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## River Place on the Clinch Case Study

River Place on the Clinch is owned and operated by the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., a 501C3 not for profit organization dedicated to building strong communities, caring for people and protecting natural resources.

River Place on the Clinch is a model sustainable economic development initiative demonstrating that you can create jobs and healthy business without hurting the environment and destroying the heritage and culture of a community.

River Place on the Clinch includes a 20 acre Eco-Tourism development on the Clinch River in the remote and poverty ridden community of Kyles Ford, Tennessee in Hancock County. The Clinch River has been designated as one of the Last Great Places on Earth by The Nature Conservancy. Clinch-Powell RC&D Council purchased the property in 2005 with a vision and a goal of bringing a once thriving community back to life.

River Place Market & Café is housed in a renovated building that housed a community general store until the 1970's. The renovation goal was to bring the familiar community store back to life with integrity. Much of the finishing restoration was done by local youth hired to paint and finish out the interior. The Market and Café use and sell local produce when possible.

Four River Place Cabins were newly constructed in 2007 taking great care to preserve trees and blend in with the nature surroundings. The goal was to make the cabins as invisible as possible so as not to disturb the viewscape of the original community. Cabins were painted in a way to encourage blending with the winter colors of the surrounding forest. Cabins were constructed using local labor and materials when possible and the rustic furnishings were gathered from yard sales, auctions and antique stores in the area.

River Place Cottage is a restored and renovated circa mid-1800s home also available for vacation rentals. The cottage exterior was left basically intact including the rusted tin roof but indoor plumbing was added for comfort.

River Place adjoins the 850 acre TWRA Kyles Ford Wildlife Management Area. The Clinch-Powell RC&D Council has leased and renovated a 2 acre farmstead including a century old farmhouse into the Clinch River Conservation Center & Retreat. Located just down the road from River Place, the Conservation Center is a growing into a hub of conservation study and education for educators, researchers and community members alike. The Center can house groups up to 25.

River Place Market opened in September 2007, the cabins in November 2007, the Café in December 2007 and the Conservation Center in April 2008. Canoes are planned for May 2008. To date fourteen jobs have been created.

For more information contact Lindy Turner at 865-828-5927 or Kim Belcher at 423-733-4400. Learn more about River Place at [www.clinchriverecotourism.com](http://www.clinchriverecotourism.com) and the RC&D at [www.clinchpowell.net](http://www.clinchpowell.net).

