

Chapter 18

Conclusion

Wet growth policies and practices are about the sustainability of Kentucky's waters, communities, economy, environments, and people. They are about good stewardship of our lands and waters. Our uses and development of land can have severely adverse impacts on water resources – water quality, water supplies, and watersheds – on which all of us depend. However, there are many methods of growth, development, and the management of land that protect our water resources and sustain the healthy functioning of our watersheds. Indeed, there are countless combinations of land-use and water conditions and needs, policy preferences and priorities, methods, and tools for the many different Kentucky communities – each with their own particular conditions, needs, and goals – to choose when seeking to make land use more sustainable with respect to our waters.

This handbook has identified many different issues, principles, policies, methods, and tools to aid Kentucky's local communities. However, the handbook has also referred to volumes of additional materials that can also aid communities and can provide further details and resources than can be encompassed in any single publication. Moreover, experience tells us that the volume, variety, and quality of information and resources available to Kentucky communities will only grow with time, extending beyond what this handbook can describe. However, we hope that the handbook will encourage Kentucky's communities that sustainable development, wet growth, and water-resource protection are possible, desired, and necessary. If so, Kentucky's "wet growth toolbox" will continue to have new tools added and many of its tools widely and frequently used.