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*(This is the seventh in a series of updates on zoning in Kenton County. The series is intended to brief city and county elected officials on issues being addressed by NKAPC in the **2020 Sourcebook**, a new model zoning ordinance for Kenton County's local jurisdictions. We hope you find it timely and thought provoking and encourage you to contact us using the link below if we can provide more information or answer any questions.)*

Updated definitions eliminate numerous problems

Standardized definitions are the backbone of any zoning ordinance. They provide a common understanding of terms and concepts used to explain and administer regulations. Equally important, they are an essential tool for the successful enforcement of a zoning ordinance due to the multitude of players involved in planning and zoning — legislative bodies, commissioners, board members, developers, business owners, investors, property owners, and administrators.

One of the pronounced benefits of the proposed *2020 Sourcebook* is the establishment of a glossary of definitions, a uniform list of zoning definitions used within Kenton County. This universal list of interchangeable zoning definitions will eliminate many of the problems resulting from the current system and promote development and investment in Kenton County.

Currently, each Kenton County jurisdiction has its own list of definitions which may not only conflict with the definitions used in other jurisdictions but which are outdated, some by as much as 30 years. This creates confusion and bogs down the application and permitting process. Worse, it inhibits the ability of the planning commissioners, board of adjustment members, legislative bodies, and staff to make smart and informed decisions on enforcement issues, land use proposals, and future growth patterns.

Each of the definitions provided in the *2020 Sourcebook* contains a description that provides both clarity and consistency for the term or concept it explains. These are the two most important components of a successful definition.

- *Clarity of a definition* is its ability to be easily understood by a variety of audiences. This is essential because a zoning ordinance is used by a large and diverse group of people.
- *Consistency of a definition* is its ability to be uniformly applied throughout a zoning ordinance without contradicting or changing its description. Inconsistent definitions detract from an ordinance by creating conflicts with enforcement and administration which, in turn, can become legal battles.

By establishing clear and consistent definitions in the *2020 Sourcebook*, NKAPC hopes to streamline the application and permitting process, eliminate confusion and conflict between jurisdictions, and promote healthy, sustainable development.

To contact a staff member who can answer your questions about the issues covered in this update or on the *2020 Sourcebook* in general, click [here](#).