



## THE CONCEPT

The idea of creating a river sculpture walking trail grew from discussions with ReNew the New. Since 2007, the ReNew the New committee has drawn attention to the trash found in the New River and on its riverbanks and boat ramps. ReNew sponsors two annual river cleanups: "Ramps n' Roads" in the spring and "Fall Into The New" at summer's end. ReNew is focused on stewardship of the 37 Giles miles of the New River and includes river guide organizations, DGIF, Army Corps of Engineers, and Giles County personnel; as well as private citizens committed to the preservation and renewal of the ancient and beautiful New River.

Giles Arts Council invited artists to participate in the design of sculptures for our year round, outdoor walking trail.

The Art in Public Places River Sculpture Walking Trail Project was made possible by funding from a Local Government Challenge Grant awarded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and matching funds contributed by the Town of Pearisburg.



**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT:  
VISIT [PEARISBURG.ORG](http://PEARISBURG.ORG) AND  
[GILESARTSCOUNCIL.ORG](http://GILESARTSCOUNCIL.ORG)**

# River Sculpture Walking Trail

Pearisburg Community Park  
1410 Wenonah Avenue

*A one-mile walk that features five permanently  
installed sculptures created from materials found in  
the New River or on it's riverbanks in Giles County*





## EACH SCULPTURE PROMOTES THE MESSAGE OF

- Sustainability
- Conservation
- Recycling

To mark the start of the walking trail, a boulder from the banks of the New River was transported by Paul Moody and Giles County



1

## THE SCULPTURES

Five sculptures are permanently installed on the grounds at the Pearisburg Community Park on 1410 Wenonah Avenue. The numbers indicate the location of the sculpture on the map.

### Two: "Rebirth"

**Artist:** Tacie Jones with LoCo Arts students Riley Bostic, Peter Quek, Asa Balliet, Laura Gautier, Haley Hansen, Gracie Stone, Jackie Harder, Den Bento

Per Jones, "This 8 foot tall work questions our biggest social challenges while examining ways in which one might use the arts to effect positive change in the world. The piece shows a tree in early, spring-green bud with a young dancing butterfly. The work symbolizes the group's hypothetical "new society" based on the concepts of cooperation, democracy, creativity, equality, peace, diversity and fair trade of goods."



2

### Three: "I Want This River To Be..."

**Artist:** Julie Ferrari

"This is an interactive sculpture. Julie incorporated a chalkboard surface for viewers to write their comments about the New River. Chalk is provided in the mailbox. The swirling tin around the tree trunk represents the river running through Giles County. Glass bottle bottoms represent aeration and a cleaner river. The finial at the top represents vegetation along the river, a sign of a healthy ecosystem in and around the river."



3

### Four: "The Cascades"

**Artist:** Robert Tuckwiller

Per Tuckwiller, "To me the Cascades represents the source of our water. Partly because of its height, the way we climb the steep trail to get there, and the way we view it from below. We seem to take water for granted but water is the most precious resource. It is important to me and should be important to all of us to protect and appreciate this resource. We are blessed to have the New River flowing through our part of this world. It is a magnet for tourism, a requirement for industry, and a benefit for our quality of life. Many of the ingredients of my sculpture came from the river clean-up that I participated in. It was inspiring to see so many people working so hard to keep discarded items out of the watershed. I hope the sculpture will focus attention on our natural water source and remind each of us to do our part to protect it. It is important for us and for those who will come later."



4

### Five: "Jewel Rebar Veritas"

**Artists:** Corbin Vierling and Tim Vierling

"The 6'x3' fish represents the way we can transform trash from an eyesore into a "jewel" with imagination and energy. Corbin sees the fish as a symbol of Giles County."



5

### Six: "A Part, Not Apart"

**Artist:** Nikki Pynn

Per Pynn, "The sculpture is a call to recognize the differences in a community as good. Different people within and beside the Giles population created the cylinders. Pick any one of the cylinders, describe what you see, then think of a person that carries that same description: Colorful and Complicated/Well thought of and carefully prepared/Sloppy but with sweet sentiments (Many of the cylinders have words written under glass)/Simply elegant. The materials used include bottles (pulled from the river), recycled cement cylinders, and scrap stained glass."



6

**Seven:** At the conclusion of the walk, visit the Children Recreation Mural project.

### Pictured on the top right of the back panel:

"The Turmoil That Got Us Here." Artist Nikki Pynn. To view, visit the Giles County Chamber of Commerce Office on S 101 Main Street in Pearisburg. Call for hours 540-921-5000.

