

NEWS RELEASE: Oct. 1, 2007

Greene County Comprehensive Plan topic of town hall meetings

The Greene County Planning and Zoning Department is holding a series of town hall meetings in October to gain public input on the proposed Greene County Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan outlines the county's policies for managing growth and development for the next 20 years and beyond, allowing the county's current population to nearly double while encouraging conservation of viable agricultural land.

"Greene County is an attractive destination for a lot of people in the U.S., and our population is growing rapidly," said Kent Morris, Director of the Greene County Planning and Zoning Department. "Our fear is that, without a Comprehensive Plan to manage growth, we'd have 3- to 5-acre lots from county line to county line, with no room left for an agricultural economy."

The centerpiece of the Comprehensive Plan is the Land Use Plan, which outlines portions of the unincorporated county could best support new residential development as well as areas that are best suited for continued agricultural use. The Land Use Plan will be used to guide the county's future zoning decisions, and takes 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.

Each meeting will include a short presentation from Greene County Planning and Zoning staff, then an informal question & answer session.

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m. Willard City Hall, 224 W. Jackson, Willard

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m. Logan-Rogersville High School, 4700 S. State Highway 125, Rogersville

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m. Pleasant View School, 2210 E. State Highway AA, Springfield

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m. Republic Community Center, 711 East Miller Road, Republic

Following the town hall meetings, the Planning and Zoning Department will revise the plan to reflect any necessary changes before presenting it to the Greene County Commission for final approval in early 2008. The current draft of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as the proposed Land Use Map, are available online at www.greenecountymo.org.

For more information, call Kent Morris, Director of Planning and Zoning, at 868-4005; or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 829-6019 or 379-5713.

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