



## Introduction

*The characteristics of land and water can determine much of the economic and built character of a community. What are those characteristics for Woodford County and how will they constrain or sustain Woodford's future?*

This Background Report/Plan Element for the Comprehensive Plan Update provides a basic understanding of the natural land and water features of the County, the relationship of these features to Woodford's growth and development, and possible trends and issues regarding the use and disposition of Woodford's natural resources. The County's most significant heritage is its land and water resources.

The **Kentucky River**, which intersects the Ohio River to the north, comprises the entire eastern boundary of Woodford County. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the river afforded a primary means of transportation for people and goods arriving and departing the area. Today, the importance of the river as a means of transportation has obviously declined but it now serves as a primary source of drinking water not only for Woodford but also for a growing population in the **Bluegrass Region** (see the People, Jobs and Housing and Regional Coordination sections of this Plan Update for a discussion of population characteristics of the Region).

Woodford's land has also been a contributing factor in its history, supporting a substantial agriculture based economy. Today, that agricultural base is changing from one dominated by tobacco to one supporting a successful equine industry, agri-tourism and a wider range of agricultural and livestock products and operations.

In Chapters 1, 2 and 3, the existing characteristics and current usage of land, water and air resources are identified and described. Chapter 4 provides an overview of trends, issues, opportunities and challenges that face the County and provided the basis for

development of Goals and Objectives that are described in the following Chapter 5. Finally, Chapter 6 contains the Policies that make up the Plan.