

23. West Hardin Area

- **Introduction:** This large Rural Area Planning Group borders three counties, Meade County to the north, Breckinridge County to the west and Grayson County to the south. A portion of the southern boundary of the planning area is the Western Kentucky Parkway. The eastern boundary of the West Hardin area is delineated by the wellhead protection areas. This area has a history of rural communities including Summit, Eastview, Vertrees, Pierce Mill, Hardin Springs and Big Springs.
- **Existing Land Use:** In the West Hardin area, the predominant land use is low density residential with agricultural activities. The average parcel size within the planning area is almost thirty acres. No subdivision with construction of a street has been established in this planning area in the last ten years. Numerous rural churches can be found in the area. Commercial activities such as general stores, personal services, auto related activities, agricultural support businesses and small retail stores can be found in the rural communities and along highways at strategic intersections. Industrial activities are associated with the available natural resources involving quarry and timber activities.
- **Natural Features:** This planning area is more wooded with open fields on ridge tops and meadows along the surface drainage areas. The topography of this planning area consists of moderate slopes to the east which transitions to steep cliffs associated with the Rough River watershed and the associated flood hazard areas to the west. Other flood hazard areas are associated with the Meeting Creek, Funks Run, Mays Run and Little Meeting Creek drainage areas.
- **Transportation Features/Public Facilities:** The road network system in this rural area is a combination of State and County roads that are typically curvy with constantly changing grade. A railroad does cross the southern portion of this planning area. Fire stations of the Kentucky 84 Fire Department service area are the only fire facilities located in this area; however, fire protection is provided by five different fire departments with much of the western portion of the area being greater than five miles from a fire station. There is no longer a public school located in this area following the closing of Western Elementary School. The Regional Wastewater Facilities Plan identifies this area as part of a rural watershed and does not propose a regional wastewater treatment solution in the next twenty year planning period. The continued use of on-site treatment/disposal systems is expected. As development occurs, construction of decentralized wastewater collection and treatment systems with long-term management, operation and maintenance is desired.
- **Recommended Land Use and Development Criteria:**
 - The recommended land use pattern for the West Hardin Area is low density rural residential development.

- All development activities should preserve and enhance the existing rural character of this area.
- Any commercial development within the area should be limited to major crossroads in the area.
- Any commercial development in this area should be limited to that serving local demand, not regional or area-wide demand.
- Topographic and natural features, in particular flood impacted areas, should be considered during the development review process. Steep slope areas and other areas with natural limitations should be set aside from development and preserved.