The Clinch River Valley Initiative (CRVI) is a pioneering effort to build local economies in Southwest Virginia, focusing on the Clinch River Valley—one of the most biodiverse river systems in North America. Working at a watershed scale with many local partners, this collaborative grassroots effort is connecting downtown revitalization, outdoor recreation, water quality, entrepreneurship and environmental education along the Clinch River.

Special thanks to USDA Forest Service, VA Dept of Forestry, VA Dept of Conservation and Recreation, Appalachian Regional Commission, Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Blue Moon Fund, Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Friends of Southwest Virginia, University of Virginia, and all Clinch River Valley communities and organizations for supporting this effort.

Outdoor-friendly businesses, clubs, outfitters, and restaurants are ready to assist with your adventure through the Clinch River Valley. For a complete list of each and every particular community, visit www.clinchriverva.com

The Clinch River

In addition to its remarkable natural heritage, the Clinch provides exceptional angling, fishing, bird watching, boating, camping, and environmental education opportunities. The Clinch winds its way through remote ridges, enchanting forests, pastoral valleys, and small towns offering an incredible outdoor experience.

Natural Tunnel State Park

Natural Tunnel State Park has been attracting visitors to the mountains of Southwest Virginia for more than 100 years. This 933-acre park offers not only spectacular sights, but also hiking (seasonally), camping, biking, hunting, rental cabins, picnic tables, visitor center, amphitheater, history, hiking, boat tours, and a variety of interpretive/environmental programs. Visit www.virginiastateparks.gov

Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve

Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve is characterized by fascinating geological formations and a diverse array of rare plants, animals and natural communities. This 776-acre preserve has more than 20 miles of hiking trails, fishing along Big Cedar Creek and the Clinch River, a suspension footbridge over Big Cedar Creek, canoing and kayaking between Pocket’s Hole and Nash’s Hole on the Clinch River.

Jefferson National Forest

Jefferson National Forest covers 690,106 acres of hardwood forests, providing habitat for a wide variety of species of plants and animals. Hiking, mountain biking, camping, and fishing are the most popular activities but boating, bird watching, picnicking, swimming, hunting, and horseback riding are among the wide variety of recreation opportunities to enjoy. Visit www.fs.usda.gov

During the week of January 6-13, 2018, 3,052 fish were counted at the Big Sandy Dam, an increase of 28% over the same week in 2017. This is the 3rd straight year of slightly higher counts. The increase is attributed to higher flows at the dam, which is very beneficial for the fish and downstream habitats.

Biodiversity

The Clinch is home to a number of increasingly vibrant communities. Each community is unique in its own way, but all share a common thread of history, culture, and natural beauty. Whether you’re looking for a quiet retreat or a bustling city, the Clinch has something for everyone.

Honaker

Located in the heart of the Clinch River Valley, Honaker is known for its rich coal mining heritage and beautiful natural surroundings. The town is home to several parks, including the town’s namesake, Honaker Park. The park features a playground, walking trails, and stunning views of the river.

Tazewell

Tazewell is a small town with a big heart, and it’s easy to see why land-seeking Scots-Irish and English settlers chose to settle here. The town is home to several parks, including the town’s namesake, Tazewell Park. The park features a playground, walking trails, and stunning views of the river.

Richlands

Richlands is a small town with a big history. It was once a center for the coal mining industry, and it’s easy to see why the town is called the “Heart of Appalachia.” The town is home to several parks, including the town’s namesake, Richlands Park. The park features a playground, walking trails, and stunning views of the river.

St. Paul

St. Paul is an ecological and commercial hub located on the Clinch River. The town is home to several parks, including the town’s namesake, St. Paul Park. The park features a playground, walking trails, and stunning views of the river.

Dante

Dante is situated on the Clinch River, and it’s easy to see why the town is called the “Heart of Appalachia.” The town is home to several parks, including the town’s namesake, Dante Park. The park features a playground, walking trails, and stunning views of the river.

Cedar Bluff

Cedar Bluff is a small town with a big history. It was once a center for the coal mining industry, and it’s easy to see why the town is called the “Heart of Appalachia.” The town is home to several parks, including the town’s namesake, Cedar Bluff Park. The park features a playground, walking trails, and stunning views of the river.

Let Your Journey Begin

Visit www.clinchriverva.com for more information about the Clinch River Valley Initiative and the communities that make up the Clinch River Valley.