History of Hillside Discussions

**Driving Issue:** Increased interest in urban living, the convenience of amenities, and magnificent views of the Ohio River and downtown Cincinnati are making development of our previously-untouched hillsides a feasible alternative to suburban expansion. How should the community respond?

**Goal:** ‘The Hills’ project is aimed at building public consensus on the future of these hillsides in preparation for the next Kenton County Comprehensive Plan.

This first comprehensive plan for Kenton County recommended a more detailed study of Northern Kentucky’s hillsides and included a Conservation Land Use category which was generally identified as slopes of 20 percent or greater with severe restrictions to intensive urban development.

Subsequent comprehensive plans used the term Physically Restrictive Development Areas (PRDA) in place of the Conservation Land Use category. The PRDA continued using the 20 percent slope threshold for hillsides and added cautions where “Kope” geologic formations were present.

The 2006 comprehensive plan called for a re-evaluation of the PRDA classification as it pertains to its applicability and use in land use decisions.

This project was conducted by the University of Kentucky Department of Landscape Architecture’s fifth year advanced studio. This was a student project aimed at generating ideas, guidelines, and recommendations for both the development and preservation of Northern Kentucky’s hillsides.

**Ongoing Project**
- Awareness – Presentation and discussion with interest groups
- September 2009 – Online Public Opinion Survey
- July 2010 - Hillside Slippage Forum: Technical Committee Meeting – Discuss the engineering and technical aspects of hillsides
- August 2010 - Local Officials Committee Meeting
- September 2010 – Online Public Opinion Survey

**PUBLIC FORUMS**
- Dec 2, 2009 – First Public Forum, Notre Dame Academy
- May 4, 2010 - Second Public Forum, Lakeside Christian Church
- September 16, 2010 - Third Public Forum, Dixie Heights High School

**ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM:**
http://www.nkapc.org/Discussions.html