

# Heritage Project Overview

## Coal Heritage Development Plan Town of Ansted

# Vision

**The Town of Ansted will provide a premium tourism attraction while preserving the rich history of the coal and timber industry and the heritage of our people. We will provide a quality educational experience delivered in the reflective natural beauty of our small town mountain environment.**

# Project Goals

- **Develop a strategy to leverage the community coal heritage assets**
- **Provide support for Ansted's economic development**
- **Multi phased – multi-year plan of development**
- **Leverage activities already underway**

# Strategy for Development

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- **Identify, acquire, develop and preserve the elements of coal history in our area for the social educational and economic benefit of our community.**

# Concepts of Planning

- **Flexible schedule**
- **Grants may dictate priorities**
- **Open to new ideas**
- **Expect delays**
- **Seize new opportunities**
  - **Collaborative**
  - **Paul Peck**

# Project Planning Steps

- **Identify human resources**
- **Inventory coal heritage sites**
- **Develop a multi-phased project plan to showcase for public assimilation**
- **Leverage rails to trails efforts already under way**
- **Acquire property of important landmarks**
- **Secure funding as required**

# Team/Resources

## ● Resources

- Town of Ansted
- Area Citizens
- Aim Committee
- Ansted Lions Club
- The New Haven Foundation
- Churches & other organizations
- The Department of Transportation
- Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association
- National Coal Heritage Area.
- Fayette County Collaborative
- Fayette County Commission
- Hawks Nest Park

# Site Inventory

- Page- Vawter Mansion
- Coal Camp House(s)
- Stone Bank Building (s)
- Stone Jail & Fire House
- Mill Creek Colliery
- Company Store Foundation
- Coke Oven Ruins
- Rich Creek Tunnel Site
- African- American Cemetery
- West Lake Cemetery
- Ansted & Rattlesnake Tunnels
- Hawks Nest Dam & Tunnel
- Episcopal Pay School
- Moran House
- Ansted Train Station site
- Trestle and Trail to New River
- Old Ansted High School
- Trail Head Museum
- Amphitheatre site
- Traveler Green Space

# Supporting Inventory

- **Hawks Nest State Park**
- **Aerial Tramway to New River**
- **Hawks Nest Museum**
- **Contentment Museum**
- **African American Heritage Museum**
- **Tyree Tavern**
- **Antioch Baptist Church Museum**
- **Hawks Nest Lake and Dam**
- **New River Gorge National River**
- **Gauley National River**

# Supporting Historical Inventory

- **First County Seat of Fayette County**
- **Oldest standing house in Fayette County**
- **Burial place of mother of General Stonewall Jackson**
- **Mid point of James River and Kanawha Turnpike**
- **Civil War history**
- **Birth place of West Virginia's first aviator, Col. Paul Peck**
- **Site of Hawks Nest tunnel disaster**
- **Home of William Nelson Page**

# Supporting Economic / Tourism Inventory

- **Blue Smoke Salsa**
- **Ansted Floral & Gifts**
- **Hawks Nest Park and Lodge**
- **Mystery Hole**
- **Midland Trail Motel**
- **Mountain Memories Cabins**
- **Country Roads Festival**
- **Hometown Mountain Heritage Festival**
- **Lights Along the Midland Trail**
- **Birding Festival**

# Supporting Recreational / Tourism Inventory

- **Area Hunting & Fishing**
- **White Water Industries**
- **ATV Trails**
- **Rock Climbing**
- **Two National Rivers**
- **Jet Boats**
- **Public boating access to New River**
- **Swimming**
- **Walking & Biking opportunities**

# Ansted Development Plan Details

2004 to 2017

# Development Plan Phase I (TRAIL)

## Phase one 2004-05

- Acquire Right of Way for Trail
- Make accessible by foot and bicycle
- Develop Heritage Park Plan
- Provide historical markers & information
- Provide rest and information stops on trail
- Provide Rest Room Facilities

## Status

- Complete
- Complete
- Complete
- In progress
- Complete
- Grant approved

# Development Plan Phase II (Museum)

## Phase Two 2005-06

- Acquire Building
- Secure display material
- Renovate exterior
- Renovate interior

## Status

- Complete
- Basically Complete (Ellwood Maples Collection)
- In progress
- Grant In progress

# Development Plan Phase III (Green Space)

## Phase Three 2005-06

- Secure Grant
- Acquire land
- Build gazebo
- Plant
- Open for tourist

## Status

- Complete
- Complete
- Complete
- Complete
- Opened June 2006

# Development Plan Phase IV (Signage)

## Phase Four (2007)

- Secure Grant
- Design Markers
- Install
- Open for tourist

## Status

- Planning
- Ansted Collaborative
- Planned 2007
- Target June 2007

# Development Plan Phase V (New Assets)

## Phase Five (2008-9)

- Secure Grant
- Page Vawter private train station
- Acquire miners home
- Site preparation for Ansted Train Station
- Acquire & protect tunnel sites

## Status

- Planning

# Development Plan Phase VI (New Assets)

## Phase 6 (2010-11)

## Status

- Secure Grant
  - Restore Ansted Train Station
  - Audio Tours
  - Guided Tours
  - Self Guided Tours
  - Commission Study for reopening tunnels
- Planning

# Development Plan Phase VII (New Assets)

## Phase 7 (2012-13)

- Secure Grant
- Re-open tunnels
- Extend walking / bike trail to Rich Creek
- Connect trail to Antioch Baptist Church Museum
- Connect trail to Gauley National River

## Status

- National Park Service approved for two years technical support and study. First meeting held Nov 30, 2006

# Development Plan Phase VIII (New Assets)

## Phase 8 (2014-15)

- Secure Grant
- Man trip Reproduction
- Provide Motorized tours

## Status

- Planning

# Development Plan Phase IX (New Assets)

## Phase 9 (2016-17)

- Secure grant
- Trail head amphitheater
- Present coal history in song and dance

## Status

- Planning