have a mature growth height of between one and seven feet, with the idea that taller plants would be planted closer to stream banks for an average of 2-3 feet of vertical plant growth from ground level to allow for increased visibility.

Suggested Plantings for Edible Forest Garden

This palette recommends a variety of edible dwarf, semi-dwarf, and small fruit and nut trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials that have the potential to survive and produce fruitful harvests in poor, wet, and clay soils on a north-facing slope. Selected varieties have shown tolerance to partial shade and clay or poorly-drained soils, though some healthy, well-drained soil will need to be brought to the site in any edible gardening scenario in Clinchco. Selected varieties also handle moist, humid climates like that of Clinchco better and with more disease and mildew resistance compared to other varieties within the same species. Tiered planters help prevent the erosion of this soil.

To simplify the purchasing process and verify regional plant availability, varieties were selected from stock at Edible Landscaping, an edible plant nursery located in Afton, Virginia. CDAC is not affiliated with Edible Landscaping and cannot confirm the continued availability of these varieties or officially recommend their services, but attempted to suggest varieties that could be reasonably obtained from a single source within Virginia.









Bushy Bluestem, Andropogon glomeratus Clump-forming, warm-season native ornamental grass easily grown in full sun in wet soil. Virtually maintenance-free, pest and disease resistant. Attracts birds and butterflies.

Height: 3 to 6 feet Spread: 2 to 3 feet Bloom Time: August to November Bloom Description: White, sometimes pink Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium to high moisture Maintenance: Low



Sallow Sedge, Carex Iurida Tufted native sedge easily grown in moist soil. Best for rain gardens and around bodies of water. Pest resistant and excellent for erosion control.

Height: 1.5 to 3 feet Spread: 1 to 2 feet Bloom Time: March to May Bloom Description: Green/Yellow Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Medium to high moisture Maintenance: Low



White Turtlehead, Chelone glabra Clump-forming, leafy-stemmed native perennial best grown in wet soil in part shade. Slowly spreads by rhizomes. No serious insect or disease problems and good for erosion control.

Height: 2 to 3 feet Spread: 1.5 to 2.5 feet Bloom Time: August to October Bloom Description: White/pink Sun: Part shade to full shade Water: High moisture Maintenance: Low



Joe-Pye Weed, Eutrochium fistulosum very attractive to butterflies.

Height: 4 to 7 feet Spread: 2 to 4 feet Bloom Time: July to September Bloom Description: Pink Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Moderate to high moisture Maintenance: Low



Woolgrass Bulrush, Scirpus cyperinus

Grass-like native aquatic sedge easily grown in moist to wet soils including mud and shallow standing water. No serious pest or disease problems.

Height: 3 to 5 feet Spread: 2 to 4 feet Bloom Time: May to June Bloom Description: Green/brown Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Medium to high moisture Maintenance: Low



Tussock Sedge, Carex stricta

Dense and rhizomatous native evergreen sedge easily grown in moist to wet soils and standing water. No serious pest or disease problems. Excellent for erosion control.

Height: 1 to 3 feet Spread: 1 to 2 feet Bloom Time: May to June Bloom Description: Red/brown Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Medium to high moisture Maintenance: Low



Great Blue Lobelia, Lobelia siphilitica Clump-forming native perennial with dark blue tubular flowers easily grown in wet soil. No known serious insect or disease probems.

Height: 2 to 3 feet Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet Bloom Time: July to October Bloom Description: Blue Sun: Part shade to full shade Water: High moisture Maintenance: Low



Culver's Root, Veronicastrum virginicum Large and showy native perennial easily grown in medium to wet soil and full sun. No serious insect or disease problems. Blooms attract butterflies.

Height: 4 to 6 feet Spread: 2 to 4 feet Bloom Time: June to September Bloom Description: White Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Low to high moisture Maintenance: Low

Tall and showy native perennial easily grown in low moist ground. No serious insect or disease problems. Flowers are

COMMUNITY DESIGN ASSISTANCE CENTER VIRGINIA TECH College of Architecture, Arts, and Design Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Universit Disclaimer: This drawing is conceptual and was prepared to show approximate location and arrangement of site features. It is subject to change and is not intended to replace the use of construction documents. The client should consult appropriate professionals before any construction or site work is undertaken. The Community Design Assistance Center is not responsible for the inappropriate use of this drawing. Street **Recreational Park Revitalization** Control Palmer Erosion (at Area Plan Plantings for Water Retention and Concepts Recreation Site Master December 14th, 2022 Design (Future Conceptual Preliminary Clinchco Plan to I . K Connectivity Suggested Clinchco, ∞ 45



Tennosui Pear, Pyrus communis x Pyrus pyrifolia Small tree thought to be a cross between a Tennessee European pear and a Hosui Asian pear. Self-fertile and exceptional pest and disease resistance compared to other pears.

Height: 12 to 15 feet Spread: 12 to 15 feet Harvest Period: July to August Sun: Full sun Water: Medium to High Maintenance: Low to medium Self Pollinating: Yes



Celeste Fig, Ficus carica 'Celeste' Also known as sugar fig. Small tree or large shrub with hardy, sweet fruits and excellent pest and disease resistance. Tolerant of part shade and well-drained clay soils.

Height: 5 to 10 feet Spread: 5 to 10 feet Harvest Period: August to September Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium to low Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



Sweet Scarlet Goumi, Elaeagnus multiflora 'Sweet Scarlet' Medium shrub with attractive foliage and juicy, scarlet red aromatic fruits with flavor similar to pie cherries. Good fresh and in preserves. Nitrogen fixer.

Height: 5 to 6 feet Spread: 5 to 6 feet Harvest Period: Julv Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium to high Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



Virginia Wild Strawberry, Fragaria virginiana Ground-hugging herbaceous plant with tiny, tasty fruits. Good for underplanting around taller plants. Fibrous root system excellent for erosion control.

Height: 0.5 to 1 feet Spread: 0.5 to 1 feet Harvest Period: May to October Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Low to medium Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



Stanley Plum, Prunus domestica 'Stanley' Small tree with large, high quality plum with a dark blue skin and a greenish-yellow flesh. Good fresh and canned. Also good dried as prunes.

Height: 8 to 12 feet Spread: 6 to 10 feet Harvest Period: August to September Sun: Full sun Water: Medium to High Maintenance: Medium Self Pollinating: Yes



Winkler American Filbert, Corylus americana 'Winkler' Also called hazelnut. Self-fertile shrub with higher yields than native varieties. Excellent pest and disease resistance and highly desirable due to its ease of care.

Height: 15 to 18 feet Spread: 10 to 12 feet Harvest Period: August to October Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Low to medium Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



Cherry Red Currant, Ribes rubrum Small shrub with large, bright red, tasty and flavorful sweet/tart berries. Also good for jams and jellies. Mildew resistant and very shade tolerant.

Height: 3 to 5 feet Spread: 3 to 5 feet Harvest Period: July to August Sun: Part shade to full sun Water: Low to medium Maintenance: Low Self Pollinating: Yes



and disease resistance.

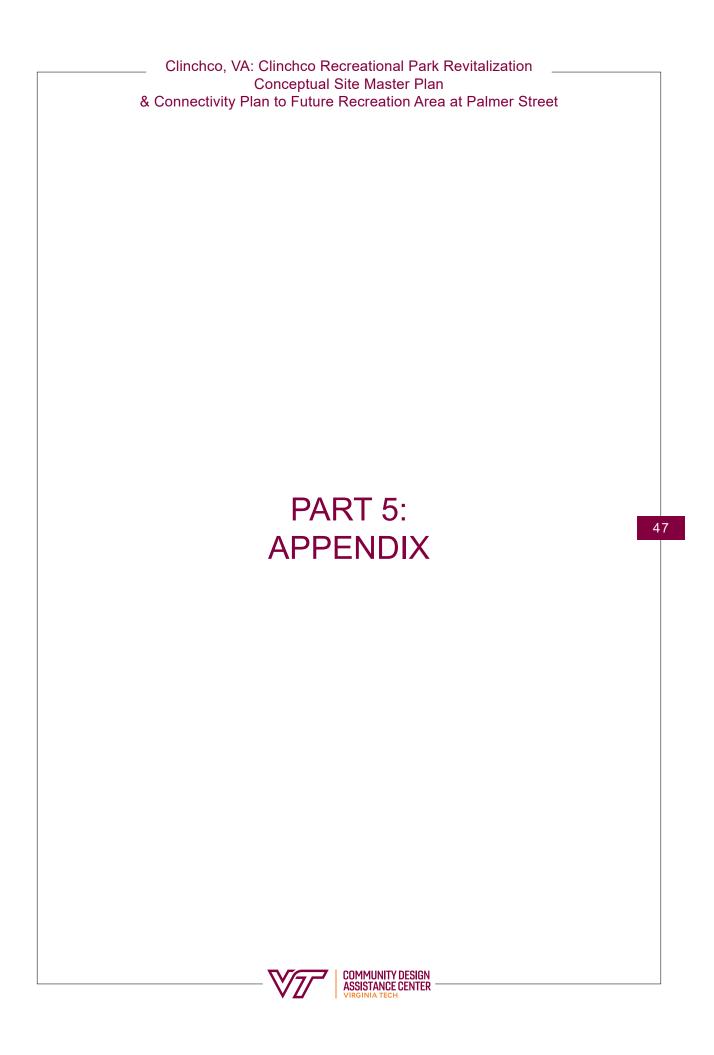
Height: 2 to 3 feet Spread: 2 to 3 feet Harvest Period: June to July Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium Maintenance: Medium Self Pollinating: Yes

Jewel Black Raspberry, Rubus idaeus 'Jewel Black' Vigorously producing variety of early-fruiting, native black raspberries great for eating, canning, and baking. Very good pest



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APPENDIX A: MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes

Initial Stakeholder Input Meeting - August 30th, 2022

Attendees

- Elizabeth Gilboy, Director, Community Design Assistance Center
- Hayley Harrington, Landscape Designer, Community Design Assistance Center
- Jelane Mock, Mayor, Town of Clinchco
- Ruby Coleman, Vice Mayor, Town of Clinchco
- Tina Bartley, Town Clerk, Town of Clinchco

Information

- Town is interested in possibility of partially refurbishing swings and seesaws
- County funded and is installing new playground equipment
- Interested in multifunctional covered bridge/picnic shelter over river
- Wheelchair access important
- River has not flooded in this area in years and did not flood in recent storm (big Kentucky floods)
- The county wanted the money spent, hence equipment purchase
- · Want small skate park "and something else" by trailer
- 2 year grant VOF \$25,000
- Received \$57k from county for equipment
- Bridge heavily desired in park area
- Wall off road and add art around wall
- Potential funding available specifically for economic development in the floodplain
- Flooding is typically from inadequate drainage rather than overflowing river
- Keep drainage in back of mind in general across site

Preliminary Design Presentation - December 14th, 2022

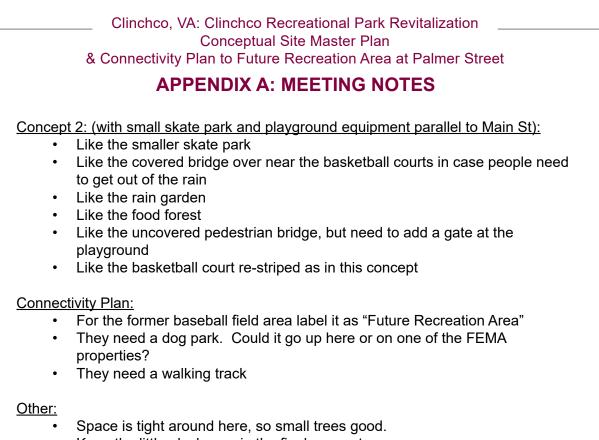
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- Jelane Mock, Mayor, Town of Clinchco
- Tina Bartley, Town Clerk, Town of Clinchco

<u>Concept 1 (with large skate park and playground equipment perpendicular to Main</u> <u>St):</u>

• Like the layout of the playground equipment in this one better than Concept 2





- Keep the little playhouse in the final concept
- Multigenerational exercise equipment will probably be at the New Camp pocket park/trailhead



