

## Shaping the region's future in the 21st century

Welcome to our regular newsletter column focusing on the regional comprehensive plan. Our aim is to provide you with a quarterly update throughout the planning process.

### Major Phases of the Regional Comprehensive Planning Process



#### What's New?

While it is not new to the planning process to prepare a Future Land Use Plan Map, East Central will be completing this enormous task in an incremental way. Staff will be evaluating individual planning elements and identifying significant "features" in the region. The idea is that certain resources, facilities, landmarks, etc. - or features - are significant to the region now and will continue to be in the future. These features will need to be taken into consideration at the very least and protected at the most when planning and projects occur in the region. Creating Regionally Significant Features Map(s) is the initial step to building East Central's Future Land Use Plan Map.

The first question we expect to be answering is "What constitutes a significant feature?". The overall guiding criteria for the content of the Regional Significant Features Map(s) is that the feature serves, or is located in, a wide geographic area, such as a transportation facility like Highway 41. A significant feature also contributes many benefits to the region. Another obvious example is the Fox River. The Fox River is a beautiful resource, recreational and tourism boon, a habitat to aquatic and vegetative life, contains a lock system that is on the National Historic Registry and provides hydroelectric power.

While it is very apparent that Highway 41 and the Fox River should appear on a Regionally Significant Features Map, there are other features that are not as clear cut and this is where input from technical advisors and the public is important to the process.

Preliminary Regionally Significant Feature Maps are being developed to be reviewed by East Central's technical advisory committees. These maps will be also be available to the general public for review during open houses that are tentatively scheduled for January and February of 2006. Additionally, we will make this information available on East Central's website (see our website information below) as progress is made. We look forward to your input and suggestions!

#### Contact Us!

East Central will continue to reach out for public input during our planning process. If at any point you have comments and/or questions about our comprehensive plan, please contact us at (920) 751-4770. Information is available on our website at: [www.eastcentralrpc.org/compplan.htm](http://www.eastcentralrpc.org/compplan.htm). Make sure that your view is represented - let us know what you think! Write, call, or email.

