

## INTRODUCTION

A Comprehensive Plan is a document, or series of documents prepared under the direction of a Planning Commission or Planning Commissions, with input from citizens and community leaders, that sets forth policies for the future development of the entire community. It is based on inventory, analysis, and evaluation of data such as land use maps and surveys, population studies, studies of the community's economic base and community facilities, housing analyses, natural resource studies, and community surveys. The Comprehensive Plan lays out the "vision" for the future growth and development of the community; what the community will be like and look like in the future; it then serves as a guide for community decisions, and provides policy and program guidance to promote the community's vision.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is an important part of the comprehensive planning process. For a plan to develop, decision makers need to hear ideas, thoughts, and opinions from their citizens and stakeholders. The purpose of this public participation plan is to give citizens the opportunity to participate and learn about their community.

In an effort to help guide the planning process, the Planning Commission established a nineteen-member Comprehensive Plan Review Committee with members representing a cross section of the community and various community organizations. Together with the Commission staff, the Committee held a series of meetings to identify the following major issues in the community.

1. A new **Future Land Use Map** is proposed that maintains existing sectors and identifies 28 Planning Areas to provide recommendations for future growth.
2. **Protect the sources of our drinking water** with the creation of a Natural Resource Planning Area. The Hardin County Water Districts mapped the locations of the sources of our drinking water and the preservation of these sources is important.
3. **Expand the Urban Residential area** to accommodate future growth. Hardin County has maintained a healthy growth rate and with the proposed changes at Fort Knox, new growth is anticipated.
4. Establish a **fourth Rural Village** in Stephensburg to support the existing community facilities such as the schools and fire station.

5. Implement the Interlocal Agreement signed by the District Health Department, Hardin County Water Districts No. 1 and District No. 2, Planning Commission and Fiscal Court to create **managed wastewater systems**.
6. **Increase residential lot density** levels by implementing alternatives to on-site septic systems to allow smaller residential lots with reduced streets and utility installation.
7. **Maintain a safe transportation system** by improving hazardous county roads and implementing access management for new street intersections and driveways.
8. New developments to be approved only if access is from **roads with adequate pavement width and adequate right-of-ways**.
9. **Encourage Improved Subdivision Design** with fire hydrants, underground utilities, sidewalks and green space areas.
10. Promote improved developments with **conservation design subdivisions and cluster lot design concepts** to maintain open space and preserve rural character.
11. Coordinate and support the recommendations of the **Regional Wastewater Facilities Plan**.
12. Manage development surrounding the **Glendale Industrial Property**.
13. **Support Fort Knox** by preserving the Kentucky 313 Corridor as a buffer area.

In addition to the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee and in an effort to obtain input in developing a clear goal/objective for Hardin County's comprehensive plan for the future from the community, a survey was undertaken during the following four meetings where the public had the opportunity to give their thoughts on the plan:

**Elizabethtown - H.B.Fife Courthouse, Public Square**

8 November 2005 – Topics highlighted: Septic Systems, Public Water, Fire Protection and Transportation.

**Elizabethtown - H.B.Fife Courthouse, Public Square**

22 November 2005 – Topics highlighted: Development Standards and Subdivision Design.

**Rineyville - Rineyville Elementary School**

29 November 2005 – Topics highlighted: KY 313 Corridor, Housing, Land Use and Development Patterns.

**Glendale - East Hardin Middle School**

1 December 2005 – Topics highlighted: Agriculture, Open Space and Rural Character.

Everyone in the community was encouraged to come to one of these meetings and help shape the County's land use planning. The series of meetings helped the County staff develop the following general land use goals and policies. The results of the survey are presented in Appendix A.

The Draft Comprehensive Plan was introduced to the public during two Open House meetings held at the Pritchard Community Center. The Planning Commission Staff and Community Officials presented a ***Planning for Growth*** video and highlighted the following topics at Information Stations:

- **Land Use Planning**
- **Water**
- **Improved Subdivision Design**
- **Transportation**
- **Economic Development**

The Open House took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2007. A televised public hearing was held by the Planning Commission on 27 November 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the H.B. Fife Courthouse.