DESIGN

Architecture has the power to strengthen community bonds, support a healthy lifestyle and enrich individual lives. The Red Bird Water Kiosk seeks to achieve all three of these on the site of the Red Bird Mission. Currently, residents are forced to turn to unclean water sources or unhealthy soft drinks to meet their needs. By researching the culture and needs of Clay County, KY, the Red Bird Water Kiosk seeks to deliver clean water to over 9,000 local inhabitants of the area who currently do not have access to clean water.

The Red Bird Mission, The University of Tennessee College of Architecture and Engineering and Nursing are collaborating to remediate many of the health issues that are prevalent in Clay County through a three year intervention. In addition to these coordinated education efforts, the Water Kiosk will be the first design-build intervention.

Red Bird Water Kiosk Pavilion

clean water clean life

Research

Lack of access to city water forces locals to turn to well water, contaminated creek water or unhealthy soft drinks. The pollution of consumer products, such as soft drinks, can have a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of people. In addition, private wells can be contaminated by the unclean water table intruding into the spring. Straight piping septic tanks into the river makes the water undrinkable and highly dangerous to swim in. Unaware of this condition, locals will use the river for drinking water.

Conductivity levels exceeding instruments limits indicates hazard to aquatic life. High levels of conductivity indicate runoff from coal mining draining into the river. The use of over-the-counter materials and ease of assembly allows the opportunity for the Water Kiosk to be replicated elsewhere in Appalachia. Many other small towns lack clean water and require similar interventions.

System-wide Change

Through education and replication the unhealthy living standards that run rampant in Appalachia can be changed.

Replication

"How to Manuel" will provide insight into the research, design and construction of the Red Bird Water Kiosk Pavilion. Educating the public about the benefits of clean water will improve health standards across the area. Continued education is critical to the long-term success of the project.