



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Task Force to Host Public Meetings

The Joint City-County Task Force on Ridge, Slope and Hillside Development and Protection is hosting a series of eight public meetings to review and discuss the proposals for development and protection in the hillside and ridgetop lands of Knoxville and Knox County.

Each meeting will be the same in content and format. The meetings will consist of a presentation of the Task Force proposals, followed by a period of public feedback. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and should last until 8 p.m:

- Monday, July 13; South Doyle Middle School - 3900 Decatur Rd
- Tuesday, July 14; Halls Senior Center - 4410 Crippen Rd
- Wednesday, July 15; LT Ross Building - 2247 Western Ave
- Thursday, July 16; Karns Community Club Center - 7708 Oak Ridge Hwy
- Monday, July 20; New Harvest Park - 4775 New Harvest Ln
- Thursday, July 23; Powell Library - 330 West Emory Rd
- Thursday, August 6; Deane Hill Recreation Center - 7400 Deane Hill Dr
- Monday, August 10; Ramsey House - 2614 Thorn Grove Pk

Last spring, the city council and county commission came together to establish a joint task force to address issues related to ridge, slope and hillside development and protection.

The purpose of the Joint City/County Task Force on Ridge, Slope and Hillside Development and Protection is to study, evaluate and plan for the means by which to assure conservation, development and protection of ridges, slopes and hillsides within Knox County.

The city council and county commission recognize that conservation has numerous environmental and economic benefits including protection of aesthetic qualities, provision of wildlife habitat, avoidance of negative water quality, flooding issues and air quality. The failure to consider ridge and hillside protection in the development process can have critical, adverse impacts upon the natural beauty as well as upon economic values associated with these areas.

County Commissioner Tony Norman and City Councilman Joe Hultquist have served as co-chairs of the task force. The remaining 28 members come from city and county government, neighborhood organizations, local utilities, businesspeople, developers and conservation groups and represent diverse opinions on hillside development.

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