

Residents want Campbell County to stay green

BY CHRIS MAYHEW | COMMUNITY RECORDER STAFF WRITER

ALEXANDRIA - The green markers were the most popular at an open house to update Campbell County's planning vision at Campbell County High School Tuesday, March 27.

About 25 residents broke into small teams and used color markers and matching sticker to color a county map green for agriculture and recreation. Colors like red represented areas of mixed-use commercial while purple represented industrial areas.

The consensus from each group was to keep the southern end of the county green.

"I feel like the county is becoming homogenized," said Carol Pitzer, a resident of unincorporated Campbell County near Cold Spring.

Green space and indigenous plant life need to be preserved, Pitzer said.

"You can drive down U.S. 27 and you don't know if it's Beechmont Avenue or Dixie Highway," she said.

Dennis Bach, of Melbourne, said he would like to see a bike trail along Ky. 8.

"Keep the industrial pretty much where it is now and down in Silver Grove and Melbourne," Bach said.

Developing a mixed-use residential and commercial area along the AA Highway would be acceptable, but keep it close to the highway, Bach said.

Judy Adams, who lives south of Alexandria, moved back to the county for her retirement after living in Maryland.

"I like the charm, the little windy two lane highways," Adams said.

"It's very tough, you have to deny builders their revenue."

Finding a balance between preservation and development to drive the county's economy is a balancing act, said Peter Klear, director of Planning and Zoning for Campbell County.

At the same time the county is working to update its Comprehensive Plan, a vision for the next 20 years, groups like The Campbell Conservancy and the Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council are working to identify sites that need to be preserved, Klear said.

The forestry council is gathering information on all forest areas in the county. It's a tool the county hasn't had before, Klear said.

"More of these resources are coming together, right before development is about to explode," he said.

Having adequate green space is a quality of life issue that companies looking to locate in the county take into consideration for their employees' use, Klear said.

"It means parks, places to ride a bike, to jog to hike," he said.

Started in 2006, the county's five-year update to its Comprehensive Plan, a 20-year vision, should be completed this summer, Klear said.