PROPOSED FACILITIES

Proposed facilities, as designated on the Recommended Land Use Map, include future locations of specific facilities that will serve the citizens of Kenton County at large, such as libraries, schools and fire and police stations. This information was determined based on projected areas of residential growth and extension of infrastructure in conjunction with information collected from the agencies which are responsible for those respective services, which was then incorporated into the Community Facilities Map. Locations for proposed facilities shown on the Community Facilities Map are approximate and should not be interpreted as being located on a specific parcel of land.

Determining locations of proposed facilities can assist with continuing sound and supportable planning guidelines. These must not only ensure that there is a balance between the County's future land use intensity and facility quantity, but that new facilities are located to maximize accessibility while minimizing neighborhood impact and maximizing levels of service, as well as cost efficiency. Overall, these efforts cannot be successfully accomplished without significant coordination between these agencies, since the critical aspect of planning these facilities is consideration of the patterns of growth, how that affects the number of facilities needed and the number of staff to support them.

Other factors, such as demographic changes, socio-economic conditions, lifestyle variations, and funding availability also have an effect on new facilities. Current specific issues that influence decisions regarding new facilities include:

Kenton County Schools

- After speaking with school officials, it was found that schools are generally over capacity on an ongoing basis. This causes secondary issues, such as:
  - “Non-essential” programs are being canceled (art, music, etc.) to use those classrooms for core classes.
  - Trailers are being used for additional space, in lieu of funds to add on or renovate facilities. These are considered temporary solutions, but without additional funding, are often being used long-term.
  - Because of Kenton County Schools’ high ratings, additional children are brought in from other school districts. Not only does this add to the issue of over population, the additional tax income that would ordinarily support those students does not accompany them.
- Reduced or unavailability of funding. As most public agencies, schools are being asked to do more with less.
Libraries

- Changes in technology (i.e. electronic book sharing, etc.). The libraries provide access to computers and other technology that residents may not otherwise have access to, but as technology advances, the availability of online services may reduce the need for additional physical facilities in certain locations.
- Population shifts. After speaking with library officials, it was found that the current large branches seem to be meeting the majority of the need throughout the county. More remote areas of Kenton County are a considerable distance from most current facilities, so the library offers services like the bookmobile and other book sharing options.
- Reciprocal agreements with Boone and Campbell County libraries allow residents from those counties to borrow from Kenton County libraries, as well as use other services provided by the libraries. The agreement also allows Kenton County residents to avail themselves of the Boone and Campbell County library facilities and services. Because Kenton County is centrally located, the Kenton County Library system has experienced an increase in users from the neighboring counties.

Fire/police

- The main consideration for facilities is residential growth and distance from existing facilities. Typically, fire and police stations are located based on response times. The implication of shorter response times is a greater number of facilities close to population centers. This consideration is combined with the availability of adequate roadways and public water, along with funding for those facilities. In general, a four-minute response time is considered desirable and was used to assist in determining possible facility locations on the Proposed Facilities layer.
- Many of the communities have consolidated services such as dispatch, police services, emergency medical services and fire departments. This decreases the need for these communities to build their own exclusive facilities and purchase their own equipment and vehicles.
- Cost of staffing fire and police facilities is very expensive long-term. Added to the cost of building new facilities, this can add a major fiscal commitment to a local government’s budget that has to be considered over the life of the facility.