

NEWS RELEASE: May 19, 2009

### **Open house for proposed Greene County Land Use Plan**

The Greene County Planning and Zoning Department, in conjunction with the Greene County Planning Board and the Land Use Plan Task Force, will host an informational open house **Thursday, May 21, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Logan-Rogersville High School, 4700 S. State Highway 125, Rogersville**, for the public to review elements of the proposed Greene County Land Use Plan.

The Land Use Plan suggests appropriate future uses of the unincorporated portions of Greene County. When finalized, the plan will be used to guide the Planning Board and the Greene County Commission in making future zoning decisions, and taking into consideration current land uses, existing Urban Service Areas, soils, floodplains, groundwater and surface water, as well as the availability of sewers, water, adequate roads, schools and other infrastructure.

Greene County's last comprehensive plan, which included a Land Use Plan, was approved in 1981 and, since then, has been in constant use by the Planning Board and the Greene County Commission. While the 1981 plan has been an important and valuable tool, much has changed in Greene County since its adoption. The updated plan is designed to address emerging issues related to the unprecedented growth the county has experienced since the 1990s.

A draft of the updated Land Use Plan was presented to the public in October 2007. Since then, the plan has been reviewed and updated by the county and the Land Use Plan Task Force, representing real estate agents, developers, farmers, and other stakeholders. The revised plan now includes changes recommended by the task force, reflecting the members' respective areas of expertise, as well as changes requested by Greene County residents.

"The County has listened to feedback from county residents, and, with help from the Task Force, has made changes," said Kent Morris, Greene County Director of Planning & Zoning. "It is important to note that the plan is still a draft. We would welcome public input on the revisions that have been made. Further revisions are also still possible."

The most substantive changes involve the removal of areas designated for Urban Reserve (future high-density residential development) and Agricultural Preserve (protected from residential development.)

"County residents, as well as member of the task force told us they thought those designations were too restrictive, and might limit future development of their land, so we took those out," said Morris.

A second open house will be scheduled later this summer in western Greene County.

Top view the revised plan, visit [www.greencountymo.org](http://www.greencountymo.org). For more information, call Kent Morris, Greene County Director of Planning & Zoning, at 417-868-4005; or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-379-5713.

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