A VERY RECENT HISTORY OF DRAPER, VIRGINIA

April 2008
Pulaski County Comprehensive Plan Update – Public Input Session Small Groups
Various comments reflect desire to “do something with Draper” particularly taking advantage of New River Trail State Park and the Mercantile building.
“Access points to the New River Trail need to be increased to provide more efficiency in local use.”
“The Draper Mercantile is under-utilized. This facility should serve as a major support infrastructure to the New River Trail such as a restaurant, outdoor store, theater, etc.”
“A hostel should be provided for NRT users in the Draper community.”
“Keep rural character balanced with community development”

August 2008
Draper Mercantile Renovation Begins

January 2010
Pulaski Fresh Farm-to-Table Pard

July 2010
Community Roundtable with Senator Mark Warner
County and city officials with representatives from various connecting the Crooked Road, NEVPC, Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley, Pulaski Fresh, and Wilderness Road Community Partners meet Senator Mark Warner and discuss the various points of creative community development occurring in Draper and the region. Over 200 citizens join the Senator and officials for a cookout after the roundtable.

October 2010
Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling and Senator Phillip Pecket visit Draper Mercantile County and city officials discuss potential job creation opportunities emerging.

February 2011
Appalachian Regional Commission Planning Grant Approved

April 2011
Tornado along Draper Corridor

June 2011
Over 2000 Bike Virginia cyclists visit Pulaski County and Draper for 2011 Tour

February 2012
First Public Meeting Convened
Approximately 75 citizens attend.
**Project Background**

In 2011, Pulaski County received a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to develop a strategic plan for the Draper Corridor, which is generally defined as the area between the northern and southern gateways shown on this map.

The project involves efforts to assess capital needs, create a strategic plan, and assist entrepreneurs and small business owners in developing their operations and establishing links to Draper corridor activities.

Potential improvements include: adding community gateway and directional signage, street lights, trail spur/sidewalks, ballfields, playground and placing utilities underground; re-using existing structures to create an artisan center, cannery, heritage museum, and bike hostel.