

**“GPS Community Resources and Heritage Mapping in the Kinzua Region:  
Trail Central, Heritage Communities and the City of Kane, PA”**

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## **ATP 2014 Project Outline**

### **Project Focus:**

The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford will partner with KARE – the Kane Area Revitalization Enterprise, the Kane Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau, to implement the Trailmaker GPS mapping application in Kane, PA. The implementation will be structured in accordance with the “Community Heritage Work Plan” developed for Kane, PA in 2012 as part of the Pennsylvania Route 6 Alliance Heritage Communities Program, which fosters local sustainable development and heritage tourism, as well as the feasibility study for the Knox-Kane Rail Trail.

### **Project Details:**

#### **Course:**

PS 1450 – Participatory Community Development.

#### **Instructor:**

Dr. Stephen F. Robar, MPA; Ph.D.

#### **Partners:**

KARE – the Kane Area Revitalization Enterprise, the Kane Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau.

#### **Need:**

This work is essential to supporting the sustainable development and tourism industries of Kane, PA, as well as to complete the work of previous ATP projects in the Kinzua Region of Route 6 which have been informed by the “Trail Central” concept of the Allegheny National Forest Visitor’s Bureau (ANFVB), and the “Greenways Plan” of the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission. The region contains outstanding natural assets, including the Allegheny National Forest, the Kinzua Reservoir, the Allegheny River and many other natural, community, cultural and historic assets. The project will also expose students to community development strategies that will encourage internship placements and independent research that represents a next-step evolution of the community development work UPB and the ATP has undertaken to date. Coupled with the existing partnership infrastructure created through past ATP projects, the objective is to satisfy the need of establishing a viable and stable network of collaborating institutions that will not only provide UPB students with advanced, experiential learning opportunities, but that will foster local developmental capacity and working relationships.

#### **Background:**

The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (UPB) was approached by the ANFVB and KARE in the fall of 2014 regarding their desire for a collaboration and the extension of past ATP work centered on the Trailmaker application. KARE and the ANFVB were aware of our previous year’s work with BOOM!, mapping local historical, commercial, recreational, and environmental assets in Warren, PA, and sought our partnership not only for their community, but to also complete, essentially, the introduction of the work to the immediate region.

Building on, and expanding upon, the research and fieldwork of the 2012-15 ATP projects at Pitt-Bradford, students and faculty in the 2015-16 ATP will utilize interactive trail mapping software to provide a digital mapping implementation platform for both KARE and the city of Kane, as well as the ANFVB. The digital phone application developed here at UPB, and now with significant web potential and ability, has been instituted in the towns of Smethport and Bradford in McKean County, PA, as well as the city of Warren, in Warren County.

This year's project will extend – and essentially complete – this successful ATP work by extending the work into a new Route 6 community, and advance the work by once again this year focusing on community-based training. In addition to working with KARE and the Kane, PA area to begin to develop their footprint in the Trailmaker platform, the course will center on the community training portion of the implementation effort.

The 2015-16 project will further this work by continuing to enhance strategic, long-term partnerships that will advance and enhance UPB's ATP project, whereby digital "trail" mapping will become a future tool, rather than the focus, of student, faculty and community engagement in the region. The basic functions of the application will be expanded upon, including increased security functionality, and students in the class and ATP program will be exposed to, and learn the dynamics of, local development theories and practices and community engagement. What was always envisioned as a multi-year endeavor – with a number of civic organizations and municipalities expressing interest – will draw to a close with this iteration of this particular work.

Re-conceptualization and planning are already taking place for an entirely new ATP Project design for the 2016-2017 program.

### **Planned Meetings with Community Partners:**

**June, 24 2015:** ATP project team leaders and UPB faculty will meet with KARE and the ANFVB members at least once to finalize the digital mapping goals, framework and implementation plans. Feasible summer work will be identified.

**July 2015:** At least once during the month of July, ATP project team leaders will meet with KARE and ANFVB partners in the field to review asset mapping plans. Feasible summer work will be identified.

**August 2015:** All ATP partners, students in the fall course, team leaders and faculty will meet to review implementation plans, calendar, responsibilities, logistics and review and update plans as needed based upon the completion of summer accomplishments.

**September 2015:** Two weekend asset mapping sessions, working with our partners, are planned.

**September 20-22, 2015:** ATP students and partners, current and past, will be presenting the ATP Trailmaker work at the Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit to be held in Warren PA. Overall project conceptualization and past projects will be the focus of the presentation.

**October 2015:** It is projected that at least two public meetings including partners and the community will be scheduled, where students in the fall course will train community partners in the design and utilization of the Trailmaker application.

**November 2015:** It is projected that at least one public meetings including partners and the community will be scheduled, where students in the fall course will train community partners in the design and utilization of the Trailmaker application.

**December 2015:** A final (as is) work product presentation will be scheduled to include both partners and the community so as to present the work to date, and to discuss and take feedback on moving forward.

**Project Overview:**

“GPS Community Resources and Heritage Mapping in the Kinzua Region: Trail Central, Heritage Communities and the City of Kane, PA” is a teaching/applied research project that provides Pitt-Bradford students with applied learning experiences through campus-community research partnerships, and that contributes to tangible, outcomes-based sustainable community development capacity. This project is designed to continue the ATP work already accomplished here at UPB (the GPS mapping project), and to expand the impact of ATP vis-à-vis UPB by identifying further uses for the work so far implemented, and by identifying new partners in a way that contributes to regional capacity and planning and development discourse. This project will yield no fewer than two community-based presentations, in addition to the various meetings scheduled between project partners, participating faculty, the community, and UPB students.

Specifically, The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford will partner with KARE – the Kane Area Revitalization Enterprise, the Kane Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau, to implement the Trailmaker GPS mapping application in Kane, PA. The implementation will be structured in accordance with the “Community Heritage Work Plan” developed for Kane, PA in 2012 as part of the Pennsylvania Route 6 Alliance Heritage Communities Program, which fosters local sustainable development and heritage tourism, as well as the feasibility study for the Knox-Kane Rail Trail.

New this year will be the more prominent inclusion of teaching and research regarding local community development in Northern Appalachia. Arrangements have been made already to have included in the classroom portion of the course, workshops that will be facilitated by local development professionals.

**Project Goals and Objectives:**

- Further KARE’s goals of mapping local historical, recreational, environmental and agricultural assets.
- Further the mission of the ANFVB and local tourism organizations.
- Train partner business and non-profit groups how to use GPS mapping in support of community development goals.

- Construct a sustainable relationship between UPB and regional development partners by bringing university capacities, student and community needs, and partnership assets together to promote community development.
- Strengthen the capacity of Appalachian people to compete in the global economy.
- Develop and improve the region's infrastructure.

The 2015-16 project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Appalachian Regional Commission by virtue of developing the socioeconomic and cultural assets of rural Appalachian communities.

### **Project Outcomes:**

- Students will digitally map the data goals of KARE and the ANFVB, which will be available for smart phone and computer use through the website, increasing the communication and marketing capacity of the community and improving the community's infrastructure.
- Students will conduct community-based research and increase their research capacity adding site-specific user content to the digital maps.
- The training of business and non-profit groups how to use GPS mapping in support of development goals.
- Students will co-lead community mapping and community workshops to promote public awareness and participation, involving project partners and the larger community, increasing their public relations and communication skills.
- Students will engage in professional networking with local governmental and non-profit organizations to identify specific internship opportunities for future, more intensive collaborations geared toward building local capacity and infrastructure.
- Students will develop a poster and conference presentation for the ATP meetings in Washington, D.C., Dec. 2015.
- Students will present their work at the 2016 Appalachian Studies Conference at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV.