

GROWING SMART

Capital Projects on High Knob

Large capital projects can help supercharge a community's outdoor economy. Here are some ways you can plan frontcountry destinations to benefit the environment.



Tip 1: Avoid Sensitive Habitats

A mountaintop visitor center or resort might be scenic, but development activities might also harm sensitive high-elevation ecosystems. Site developments carefully and work with natural resource experts to assess sites for rare or sensitive habitats and wildlife.

Tip 2: Consider Multiple Users

Developing frontcountry destinations in parks or on other public lands might take away treasured assets already used by hunters, anglers, and others. Consider multiple uses when planning a capital project, and involve a diverse group of stakeholders in project planning.

Tip 3: Enhance Natural Assets

Plan and develop campgrounds, visitor centers, and other capital projects around scenic or important natural areas, not over them. Avoid a “bulldozer mentality” and plan projects around sustainable, low-impact construction practices.

Tip 4: Respect Extractive Lands

Fight the temptation to view old surface mines and former extractive lands as consequence-free properties for new developments. Use sustainable construction practices even on degraded sites and leave such properties better than you found them.

Responsibly-developed frontcountry destinations help protect sensitive natural resources and complement—rather than replace—a region’s natural assets.



Learn more about sustainable capital project development and access planning resources in Chapter 7 of the free *Growing Smart on High Knob* planning blueprint. Available at <http://bit.ly/highknobblueprint>