

# 2030 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

City of Whitehall, Michigan

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

Prepared with the assistance of:

**McKenna**  
ASSOCIATES

**Community Planning and Design**

235 E. Main Street, Suite 105

Northville, Michigan 48167

Telephone: (248) 596-0920



# Acknowledgments

## **CITY COUNCIL**

Emery Mac Hatch, Mayor  
Edward Whalen, Mayor Pro Tem  
James Bartholomew  
Tanya Cabala  
Jeff Holmstrom  
Stephen Sikkenga  
Orville Smith

## **CITY ADMINISTRATION**

Scott Huebler, City Manager  
Brian Armstrong, Zoning Administrator

## **MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE**

Brian Armstrong  
Tanya Cabala  
Chris Mahoney  
Steve Salter

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Andy Fink, Chair  
Dave Bedau, Vice Chair  
Emery Mac Hatch, Mayor  
Scott Huebler  
Chris Mahoney  
Steve Salter  
Mike Seymour  
Rebecca Van Antwerp  
Tanya Cabala



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# 1. Introduction

## Welcome

Welcome to the City of Whitehall 2015 Parks and Recreation Plan!

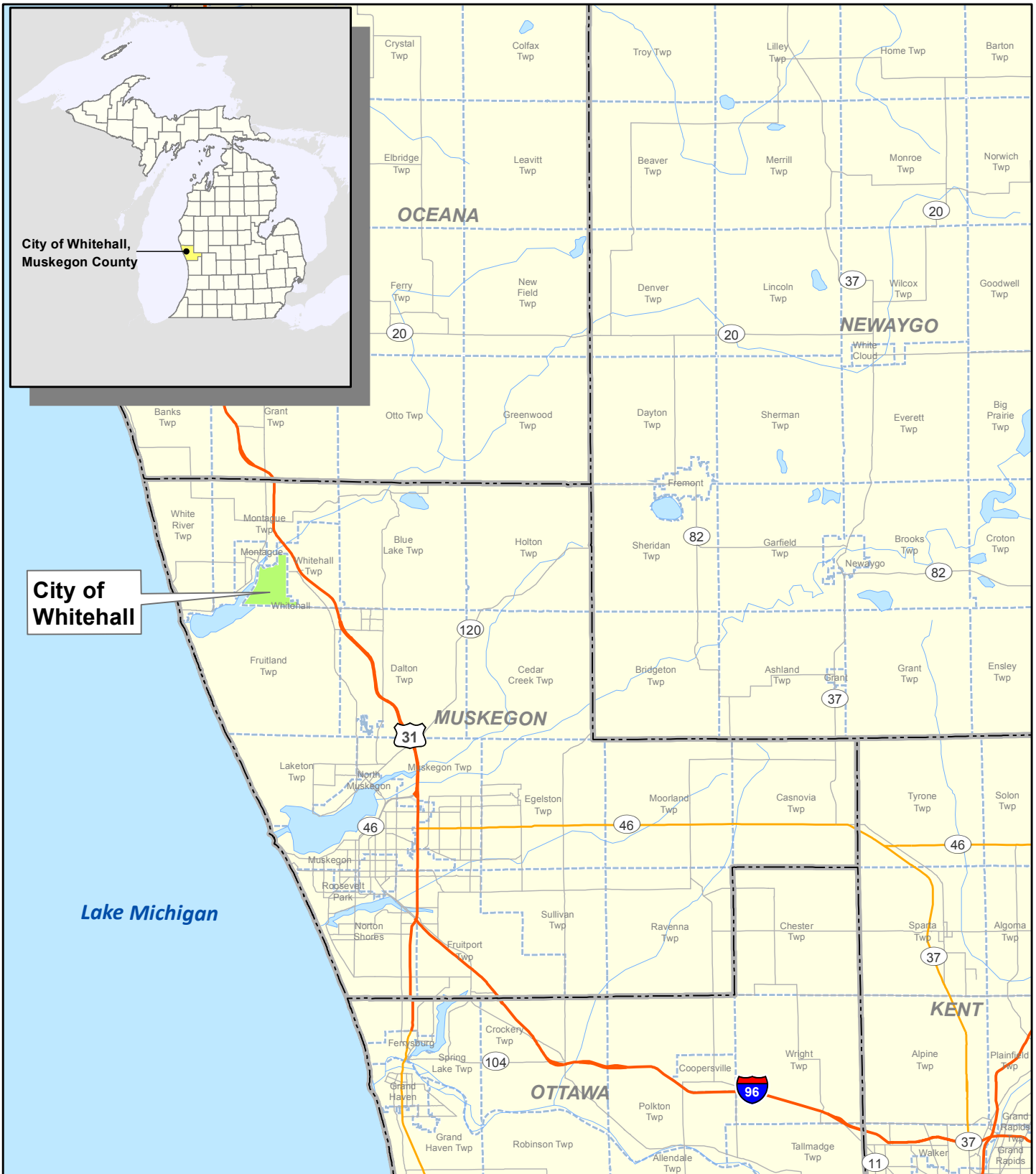
This document is intended to fulfill the requirements and provide the functions of a parks and recreation master plan. A parks and recreation plan is a crucial planning document for a community as it not only provides important information about the current conditions and trends in the community, but it also presents a vision for the future of the City with a plan for accomplishing that vision.

### **WHAT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING?**

Community planning is planning by municipal government. It is concerned with the solving of existing physical, social, and economic problems, as well as providing for the optimum environment for those components of the community over time. Community planning operates under the general objectives established by the state enabling legislation. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, provides for the creation of City Planning Commissions, the development of comprehensive plans, and the regulation of land. Under this Act, a City may create a Planning Commission to make plans for the incorporated areas of the City. Such plans are intended to provide the framework for public capital improvements, zoning and other land use controls administered through the City, County, and State governments over the life of the Plan. The aim of community planning is to achieve optimum compatibility and efficiency among the various elements that make up the community. Community planning can prevent duplication of effort among the various levels of government and avoid unnecessary competition for limited financial resources. Just as important, community planning can influence the stabilization, conservation, and improvement of private property and natural resources.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

A Parks and Recreation Plan is a road map for the parks and recreation decisions (including facilities and programming) made in the next five years, as well as projected future needs. This Master Plan includes all of the required elements of a Parks and Recreation Plan and therefore qualifies Whitehall for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process taken to prepare the Plan gives the City a better understanding of the needs and wants for parks, recreation, cultural facilities, and programming.



June 3, 2014

Mile 0 4 8

# Map 1 Regional Location Map

## LEGEND

-  Interstates
-  US Highways
-  State Highways
-  Surrounding Counties
-  Surrounding Municipalities
-  City of Whitehall



Data Source: Michigan Geographic Framework, Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 8a

City of Whitehall, Michigan





## 2. Natural Resources and Environment

### INTRODUCTION

This section of the Plan describes the physical features of the community. The description is important to the planning process since many of these features do not change and plans must accommodate the area's physical attributes. Many of the area's features are familiar to residents of the area, but may provide valuable information to interested parties from outside the area.

### LOCATION

Whitehall is in western Michigan's Muskegon County. The City is situated south of the White River while the neighboring City of Montague is north of the river. Whitehall is surrounded by Whitehall Township on the east and Fruitland Township on the south. The White River widens at the bridge between Whitehall and Montague to form White Lake, which flows into Lake Michigan. Whitehall is four miles east of Lake Michigan, eleven miles north of Muskegon and forty eight miles south of Ludington.

Muskegon County is on Lake Michigan, on the west side of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The County is south of Oceana County, west of Newaygo, Kent and Ottawa Counties; north of Ottawa County and east of Lake Michigan. The City of Muskegon is the County Seat of the County.

### GENERAL TOPOGRAPHY OF WHITEHALL

The City of Whitehall lies on the eastern edge of the extreme northern end of White Lake. White Lake is one of numerous lakes formed along the western edge of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan when glacial lake levels rose and formed drowned river valleys. Subsequent deposition of sand from off shore currents, beaches, and prevailing winds separated White Lake from Lake Michigan.

There are numerous small creeks which flow into White Lake such as Bush Creek, Wildcat Creek, Millpond Creek, and other unnamed creeks. In the vicinity of Whitehall these creeks are from one to two miles long and have a maximum grade of roughly 100 feet.

Topography in the Whitehall area slopes to the west from a high of 718 feet above sea level from a large hill one mile east of Whitehall to a low of 580 feet at the shore of White Lake. The hill east of town is part of the Whitehall branch of the Port Huron Moraine which is part of a complex interrelated system of the Lake Michigan Moraine System. The City of Whitehall is bounded on the north and south by unnamed creeks with Bush Creek roughly bisecting the City in an east-west direction

Slopes of the general topography in Whitehall range from 1 to 5 percent with an average of 2.2 percent. Slopes by the streams may be as great as 25 percent.



## 2. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

### CLIMATE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Since Muskegon County is on Lake Michigan, and the prevailing winds are westerly, the area has a quasi-marine climate. Lake Michigan acts as a heat sink that cools the air in the summer and heats the air in the winter. Therefore, the County's weather is much milder than areas located farther from such a large body of water at the same latitude. July is usually the warmest month of the year while January and February are generally the coldest. February usually has the least amount of precipitation and September usually has the highest amount of precipitation. Snowfall typically occurs November through April, or six months of the year.

In recent years, Whitehall has seen some extreme weather fluctuations that have refocused the City on the possibility of long-term climate change and the actions necessary to respond to the potential impacts of a changing climate. In the winter of 2011-2012, the City (and much of the State of Michigan) experienced temperatures well above average and almost no snowfall. This resulted in very low lake levels in White Lake and Lake Michigan.

Lake levels did not return to normal until after the winter of 2013-14, when Whitehall and the rest of the state experienced record cold temperatures and extreme snowstorms. Lake Michigan completely froze over, eliminating the "heat sink" effect and plunging temperatures well below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. The snowmelt following that winter returned the lakes to normal levels, but produced large amounts of runoff and sedimentation, which present their own challenges in the region's lakes and rivers.

### SOILS

Whitehall's general soils consist of three soil associations. A brief description of these associations provides a general knowledge of the area. For a more thorough understanding of the area's soils, consult the [Soil Survey of Muskegon County](#).

The western portion of the City contains the Rubicon-Crosswell-Deer Park Association. The association is nearly level to steep, well drained and moderately well drained sandy soils on outwash plains, beach ridges and dunes. This soil association is very good for recreational development and community development. The soils provide good foundations for buildings, highways and other structures.

The eastern portion of Whitehall contains the Montcalm-Nester-Belding-Kawkawlin Association. The association is gently sloping to rolling, somewhat poorly drained and well-drained, sandy and loam soils on lake plains, outwash plains and glaciated uplands.

The soils in the northern portion of Whitehall, near the White River, are the Carlisle-Tawas Association. The association is nearly level and depressional, poorly drained peats and mucks.

### FLOOD PLAIN

The Emergency Management Agency identifies flood hazard zones based on bodies of water, elevations and other information. Map 2 identifies the 100 year flood boundary. Areas within this boundary have a 1 in 100 chance of flooding any particular year (100 year floods can occur more frequently than once every 100 years). The City's flood plain is located along White Lake and occupies a large portion of the northern portion of the City, along the White River. Flood plains also exist along the Mill Pond and the unnamed tributary in the northern portion of the City. Development should not occur in areas within the flood plain.

### WETLANDS

The U. S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared an inventory of the area's wetlands. Map 3 identifies areas within Whitehall designated as wetlands. As the map shows, there are several wetland areas in the northern portion of the City along the White River. There are also several isolated areas along the shores of White Lake. The wetland areas limit the potential for development in these areas.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

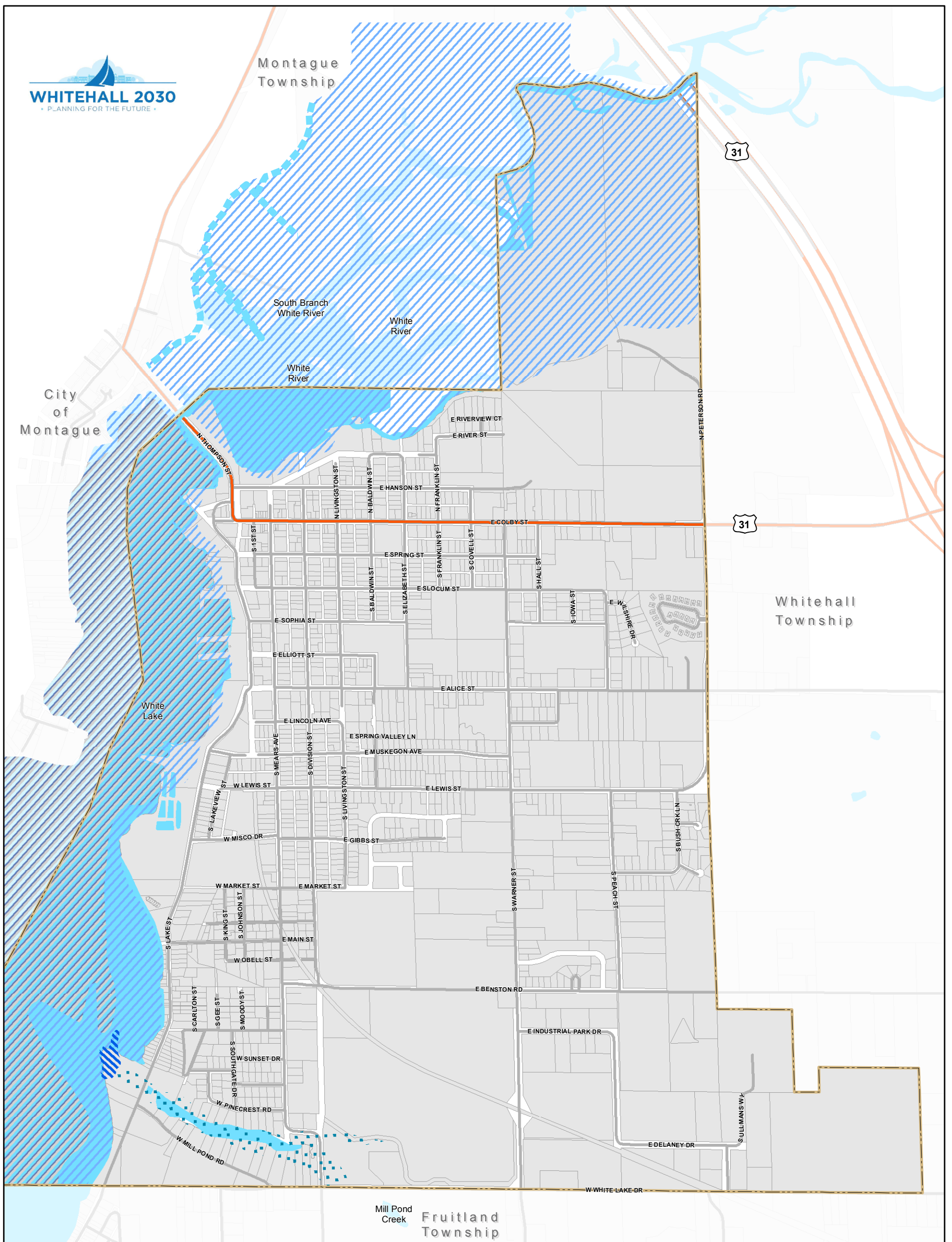
There are three known sites of environmental concern that have undergone significant remediation. The 5A Oil site is no longer considered a risk through dermal contact, inhalation, ingestion, or migration to surface water according to the 2005 Final Assessment Report. As an orphan site, the State of Michigan removed eight underground fuel storage tanks, 560 cubic yards of contaminated soil, and 4,800 gallons of contaminated groundwater.

Following 30 years of groundwater extraction and treatment, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality approved Flint Hills request to go from active remediation to natural attenuation at the Muskegon Chemical Company site.

Genesco's remedial work at Whitehall Leather was substantially completed in September 2011. Just under 200,000 tons of impacted soil was removed from the south wetlands, south uplands, wastewater lagoons, and parking lot. This material was transported to the Ottawa County Farms Landfill.

In addition, the City converted Lake Street into the state's first "Green Street" in early 2014. The roadway includes permeable pavement and is designed to completely eliminate runoff. This Plan envisions Lake Street to be only the first in a series of "Green Street" conversions that will reduce non-point source pollution in White Lake and other waterways, and serve as a model for other communities.





**Map 2**  
**Flood Plain Map**  
City of Whitehall, Michigan  
December 4, 2014

0 500 1,000  
Feet



**MCKenna**  
ASSOCIATES

Base Map Source: Muskegon County GIS, 2014

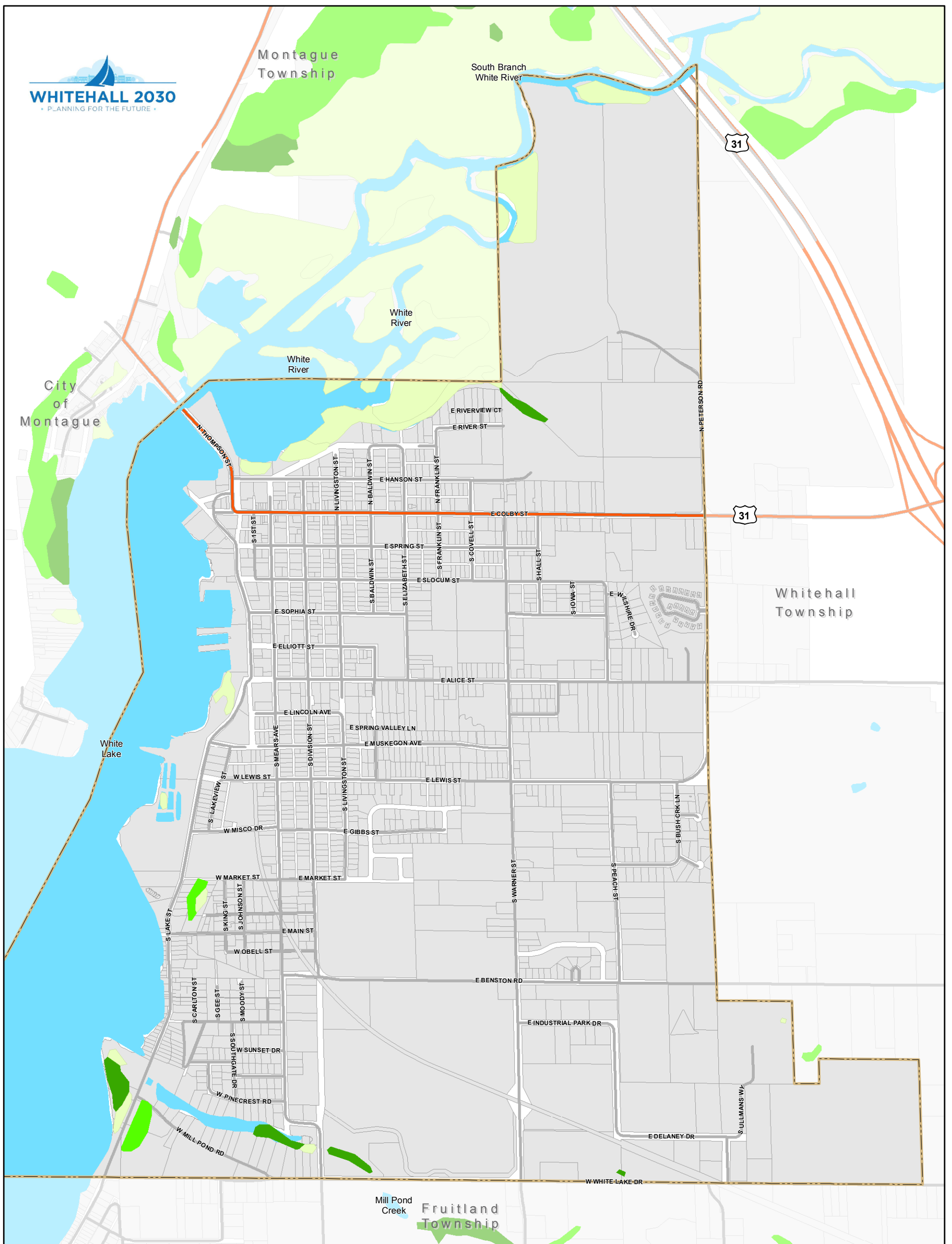
Not indented to substitute as the official FEMA Floodplain Map

**LEGEND**

- A
- VE 594
- Zone X
- AE 586
- Zone A
- Water

**2. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

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**Map 3**  
**Wetland Map**  
 City of Whitehall, Michigan  
 December 4, 2014

0 500 1,000  
 Feet



- National Wetlands Inventory**
- Emergent
  - Forested
  - Scrub-Shrub
  - Water

Base Map Source: Muskegon County GIS, 2014  
 Data Source: Michigan Geographic Framework,  
 Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 14a.

**2. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

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## 3. Community Profile

### A. Demographics

Demographic analysis, or the study of the characteristics of the population, is a fundamental element of master planning. Planning for future growth and development requires consideration of “how much” – how many people will need City services, how much housing is affordable, how many new houses will be built, and other vital signs. One must understand these existing conditions and past trends in order to appropriately anticipate and plan for the future needs of the community.

The intent of a demographic analysis is to paint a general picture of the community: the population’s age, gender, family size, educational status, and similar features. The analysis compares Whitehall to four nearby communities (Fruitland Township, Montague Township, Whitehall Township, and the City of Montague) in addition to Muskegon County and the State of Michigan as a whole. Differences in demographic characteristics may indicate issues or areas in which land use planning and public policies are warranted; may identify strengths or assets that can be further developed or emphasized; or may identify weaknesses or issues that need to be addressed.

Most of the data presented comes from the U.S. Census. The most recent data comes from the 2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The American Community Survey is conducted every year and samples a percentage of the community on topics such as population, economics, housing, etc. and is considered a reliable source.



### 3. COMMUNITY PROFILE

#### POPULATION TRENDS

Changes in the number of people residing in a community are an important indicator for community planning. Growing communities have different needs than do communities with stable or declining populations. Table 3.1 shows the relative populations of Whitehall and the comparison communities from 1980 to 2012. Projections to the future can be found in Section B of this chapter.

**Table 3.1: Population**

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2012
City of Whitehall	2,856	3,027	2,884	2,706	2,720
City of Montague	2,332	2,276	2,407	2,361	2,112
Fruitland Township	4,168	4,391	5,235	5,543	5,549
Montague Township	1,359	1,429	1,637	1,600	1,723
Whitehall Township	1,341	1,464	1,648	1,739	1,842
Muskegon County	157,589	158,983	170,200	172,188	171,755
State of Michigan	9,262,078	9,295,297	9,938,444	9,883,640	9,897,264

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

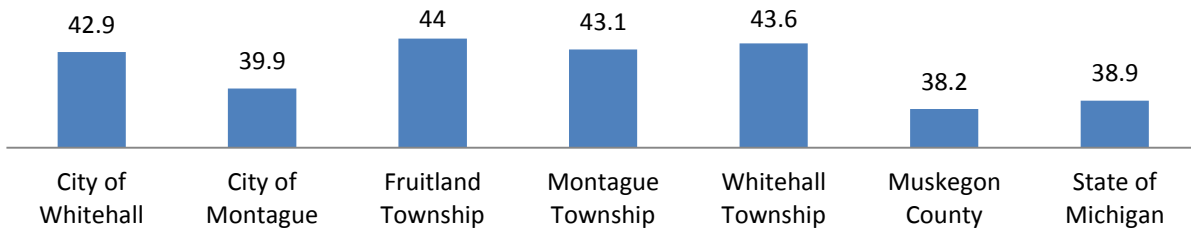
Whitehall experienced a loss of 178 people from 2000 to 2010. It has rebounded slightly since then, according to the American Community Survey. Across the lake, Montague has experienced a drop of nearly 300 residents since 2000. The surrounding Townships have all gained population steadily since 1980. Whitehall must plan to be a place that attracts new residents due to a high quality of life, in order to continue to grow.

**AGE DISTRIBUTION TRENDS**

The age of a community’s population has very real implications for planning and development, whether it is an increased or decreased need for schools to serve the population under 18, or a need for housing alternatives and services for empty nesters and older residents.

Figure 3.1 compares the median ages (the mid-point where half the population is younger and half is older) of Whitehall and the comparison communities. The White Lake area has generally older residents than the rest of the County or State. However, through investment in the downtown, neighborhoods, parks, and the protection of the lakes and rivers, Whitehall can attract young families which will reverse the trend of an aging population.

**Figure 3.1: Median Age, 2010**



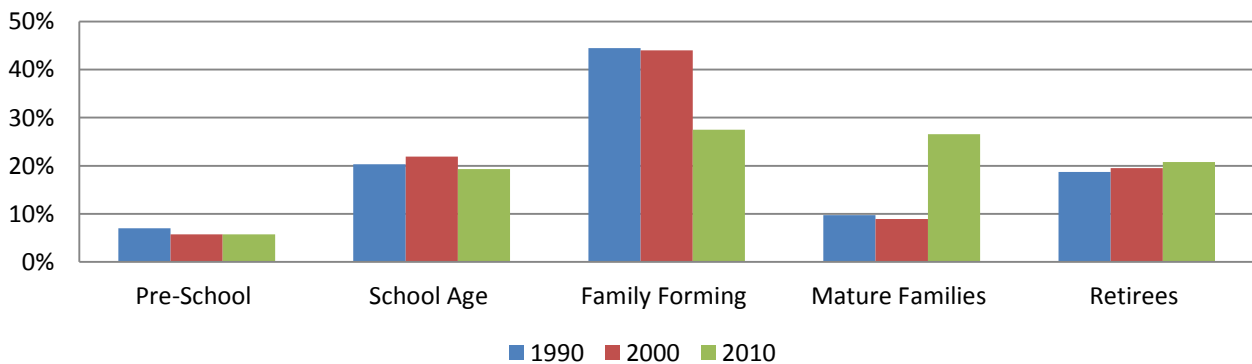
Source: US Census Bureau

Age structure (analyzing which proportions of a municipality’s population are in which stages of life) gives a nuanced view of the makeup of a community. To compare age structure, the population is divided into the following groupings:

- Under 5 (Pre School)
- 5 to 19 (School Aged)
- 20 to 44 (Family Forming)
- 45 to 64 (Mature Families)
- Over 65 (Retirement)

Figure 3.2 shows the age distribution trend in Whitehall since 1990. Since 2000, the number of people in the “Mature Families” category (ages 45 to 64) has increased dramatically, at the expense of the “Family Forming” category. This is due to the increasing age of the “Baby Boomer” generation, which was the largest generation in American history. As the Boomers age, it is important to work to attract their children, another large generation known as the “millennials.”

**Figure 3.2: Age Structure Trend, 1990-2010, City of Whitehall**



Source: US Census Bureau



### 3. COMMUNITY PROFILE

#### MALE / FEMALE DISTRIBUTION

The following table shows the distribution of men and women in the City of Whitehall and the comparison communities. In large populations, generally there are slightly more women than men, because women have, on average, longer life spans. Both the cities of Whitehall and Montague are around 54% female, indicating that there may be a significant population of older, single/widowed women in both communities.

**Table 3.2: Sex Distribution, 2010**

	Male	Female
City of Whitehall	45.8%	54.2%
City of Montague	46.0%	54.0%
Fruitland Township	51.1%	48.9%
Montague Township	49.0%	51.0%
Whitehall Township	49.5%	50.5%
Muskegon County	49.6%	50.4%
State of Michigan	49.1%	50.1%

Source: US Census Bureau

The table below shows that Whitehall's population has been approximately 54% female for over 20 years. While the City's sex distribution is more uneven than in other communities, it does not appear that there is a trend for the female population to grow faster than the male population.

**Table 3.3: Sex Distribution Trend, 1990-2010, City of Whitehall**

	Male	Female
1990	46.0%	54.0%
2000	46.0%	54.0%
2010	45.8%	54.2%

Source: US Census Bureau

**RACIAL DISTRIBUTION**

The White Lake region is generally less diverse than Muskegon County or the State of Michigan as a whole, with over 95% of the regional population self-identifying as “white.” The proportion of people in the White Lake region self-identifying as Hispanic, regardless of race, is also lower than the proportion in the County and State as a whole. Table 3.6 shows that Whitehall is becoming slightly more diverse, with increases in most non-white racial categories. Race is indicative of socio-economic trends, but the recommendations of this Plan were not based on racial demographics.

**Table 3.4: Racial Distribution, 2010**

	White	Black or African American	Native American	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Other
City of Whitehall	95.0%	1.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	2.0%
City of Montague	96.0%	0.6%	1.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%
Fruitland Township	95.5%	0.7%	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%
Montague Township	97.3%	0.7%	0.8%	0.3%	0.0%	1.3%
Whitehall Township	95.3%	1.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
Muskegon County	80.0%	14.5%	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	1.4%
State of Michigan	78.9%	14.2%	0.6%	2.4%	0.0%	1.5%

Source: US Census Bureau. May not add to 100% due to respondents identifying as two or more races. This information is provided for reference purposes and will not influence land use decisions.

**Table 3.5: Percentage Self-Identifying as Hispanic, 2010**

	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
City of Whitehall	2.7%	97.3%
City of Montague	3.4%	94.6%
Fruitland Township	2.0%	98.0%
Montague Township	4.9%	95.1%
Whitehall Township	2.4%	97.6%
Muskegon County	4.8%	95.2%
State of Michigan	4.4%	95.6%

Source: US Census Bureau. This information is provided for reference purposes and will not influence land use decisions.

**Table 3.6: Racial Distribution Trend, 1990-2010, City of Whitehall**

	White	Black or African American	Native American	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Other
1990	98.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.9%
2000	96.6%	0.7%	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	1.2%
2010	95.0%	1.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	2.0%

Source: US Census Bureau. This information is provided for reference purposes and will not influence land use decisions.



### 3. COMMUNITY PROFILE

#### HOUSEHOLDS

This section analyzes the composition and characteristics of households in Whitehall. Changes in the number of households in a community are an indication of changing demand for housing units, retail and office space, and community services. Tracking household changes ensures sufficient land is set aside in appropriate locations to accommodate future growth and demand for housing.

The table below breaks down the types of households in the City of Whitehall and the comparison communities. Generally, the White Lake region has more married couples but fewer households with children than the County and State as a whole. The City of Whitehall also has a very high proportion of females living alone, which goes along with the high female/male ratio in the City, and indicates a large number of older single/widowed women.

**Table 3.7: Household Types, 2010**

	Total	Married Couple with Children	Single Female with Children	Single Male With Children	Married Couple Without Children	Female Householder Living Alone	Male Householder Living Alone	Non-Family Group
City of Whitehall	1,153	16.1%	8.4%	2.5%	35.3%	23.3%	12.5%	5.4%
City of Montague	1,006	17.8%	8.5%	2.7%	39.1%	19.9%	10.9%	5.3%
Fruitland Township	2,097	23.0%	4.9%	2.4%	43.3%	8.0%	9.1%	3.9%
Montague Township	618	20.6%	5.0%	4.2%	38.5%	10.8%	9.2%	4.3%
Whitehall Township	673	21.8%	3.9%	2.5%	40.3%	11.1%	8.9%	5.3%
Muskegon County	65,616	17.8%	9.3%	2.9%	29.6%	14.8%	11.6%	5.5%
State of Michigan	3,872,508	28.6%	7.3%	2.4%	29.1%	15.4%	12.5%	6.1%

Source: US Census Bureau

The table below shows the trends in the makeup of households in Whitehall since 1990. Family Households are those where the householder lives with their spouse and/or parents and/or children. In general, Family Households have declined, and the number of Family Households that do not include a married couple has increased. Reflecting these trends, the average household size has decreased. All of these trends can be seen nationally and are not unique to Whitehall.

**Table 3.8: Household Trends, City of Whitehall, 1990-2010**

	Total Households	Family Households	Married Couples	Non-Family Households	Average Household Size
1990	1,169	69.3%	55.3%	30.7%	2.48
2000	1,165	63.5%	46.4%	36.5%	2.35
2010	1,153	58.8%	41.4%	41.2%	2.22

Source: US Census Bureau

## B. Population Projections

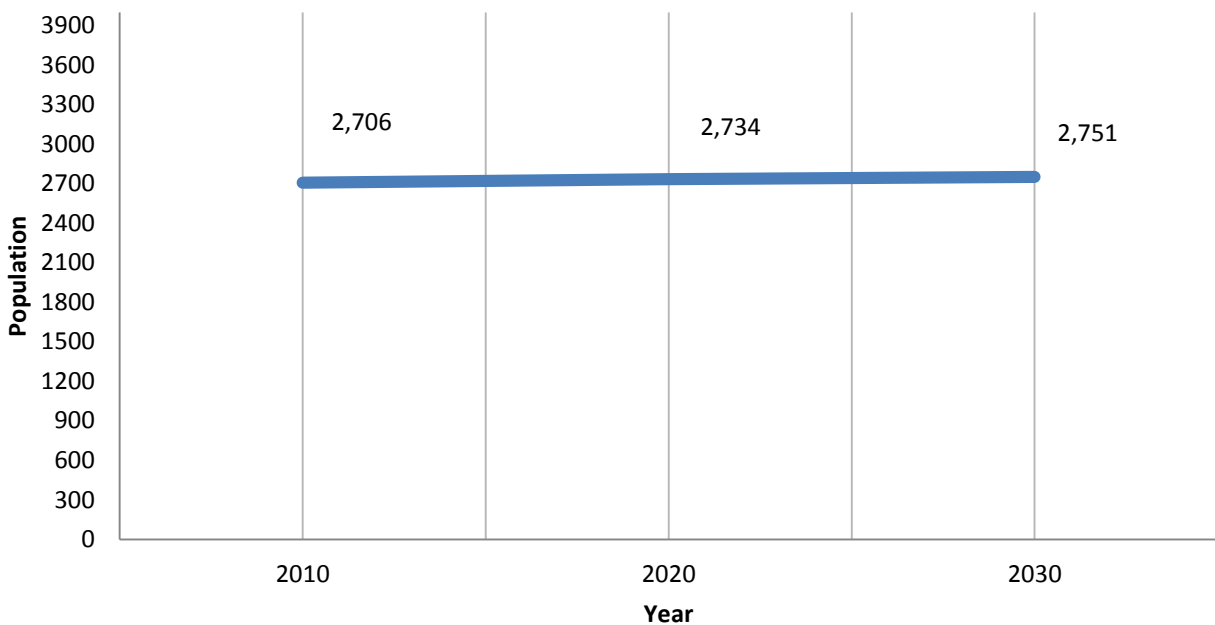
The following projections predict what the population of Whitehall will look like in 2020 and 2030. Projections like this help crystalize the vision, allowing the community to see, numerically, what it will look like in 10-20 years.

**Methodology.** To prepare these projections, McKenna used 2010 U.S. Census population data broken down into ten-year age groups. Each population cohort was moved ten years forward to project to 2020 – for instance 21-30 year olds became 31-40 year olds. Mortalities were factored out using reasonable rates for each age group. 3% of 10-19 year olds were removed as they aged into the 20-29 year olds to account for graduates finding jobs in other communities. Finally, using the statewide birth rate and the estimated number of females of childbearing age, a new 0-10 age group was calculated. The process was then repeated to obtain the population and age cohorts for 2030.

### WHITEHALL

As shown in Figure 3.3, Whitehall’s population is expected to grow very slowly over the next twenty years with a gain of 122 individuals. This increase is important, as it reverses the trend of population loss experienced since 2000. However, the projection does not show Whitehall achieving its 2000 population of 2,884 people.

**Figure 3.3: Whitehall Population Projection, 2010-2030**



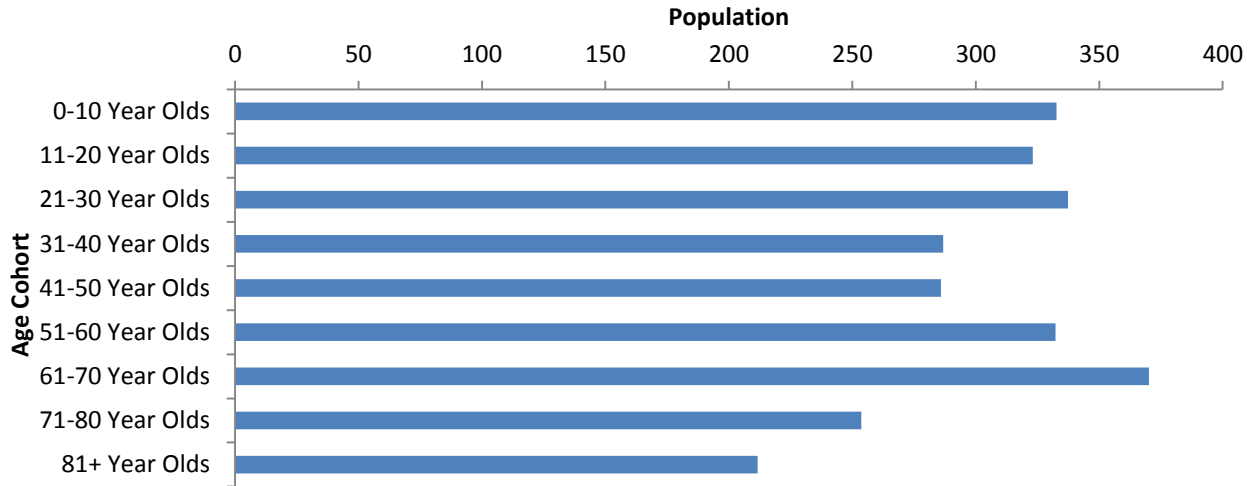
Source: US Census Bureau, McKenna Associates projection



### 3. COMMUNITY PROFILE

As shown in Figure 3.4, Whitehall’s age distribution projection for 2020 has a high number of school children and a very high number of senior citizens.

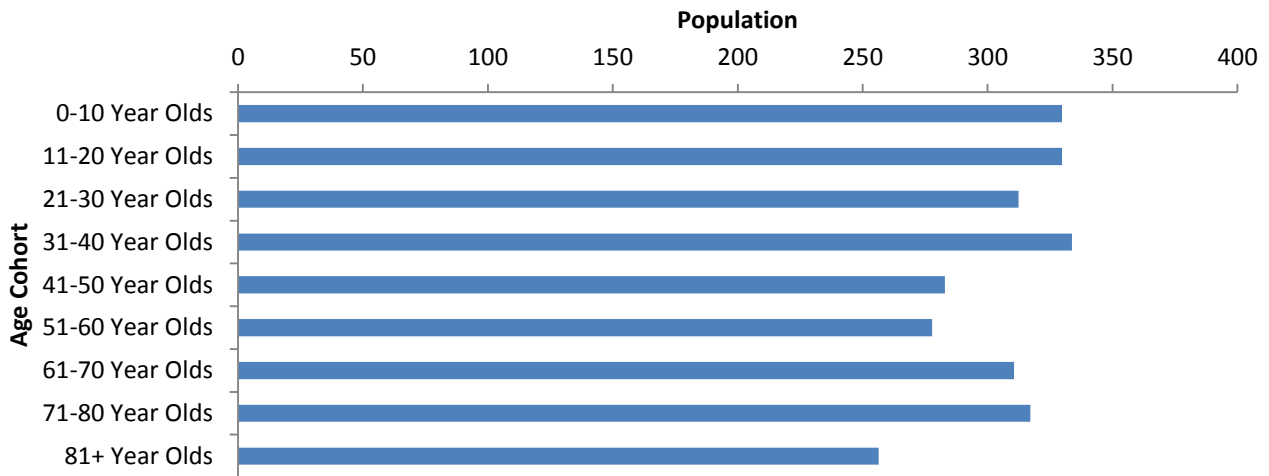
**Figure 3.4: Whitehall Age Distribution, 2020 Projection**



Source: US Census Bureau, McKenna Associates projection

Figure 3.5 shows age distribution projections for 2030. It is more balanced than the 2020 projection, with more people in the 20-40 age range.

**Figure 3.5: Whitehall Age Distribution, 2030 Projection**



Source: US Census Bureau, McKenna Associates projection



## 4. Parks and Recreation Master Plan

A Parks and Recreation Plan is a foundation for the parks and recreation decisions made in the next five years, as well as projected future needs. This Plan includes all of the required elements of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan and therefore qualifies Whitehall for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

### A. Description of the Planning Process

As part of the Master Plan process, Whitehall decided to include an update to the community's Parks and Recreation Plan. Citizen input played a critical role in the development of the Plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use the City's parks and recreation facilities. The process included seven tasks that are discussed below.

**Task One: Community Description.** The first task was to obtain a description of Whitehall's physical and social features. These features include land use, community facilities, environmental and natural features, as well as population characteristics including age distribution, household size, and income.

**Task Two: Parks and Recreation Inventory.** The parks and recreation inventory includes written descriptions of facilities in Whitehall including both City parks and facilities and recreational amenities operated by other entities, such as the Whitehall Community School District, Muskegon County, or private entities. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation facilities, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities. The Inventory can be found in Section B of this Chapter.

**Task Three: Administrative Structure and Funding.** The City reviewed the administrative structure of its parks and recreation facilities and programming. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures for Parks and Recreation as well as the grant history of funding received from the MDNR and other sources. This can be found in Section D of this Chapter.

**Task Four: Public Participation.** The following public participation methods and events were conducted throughout the process of preparing the Plan:

**Survey** – A survey was available online from March to July 2014. A press release by the City was featured in the White Lake Beacon and paper copies of the survey were also available at City Hall. Full survey results are found in the Appendix.

**Task Five: Analysis.** Based on the data collected in tasks one through four, the information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of the Parks and Recreation Department and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

**Task Six: Action Plan.** Taking into account the analysis, goals and objectives and public input results, a five-year plan was created. The Plan provides the City a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.

**Task Seven:** Plan Completion and Adoption.



### B. Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

This section describes the parks and recreation facilities available to the community, including the City-owned property, State park and forest lands, and private facilities.

For planning and management purposes, recreation professionals classify parks and recreation facilities based on the type of facility and expected usage. Frequently, a six-tier classification system is used, as follows:

#### Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Mini-parks usually serve people within a radius of  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

#### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that provide land for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks serve a population up to 5,000 residents located within a one half- to one-mile radius.

#### Community Parks

Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from several neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities. Community parks serve a one - two mile radius.

#### Regional Parks

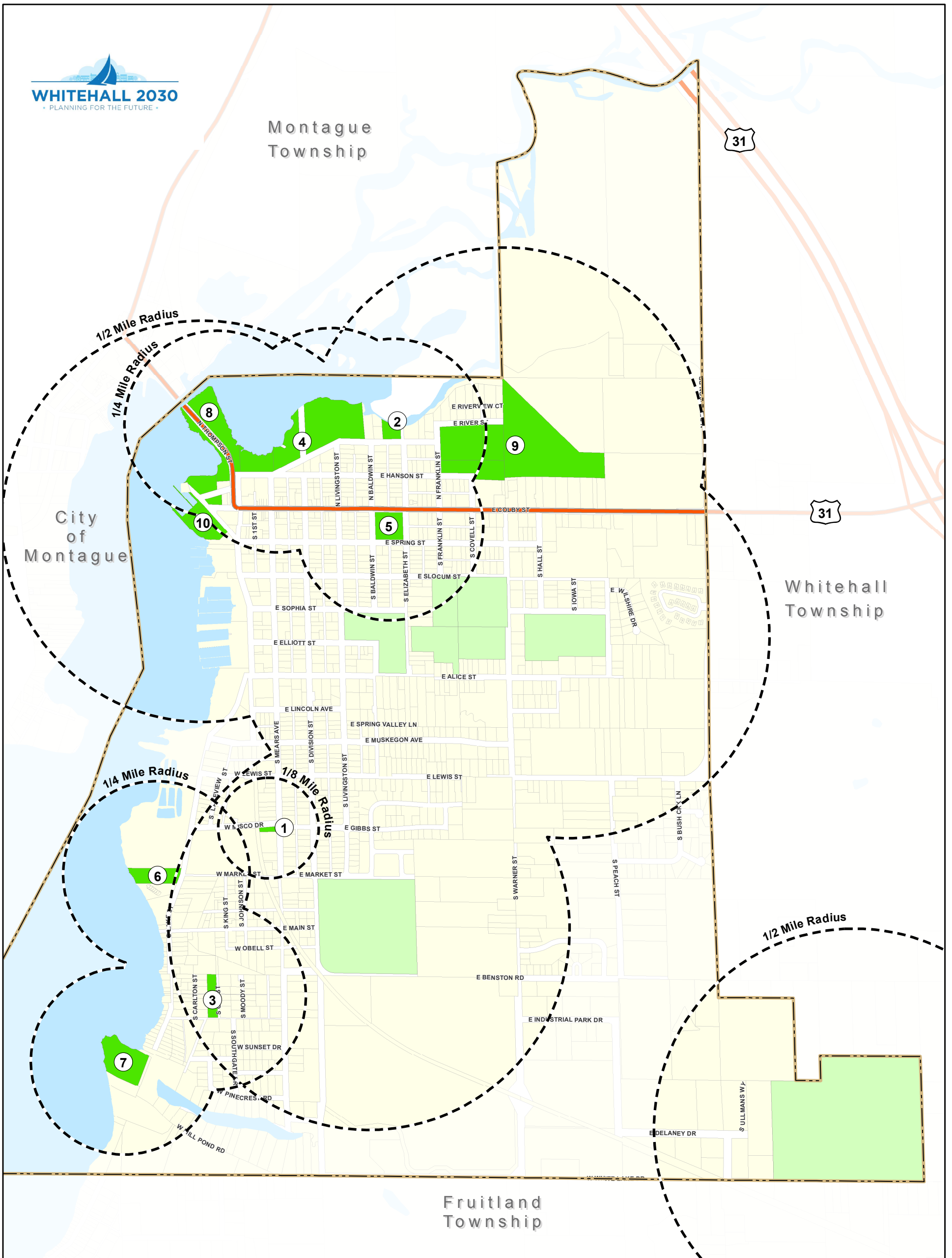
Regional parks are typically located on sites with unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail use. Many also include active play areas. Regional parks serve a large area, usually with a three - five mile radius.

#### Linear Parks

Linear parks are developed for one or more modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and/or pleasure driving. Some linear parks include active play areas. Linear parks often link other parks or components of the recreation system, community facilities, commercial areas, and other focal points; although in smaller cities like Whitehall they sometimes merely provide recreational access to natural areas.

#### Private and Special Use Facilities

Special use recreation facilities are typically single-purpose recreation facilities, such as historic amenities, golf courses, nature centers, outdoor theaters, interpretative centers, or facilities for the preservation or maintenance of the natural or cultural environment.



**Map 4**  
**Park Service Radii**  
 City of Whitehall, Michigan

September 8, 2014

0 500 1,000  
 Feet



**MCKenna**  
 ASSOCIATES

Base Map Source: Muskegon County GIS, 2014

**LEGEND**

- Parks
- School Facilities
- City Boundary

**CITY PARKS**

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Veteran's Memorial | 6 Svensson Park  |
| 2 Norman Park        | 7 Mill Pond Park |
| 3 Gee Park           | 8 Covell Park    |
| 4 Lion's Park        | 9 Funnell Field  |
| 5 Slocum Park        | 10 Goodrich Park |

**4. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

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**Accessibility**

Each recreation area in the City of Whitehall has been evaluated on how well it serves people with disabilities. Parks and other facilities are rated on a 1-5 scale, according to the following criteria:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet ADA accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet ADA accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet ADA accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets ADA accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

**WHITEHALL OWNED AND OPERATED PARKS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

**Veteran’s Memorial**

The Veteran’s Memorial contains a small grassy area and a monument to those who have served.

**Classification:** Mini-Park  
**Size:** 0.25 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3

---

**Norman Park**

Norman Park is located within a neighborhood in northern Whitehall. The park contains a grassy area, bench swing, a picnic table, informational signage, and a stairway for access to the White River Trailhead.

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park  
**Size:** 1.0 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1

---

**Gee Park**

Gee Park is located within a neighborhood in southwest Whitehall. The park contains a wealth of mature trees and antiquated playground equipment which originally used in Goodrich Park.

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park  
**Size:** 1.6 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1

---

**Mill Pond Park**

Mill Pond Park is an undeveloped restoration site with no recreational amenities at this time.

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park  
**Size:** 4.6 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1

---



## 4. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

### Slocum Park

Slocum Park is directly adjacent to the City Hall and consists of two lighted tennis courts, a sidewalk, and benches. A large portion of the park is a vast grassy area with several mature trees. The School District uses the tennis courts for practice, league play, and instruction.

<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Community Park</b>
<b>Size:</b>	<b>2.4 acres</b>
<b>Accessibility Assessment:</b>	<b>2</b>

---

### Lions Park

Lions Park provides ADA compliant access to a boardwalk, a picnic shelter, and an interpretive station. The park also contains a stairway which provides access to the White River Trail. Although very picturesque with its outlook onto the River, the park is not used often for active recreation.

<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Community Park</b>
<b>Size:</b>	<b>3.5 acres</b>
<b>Accessibility Assessment:</b>	<b>4</b>

---

### Svensson Park

Svensson Park is located along White Lake and it is part of a Great Lakes Restoration, Federally funded, project. The park features a paved parking lot, footbridge, one picnic table, and a swing. Due to receding water levels, the park was recently revived into its former natural habitat, a staggered wetland and bird sanctuary.

<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Community Park</b>
<b>Size:</b>	<b>3.7 acres</b>
<b>Accessibility Assessment:</b>	<b>2</b>

---

### Covell Park

Covell Park is located at the very north end of Whitehall and features a paved parking lot with ADA compliant access to the water and fishing pier. The park provides small watercraft (kayaks, canoes, etc.) with access to the White River and is primarily used for fishing. Several picnic tables are also located at the site and connections to the White Water Trailhead can be made from park.

<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Community Park</b>
<b>Size:</b>	<b>3.9 acres</b>
<b>Accessibility Assessment:</b>	<b>4</b>

---

### Funnell Field

Funnell Field is a large community park and features a variety of recreational amenities, including two softball fields, two tennis courts, two Little League fields, two basketball courts, restrooms, a soccer field, playground equipment, and paved walking paths. Teams from the School District and the White Lake area softball clubs use the fields for practice and games.

<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Community Park</b>
<b>Size:</b>	<b>12.6 acres</b>
<b>Accessibility Assessment:</b>	<b>3</b>

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**Goodrich Park / White Lake Municipal Marina**

Located just west of the downtown and situated along White Lake, Goodrich Park is a Great Lakes restoration site and a regional attraction for the City. The White Lake Municipal Marina features a 50 slip marina for seasonal and transient boat use with toilets and showers for marina users.

The park also includes separate restrooms for park users, picnic tables, grills, a picnic shelter, playground equipment, a 960-foot bicycle and pedestrian path, benches, and a parking/viewing area. It is also heavily used as a fishing site. Goodrich Park also features a completely ADA compliant swing which requires key access. Copies of the key are not only available at City Hall and other civic institutions, but also many local businesses.

The park is a popular gathering area, especially in the summer, for boating, fishing, and passive recreation. Regional activities and seasonal events occur at the park.

**Classification:** Regional Park  
**Size:** 8.5 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3

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**White River Flood Plain**

The White River Flood Plain encompasses a large area in the north of the City and is a regional park reserve of conserved natural space.

**Classification:** Regional Park  
**Size:** 200 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1

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**White River Trail**

The White River Trail is a quarter mile paved pathway with a foot bridge at the trail head. The trail follows the shoreline of the White River Flood Plain to an observation deck.

**Classification:** Linear Park  
**Size:** 0.25 linear feet  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3

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**OTHER PUBLIC AREAS**

**Whitehall District Schools**

The Whitehall Public School District includes four schools: Shoreline Elementary, Helen Ealy Elementary, Whitehall Middle School, and Whitehall High School. Each school facility has various recreational facilities, including playgrounds, tennis courts, softball and baseball fields, soccer fields, and a full size athletic track with a football/soccer field inside and bleachers on both sides. These facilities are mainly centered within the City and grouped together, aside from the facilities at Whitehall High School which are more removed from most residential neighborhoods. Together, these facilities provide approximately the same level of service as a Community Park.

**Classification:** Community Park  
**Size:** Varies  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 4

---



## 4. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

### NEARBY PUBLIC FACILITIES

#### County and State Parks

The following Michigan County and State Parks are located within 25 miles of Whitehall and provides areas for active and passive recreation, wildlife watching, and beach front activities.

- North Beach Park
- North Ottawa Dunes South
- Robinson Forest Open Space
- Johnson Street Forest Open Space
- Crockery Creek Natural Area
- Jubb Bayou Open Space
- Meinert County Park
- Pioneer County Park
- Duck Lake State Park
- Muskegon State Park

### PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Many community organizations and others operate private recreation facilities within and surrounding the City of Whitehall.

**Table 4.1: Regional Private Recreation Facilities**

Activity	Name
Social Clubs	White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce (Whitehall)
	Fraternal Order of Eagles (Whitehall)
	American Legion (Whitehall)
	White Lake Yacht Club
Water Activities	Duneshore Boating (Whitehall)
	Fishmas Charters
Dance Studios / Gyms	Studio France School of Dance (Whitehall)
	America's Fitness Center
Accommodations / Campgrounds	Cocoa Cottage Bed and Breakfast (Whitehall)
	Glaser's Glenn Log Cabin Resort
	Trailway Campground
	Owasippe Scout Reservation (OSR)
Golf	Hickory Knoll Golf Course
	Old Channel Trail Golf Course
	White Lake Golf Club
Amusement / Water Park	Michigan's Adventure
	Muskegon Sports Complex



#### 4. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Table 4.2 shows the publically owned facilities available in the City. The existing parks and recreation service areas are shown on Map 4.

**Table 4.2: Publically Owned and/or Operated Recreation Facilities within Whitehall**

Amenity	Number	Location(s)
Baseball/Softball Fields	1	Whitehall Middle School
	2	Whitehall High School: Off Campus Facility
	6	Funnell Field (2 are Little League Fields)
Basketball Courts	2	Whitehall High School
	2	Whitehall Middle School
	2	Funnell Field
Soccer Field	1	Whitehall High School
	2	Whitehall Shoreline Elementary
	1	Whitehall Community Services Building
Tennis Courts	2	Whitehall High School
	6	Whitehall Community Services Building
	2	Slocum Park
	2	Funnell Field
Track and Football Stadiums	1	Whitehall Community Education Building
Pavilions	1	Goodrich Park
	1	Lion's Park
Playground Equipment	1	Whitehall Shoreline Elementary
	1	Whitehall Middle School
	1	Goodrich Park
	1	Funnell Field
	1	Gee Park
Pool Facility	1	Whitehall High School
Volleyball Court	1	Whitehall High School
Hiking / Walking Trail	1	Goodrich Park
Picnic Facilities	1	Goodrich Park
	1	Funnell Field
Historic Sites	3	Natural Historic Markers
Nature Education	1	Lion's Park
	1	Norman Park
Restrooms	1	Goodrich Park
	1	Funnell Field



## C. Comparison to State and National Standards

### ACREAGE ANALYSIS

It is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their distribution throughout the City. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas, it is important to closely consider where the residents in the City live. The MDNR establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine the areas in the community that are lacking easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

- Mini / Neighborhood Parks            0.25 – 0.5 miles
- Community Parks                        0.5 – 3.0 miles
- Regional Parks                            30 minute driving time

**Table 4.3: Whitehall Park Land Acreage Analysis**

Park Classification	NRPA Guideline Acreage per 1,000 Residents	Whitehall Recommended Acreage	Actual Acreage in City	Surplus/ Deficiency
Mini Parks	0.25	0.68	0.25	-0.43
Neighborhood Parks	2.00	5.44	7.20	+1.76
Community Parks	5.00	13.60	26.10	+12.50
Regional Parks*	10.00	27.20	8.50	-18.70
<b>Total</b>	15.25 – 17.0	41.40 - 46.24	42.05	+0.65

\*Does not include non-programmed or undeveloped land

The table above evaluates Whitehall’s park acreage in comparison to national guidelines for communities throughout the State. However, the standards are general in nature and do not reflect the quality of the facilities, the character of the community or other local differences that affect community recreation facility needs. Thus in evaluating the results, the actual conditions and trends present in the City must be taken into account.

While the City has approximately the total recommended amount of recreation land based on the population, additional amenities may be needed to serve the needs of the residents, especially those who live in Whitehall year-round. Table 4.3 indicates there is a slight lack of mini-parks and lack of regional parks within the City. However, Table 4.3 does not take into account the School District Facilities which provide a wealth of amenities in the community. When taken into consideration, the total amount of land acreage devoted to park and recreational space and the amount of available programming increases greatly.

#### 4. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

MDNR also publishes standards for the recommended numbers of various recreation facilities based on the population of a community. Table 4.4 compares Whitehall to the MDNR standards. The City exceeds the standards for most types of facilities, especially considering Whitehall’s 2012 population of 2,720. However, some facilities, such as an ice skating rink do not exist in the City at all and could be considered for future winter programming.

**Table 4.4: MDNR Recreation Facility Standards**

Amenity	State Standard (Individuals)	Whitehall Recommended Amenity County (Based on Population)	Whitehall Actual Amenity County	Surplus/ Deficiency
Baseball / Softball Field	1 per 5,000	1	7	+ 6
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000	1	6	+ 5
Beach Areas	n/a	-	1	+ 1
Football / Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	0	4	+ 4
Golf Course (18-hole)	1 per 50,000	0	0	+/- 0
Ice Skating	1 per 100,000	0	0	+/- 0
Tennis Court	1 per 2000	1	12	+ 11
Trails	1 per region	1	1	+/- 0
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	0	1	+ 1
Volleyball Court	1 per 5000	1	1	+/- 0
¼ Mile Running Trail	1 per 20,000	0	1	+ 1



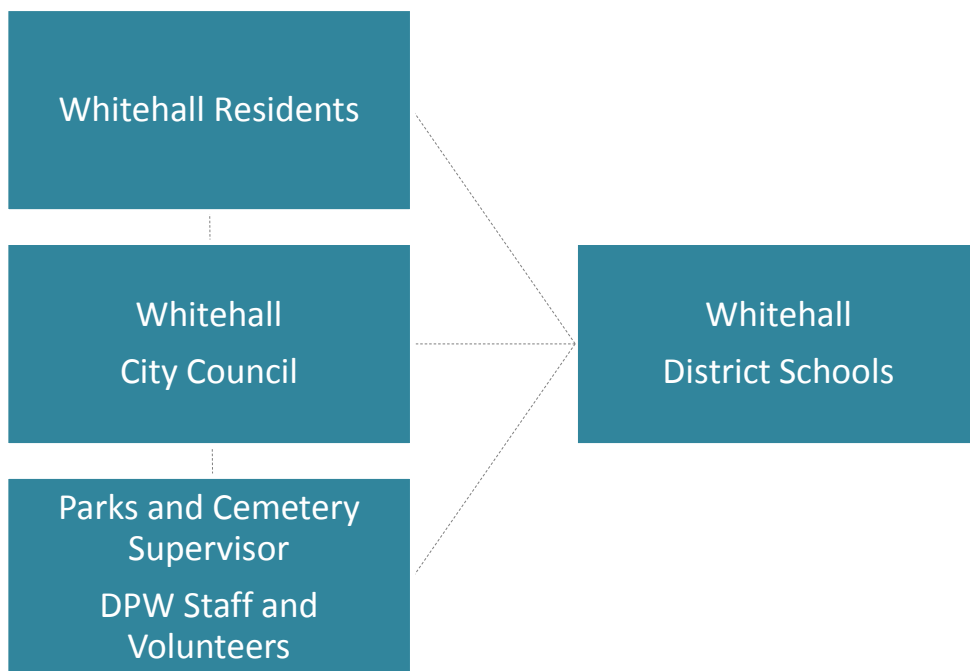
## D. Administrative Structure and Funding

### ADMINISTRATION

Whitehall does not have a parks and recreation department and does not run any recreational programs. The operation, maintenance, and development of the City parks are under the jurisdiction of the City Council. The City also coordinates with Whitehall District Schools for facilities and programs, including shared financial and maintenance support for the use of the ball diamonds and tennis courts. Additionally, the White Lake Area Community Education, White Lake Youth Sports, and Little League also work with the City to provide programs and maintain facilities.

The Parks and Cemetery Supervisor employs a number of seasonal workers to ensure all of the parks are maintained.

Figure 4.1: Whitehall Administrative Structure for Parks and Recreation



### VOLUNTEERS

As is common in smaller communities, the City relies heavily on volunteers in order to maintain a quality parks and recreation system. Volunteer citizens often assist with the planning and organization of community-wide events and festivals held within the parks. In addition, maintenance and upgrades to the facilities are often completed or implemented by volunteers (with assistance from the City DPW) in order to reduce the cost of maintenance.

**PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING**

Table 4.5 summarizes the Whitehall parks and recreation budget from 2007-2008 through 2012-2013. Revenues for the Parks Department are from the City’s general operating fund.

The City has invested considerably in land improvements and has maintained a strong effort to maintain and upgrade parks and recreational facilities when possible.

**Table 4.5: Parks and Recreation Budget and Expenditures, 2007-2013**

Fiscal Year	Budget	Actual Expenditures
2007-08	\$139,845.00	\$144,149.75
2008-09	\$151,795.00	\$140,340.41
2009-10	\$149,990.00	\$146,075.05
2010-11	\$147,335.00	\$143,096.36
2011-12	\$139,115.00	\$139,908.09
2012-13	\$160,245.00	\$135,234.11
2013-14	\$114,135.00	\$72,448.00

Source: City of Whitehall, 2014



## 4. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

### PARKS AND RECREATION GRANT HISTORY

According to MDNR, the City of Whitehall has been the recipient of several recreation grants in the past including:

**Table 4.6: Parks and Recreation Grant History**

Project Title	Project Year (Project No.)	Grant Source	Grant Amount	Grant Description	Project Closed
White River Marshland Preserve	1972 26-00284	-	\$6,799.27	Acquire 92.93 acres of land for outdoor recreation.	Yes
Goodrich Park Marina	1980 26-01119	-	\$513,358.82	Construction of a 50-slip marina, service building, attendant's shelter, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, utilities, lighting and pump out service.	Yes
Svensson Park Development	1990 TF90-009	Trust Fund	\$43,100.00	Construction of a paved parking area, two sand volleyball courts, picnic area, swimming beach, play structure, landscaping, and underground drainage.	Yes
Funnell Field Improvement	1993 BF93-377	Bond Fund	\$103,200.00	Construction of two ball diamonds, a basketball court, restroom facility, paved parking area, underground irrigation, soccer field, handicapped ramp, and drinking fountains.	Yes
White Lake Pathway	2001 TF01-081	Trust Fund	\$426,600.00	Development of an abandoned railroad from the Hart-Montague Linear State Park south through the City with amenities such as trail head signage and landscaping.	Yes
Goodrich Park Renovations	2005 TF05-086	Trust Fund	\$90,500.00	Development of a play structure, fishing deck, picnic shelter with restroom, braille signage, pathways, and a parking area.	Yes
White Lake Pathway South End Completion	2007 TF07-037	Trust Fund	\$254,700.00	Improvements to 11,300 feet of abandoned railroad right-of-way to include a bituminous pathway with 900 feet through wetlands and interpretive signage connecting the 21.5 mile Hart-Montague Linear State Park and proposed Montague-Berry Junction Trail.	Yes

Source: MDNR, 2014

In addition, the City has been the recipient of the following Waterways Grants:

- 2007: \$30,000 for marina dock repairs;
- 2009: \$135,000 for electrical upgrades;
- 2009: \$75,000 for dredging;
- 2013: \$182,525 (\$136,894.06 used) for emergency dredging.

**PARKS AND RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Goal 1: Maintain and improve existing parks.**

- 1.1 Add additional facilities for gathering spaces, such as pavilions, especially at waterfront parks such as Covell Park.
- 1.2 Replace antiquated equipment at Gee Park / develop a parking area.
- 1.3 Improve the capability of Goodrich Park to hold events.
- 1.4 Repair the boardwalk at Lions Park and along the White River Trail.
- 1.5 Continue the natural restoration and improve the environmental quality, including a natural landscaped area, at Svensson Park.
- 1.6 Conduct an extensive natural restoration at Mill Pond Park and create trails to the water.
- 1.7 Add native vegetation as a form of landscaping to reduce maintenance costs.
- 1.8 Increase the number and quality of public restrooms at all parks.
- 1.9 Improve barrier-free access to parks and facilities.

**Goal 2: Expand the recreational amenities in the City.**

- 2.1 Identify a location for a pocket park in the downtown core.
- 2.2 Enhance Slocum Park as to create a stronger environment for active recreation and increase community awareness of the park.
- 2.3 Identify a location for a splash pad.
- 2.4 Partner with the School District to investigate the potential for a community pool.
- 2.5 Investigate the potential for a canoe and other small watercraft launch at Lions Park.
- 2.6 Investigate the potential for an ice rink at Funnell Field.
- 2.7 Identify a location for a dog park.
- 2.8 Identify a location for a campground or RV park.
- 2.9 Identify a location for a skatepark.
- 2.10 Identify a location for a disc golf course.
- 2.11 Acquire additional wetlands within the White River Flood Plain and restore natural channels.
- 2.12 Add additional amenities such as boardwalks and interpretive signage to the White River Flood Plain that will connect to the White River Trail.
- 2.13 Complete the construction of a gazebo on the waterfront at Goodrich Park.
- 2.14 Expand the White River Trail.
- 2.15 Develop a soccer complex at Funnell Field.



## 4. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

### Goal 3: Partner with other entities to provide recreational opportunities.

- 3.1 Continue to collaborate with Whitehall Public School District to ensure public access to quality recreational facilities on schools grounds.
- 3.2 Partner with other organizations to provide community-based activities for youth and seniors.

### Goal 4: Continue to develop facilities for non-motorized transportation in the City.

- 4.1 Improve stairwells located along pathways to be ADA compliant.
- 4.2 Improve sidewalk connections throughout the City, as described in Chapter 11.
- 4.3 Continue to expand bike lanes, as described in Chapter 11.

## SYSTEM WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to capital investments in programs and facilities, the City must also evaluate the current system and review long-range options for providing parks and recreation. The following are system wide recommendations that should be evaluated annually and used in the long-range planning of parks and recreation.

### Develop New Recreational Amenities

Whitehall should develop new recreational amenities that do not currently exist in the community to provide residents and visitors with broad range of recreational choices.

### Pathway / Bike Path Connections

The City is committed to providing pedestrian and bicycle pathways and connections throughout the greater Whitehall area, as well as improving and expanding the non-motorized network in the less developed parts of the City. The City should continue to develop pathways and connections, as described in the Action Plan.

### Barrier Free Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier-free accessibility at all public facilities. It is important to provide access to the City's facilities according to these guidelines so that all residents may enjoy them. As parks and recreation facilities are improved or developed, a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve barrier-free accessibility with improvements to proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that provides universal access.

### Continued Public Involvement

The City should continue to solicit residents' suggestions on planning, use, and improvement of parks and recreation facilities and programming. This can be accomplished with focus groups, public meetings, surveys, website input, or through resident feedback solicited at City events.



## E. Parks and Recreation Action Plan

Table 4.7 summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. The table on the following page incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2014 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as through further analysis of the proposed improvement. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

### Funding Sources Key

D/P	=	Donation or Partnership
DDA	=	DDA TIF Funds
G	=	Grants (i.e. MDNR, MI Costal Management, Consumers Fisheries)
GF	=	General Fund (City of Whitehall)
LSO	=	Local Service Organizations and Sports Clubs
MC	=	Muskegon County



#### 4. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

##### ACTION PLAN

Table 4.7: Parks and Recreation Action Plan

Year	Project	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Year 1 (2015)	<b>Improvements to the White River Trail Boardwalk.</b> Maintain the structural integrity of the White River Trail Boardwalk and ensure view sheds of the River for users.	\$20,000	GF
	<b>Lions Park Improvements.</b> Repair the existing boardwalk / staircase and install new signage, public art, and a grill. Develop a canoe and other small watercraft launch along the White River.	\$55,000	D/P, GF, LSO
Year 2 (2016)	<b>Svensson Park Natural Restoration.</b> Maintain the natural landscape area and improve waterfront access (i.e. for small recreation, kayaks) and view sheds with additional amenities such as trash / recycling receptacles, seating, and dedicated handicapped parking spaces.	\$25,000	D/P, CF
	<b>Expand the White Lake Pathway.</b> Expand the non-motorized paved trail way to provide more connections to the City's parks, the lakeshore, and the downtown core.	\$250,000	G, GF, DDA
Year 3 (2017)	<b>Slocum Park Improvements.</b> Enhance Slocum Park as an active, community gathering space with the following: resurface the tennis courts, provide dedicated handicapped parking spaces, incorporate public art, pave the viewing area outside the tennis courts and construct paved pathways to the parking area, and add additional amenities south of the tennis courts (i.e. playground equipment, basketball courts, etc.).	\$75,000	G, GF
	<b>Norman Park Improvements.</b> Develop a boardwalk / overlook area and clear select brush to open view sheds to the White River and Flood Marshland. Trail development should include an accessible surface and switchback ramped walk so all users can reach the end of the trail. Other improvements planned are to provide additional seating options, develop paved, dedicated parallel parking spaces along East River Street for access, and to add identification signage.	\$100,000	G, GF
	<b>Little League Field Parking and Circulation Improvements.</b> Pave the existing gravel parking lot and add fencing to contain vehicles and prevent them from encroaching on the grass. The addition of an accessible walk to the bleachers (behind the backstop) is also included in this project.	\$60,000	D/P, GF, LSO
	<b>Downtown Pocket Park.</b> Close two alleys between Mears Avenue and Division Street to develop pocket parks to create gathering spaces for events and areas of natural vegetation. Planned amenities include café seating, murals and public art, wayfinding signage, landscaping, and decorative pavement areas for potential vendors.	\$75,000	DDA, D/P, GF
Year 4 (2018)	<b>Covell Park Trailhead.</b> Develop Covell Park as a trailhead for the White Lake Pathway with amenities such as a pavilion, improved signage, restrooms, grilling facilities, and a paved ADA accessible walkway.	\$175,000	G, GF
Year 5 (2019)	<b>Funnell Field Soccer Complex.</b> Develop a soccer complex to accommodate various field sizes with amenities such as nets and bleachers.	\$25,000	GF, LSO
	<b>Goodrich Park Improvements.</b> Expand existing amenities to include cement table games, a gazebo, and shuffleboard courts. The amenities are planned for the recently acquired park area which contains little opportunity for recreation or access. Improvements to Goodrich Park in general include informational signage, a volleyball court, upgraded waterfront promenade, and a trailhead.	\$150,000	GF
	<b>Community Center.</b> Develop a youth activity / community center to offer additional indoor and outdoor programming and activities.	\$250,000	DDA, D/P, GF
Year 6 (2020)	<b>Gee Park Improvements.</b> Replace antiquated equipment with new playground facilities and develop a parking area with a paved ADA accessible pathway to permit barrier free access. The addition of signage, seating, and trash / recycling receptacles is also planned.	\$100,000	G, GF
	<b>Mill Pond Park Improvements.</b> Apply a more intensive natural restoration treatment to the site, develop pedestrian trails to the pond, and install interpretive, educational signage.	\$50,000	G, GF

**REVIEW AND ADOPTION PROCESS**

The Parks and Recreation Plan review and adoption process is described below:

<b>30 Day Comment Period</b>	December 10, 2014 – February 15, 2015
<b>Public Hearing</b>	January 17, 2015
<b>City Council Adoption</b>	January 24, 2015
<b>Distribution to Muskegon County and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission</b>	February 25, 2015





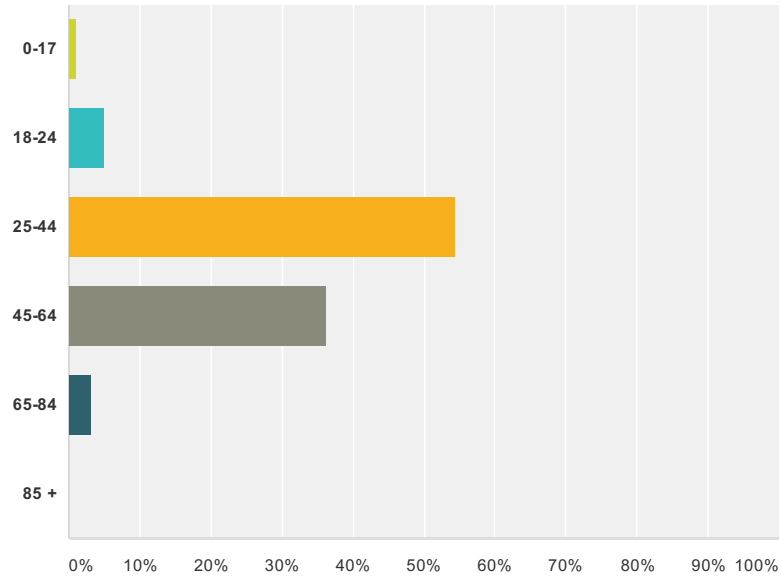
## **5. Appendix**

### A. Public Participation: Survey Results

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q1 What is your age range?

Answered: 99 Skipped: 2

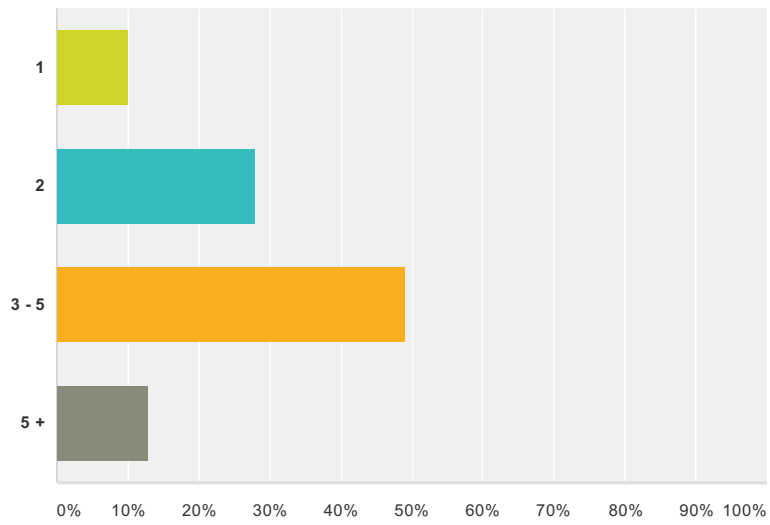


Answer Choices	Responses	
0-17	1.01%	1
18-24	5.05%	5
25-44	54.55%	54
45-64	36.36%	36
65-84	3.03%	3
85 +	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>99</b>

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q2 How many people live in your household?

Answered: 100 Skipped: 1

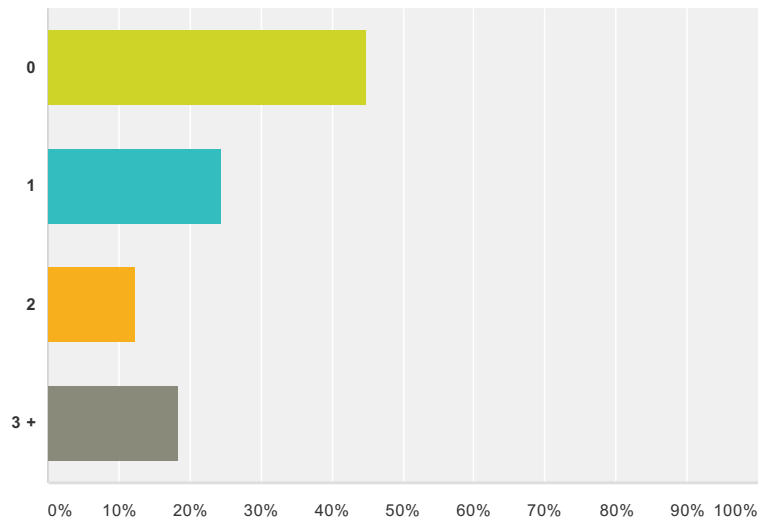


Answer Choices	Responses
1	10.00% 10
2	28.00% 28
3 - 5	49.00% 49
5 +	13.00% 13
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q3 How many children under 18 live in your household?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 3



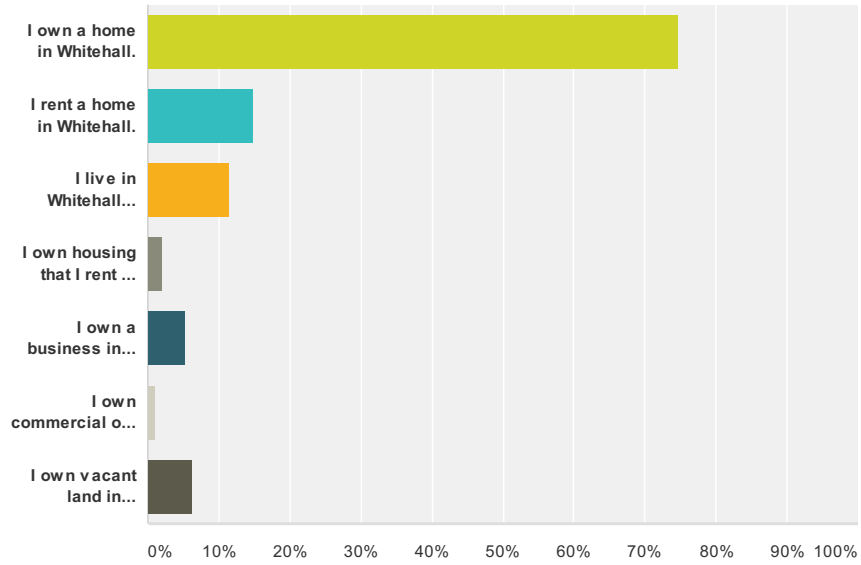
Answer Choices	Responses
0	44.90% 44
1	24.49% 24
2	12.24% 12
3 +	18.37% 18
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>



# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q4 Please select all that apply:

Answered: 95 Skipped: 6

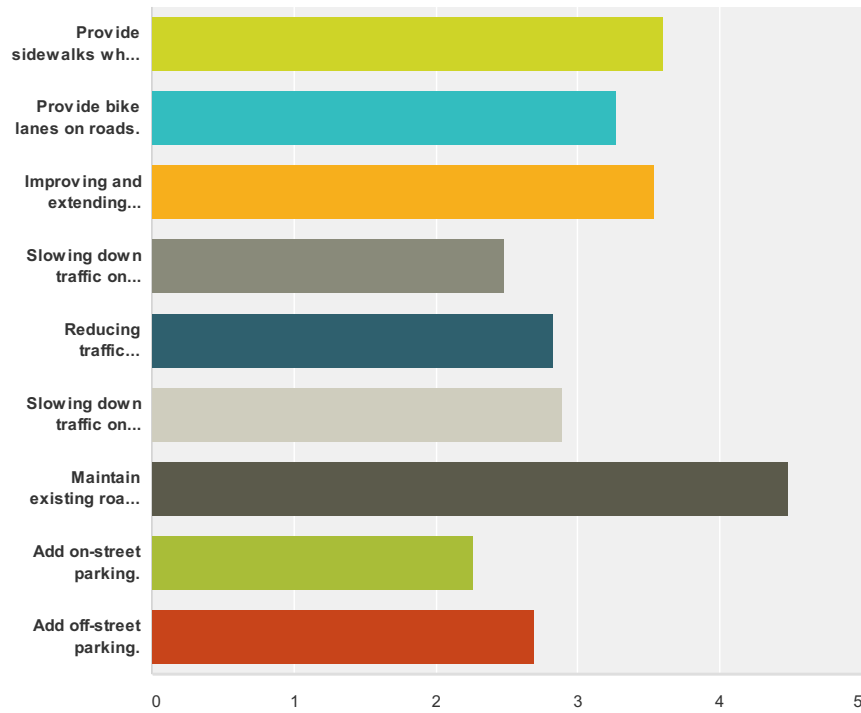


Answer Choices	Responses
I own a home in Whitehall.	74.74% 71
I rent a home in Whitehall.	14.74% 14
I live in Whitehall seasonally or on weekends.	11.58% 11
I own housing that I rent to others in Whitehall.	2.11% 2
I own a business in Whitehall.	5.26% 5
I own commercial or industrial property in Whitehall.	1.05% 1
I own vacant land in Whitehall.	6.32% 6
<b>Total Respondents: 95</b>	

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q5 Please rate the following transportation goals from 1 (not important at all) to 5 (extremely important):

Answered: 95 Skipped: 6

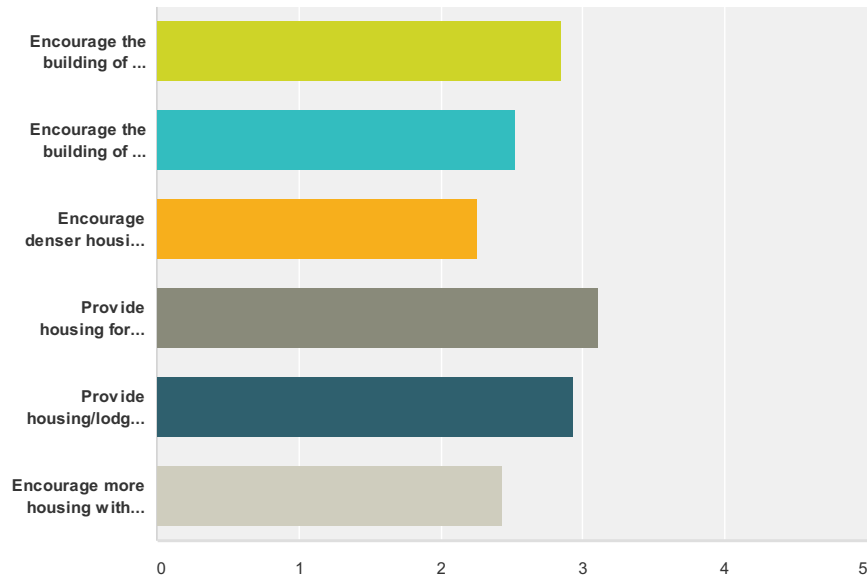


	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average Rating
Provide sidewalks where they do not currently exist.	9.57% 9	10.64% 10	20.21% 19	29.79% 28	29.79% 28	94	3.60
Provide bike lanes on roads.	10.64% 10	18.09% 17	24.47% 23	27.66% 26	19.15% 18	94	3.27
Improving and extending bicycle and walking trails such as the White Lake Pathway and White River Trail.	10.53% 10	10.53% 10	21.05% 20	30.53% 29	27.37% 26	95	3.54
Slowing down traffic on Colby Street and other thoroughfares.	20.43% 19	39.78% 37	20.43% 19	9.68% 9	9.68% 9	93	2.48
Reducing traffic congestion on Colby Street and other thoroughfares.	14.89% 14	29.79% 28	26.60% 25	14.89% 14	13.83% 13	94	2.83
Slowing down traffic on residential streets.	17.02% 16	28.72% 27	22.34% 21	11.70% 11	20.21% 19	94	2.89
Maintain existing roads, sidewalks, and trails.	1.05% 1	3.16% 3	6.32% 6	25.26% 24	64.21% 61	95	4.48
Add on-street parking.	33.33% 31	29.03% 27	21.51% 20	9.68% 9	6.45% 6	93	2.27
Add off-street parking.	21.05% 20	27.37% 26	24.21% 23	15.79% 15	11.58% 11	95	2.69

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q6 Please rate the following housing goals from 1 (not important at all) to 5 (extremely important):

Answered: 92 Skipped: 9

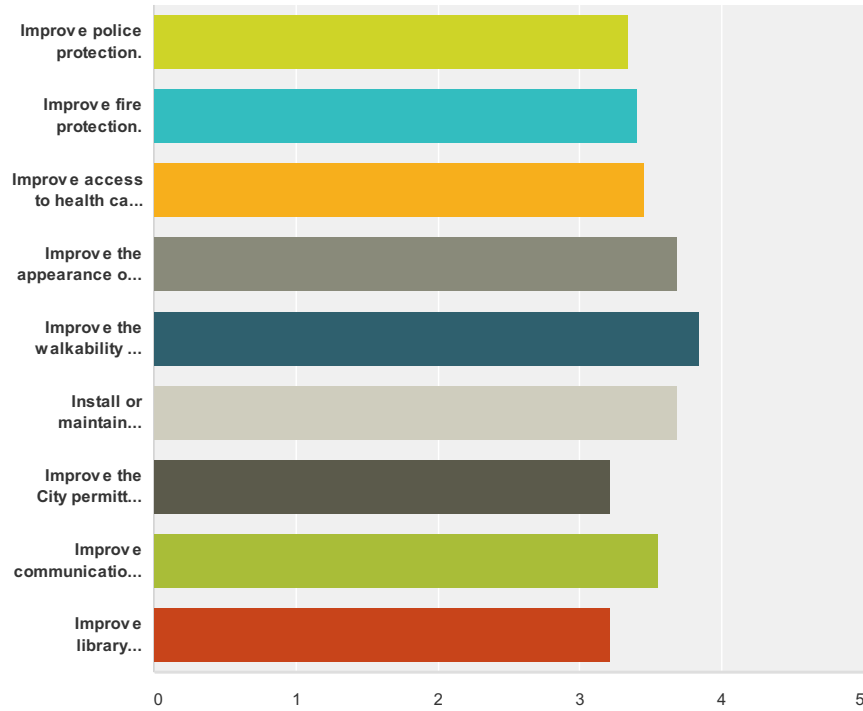


	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average Rating
Encourage the building of new housing units on vacant lots within existing residential neighborhoods.	20.65% 19	18.48% 17	28.26% 26	20.65% 19	11.96% 11	92	2.85
Encourage the building of new housing units on undeveloped land in the southern part of the city.	23.33% 21	27.78% 25	28.89% 26	12.22% 11	7.78% 7	90	2.53
Encourage denser housing types (townhomes, apartments), especially in the downtown area.	36.96% 34	23.91% 22	20.65% 19	14.13% 13	4.35% 4	92	2.25
Provide housing for seniors and retirees.	7.69% 7	20.88% 19	37.36% 34	20.88% 19	13.19% 12	91	3.11
Provide housing/lodging for visitors and seasonal residents.	14.29% 13	21.98% 20	30.77% 28	21.98% 20	10.99% 10	91	2.93
Encourage more housing with views of White Lake (including multi-story buildings).	30.77% 28	26.37% 24	24.18% 22	6.59% 6	12.09% 11	91	2.43

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q7 Please rate the following community services goals from 1 (not important at all) to 5 (extremely important):

Answered: 92 Skipped: 9

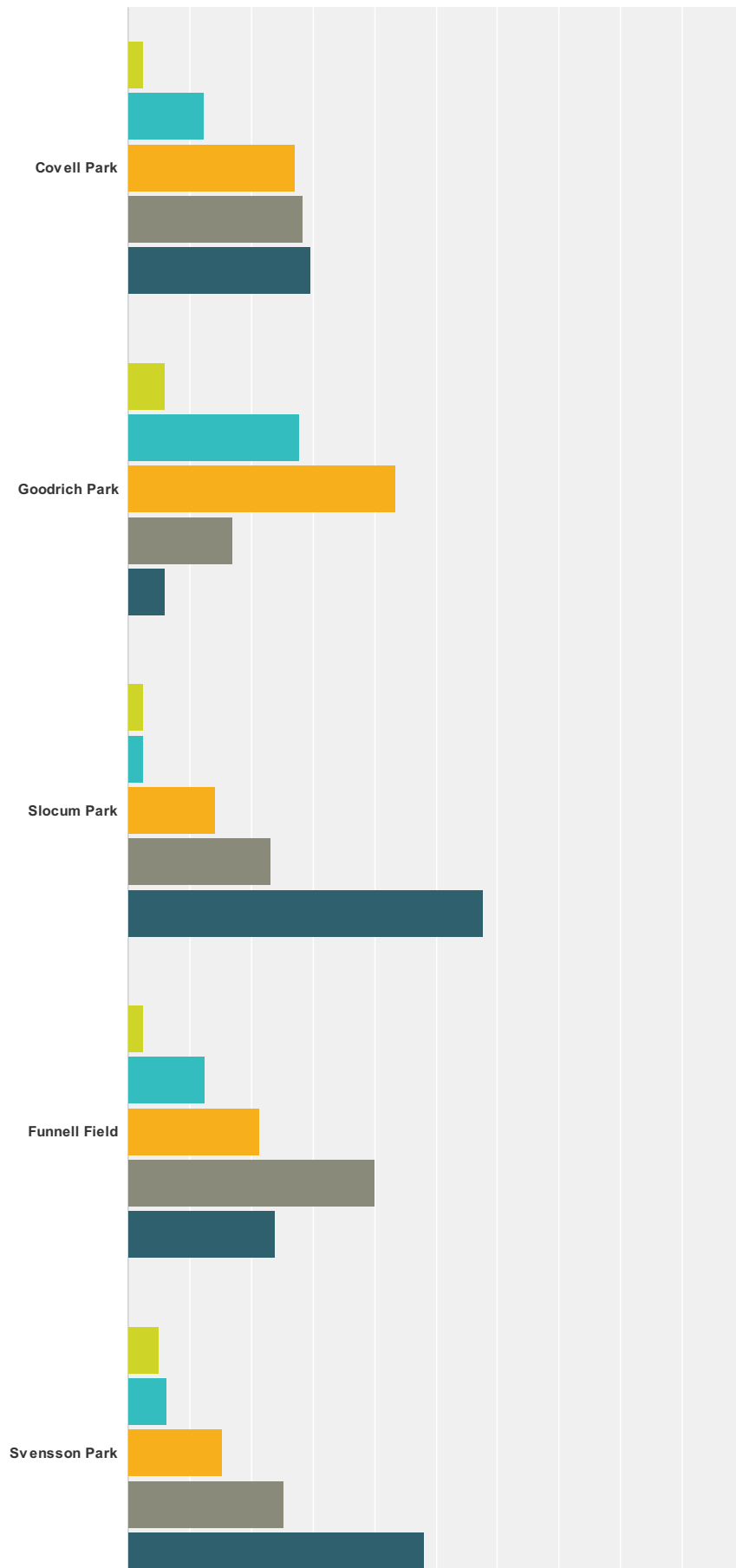


	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average Rating
Improve police protection.	8.70% 8	11.96% 11	35.87% 33	23.91% 22	19.57% 18	92	3.34
Improve fire protection.	4.40% 4	14.29% 13	37.36% 34	25.27% 23	18.68% 17	91	3.40
Improve access to health care facilities, including ambulances/EMS.	5.43% 5	7.61% 7	42.39% 39	25.00% 23	19.57% 18	92	3.46
Improve the appearance of neighborhoods.	7.61% 7	6.52% 6	22.83% 21	35.87% 33	27.17% 25	92	3.68
Improve the walkability of neighborhoods.	5.43% 5	5.43% 5	20.65% 19	36.96% 34	31.52% 29	92	3.84
Install or maintain streetlights.	5.56% 5	6.67% 6	27.78% 25	34.44% 31	25.56% 23	90	3.68
Improve the City permitting processes.	10.99% 10	15.38% 14	36.26% 33	16.48% 15	20.88% 19	91	3.21
Improve communication technology (broadband, cell phone service, etc.).	10.99% 10	12.09% 11	19.78% 18	25.27% 23	31.87% 29	91	3.55
Improve library services, such as increased hours.	10.87% 10	19.57% 18	27.17% 25	21.74% 20	20.65% 19	92	3.22

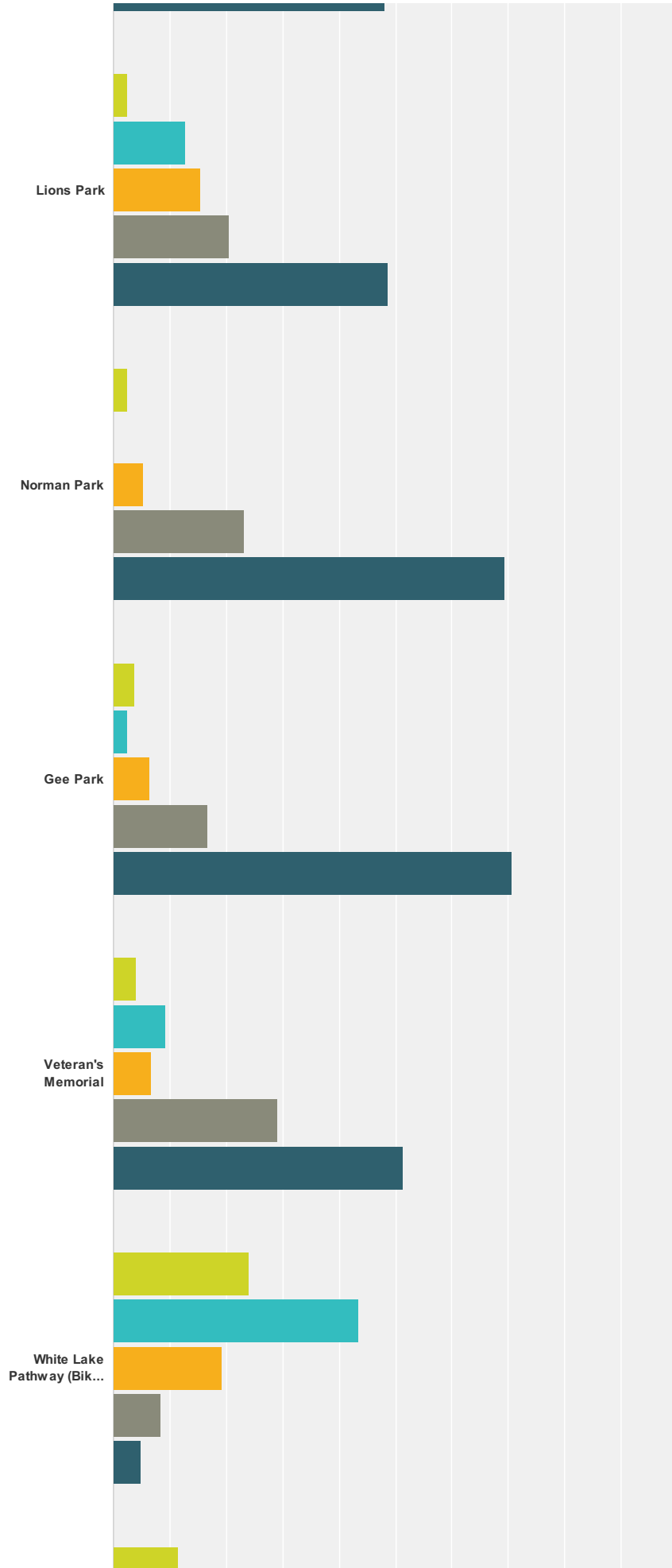
# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q8 How often do you use each of the following parks and recreational facilities?

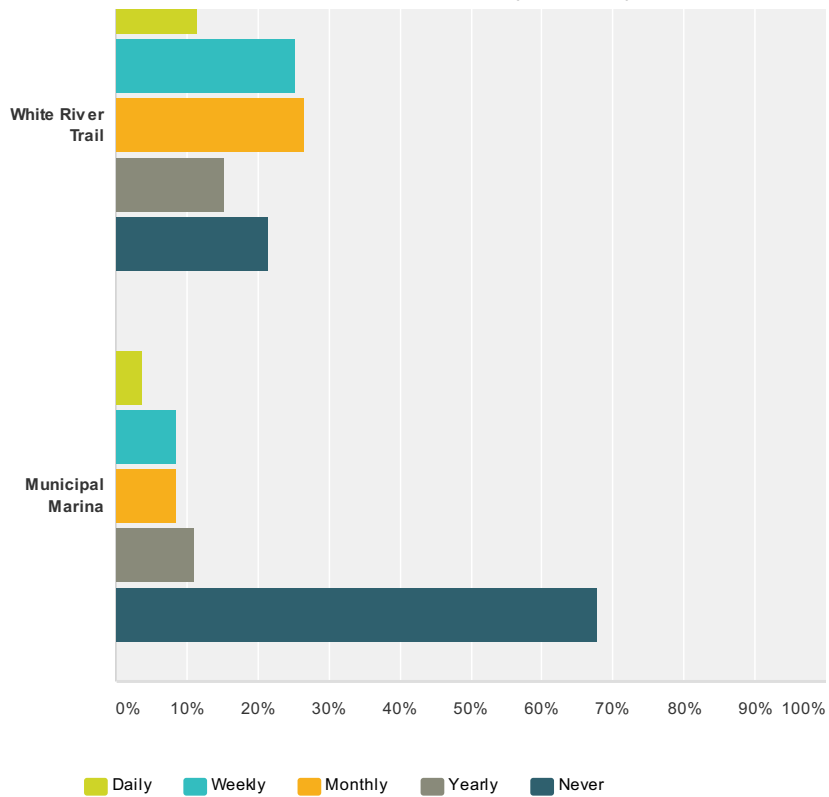
Answered: 83 Skipped: 18



# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey



# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

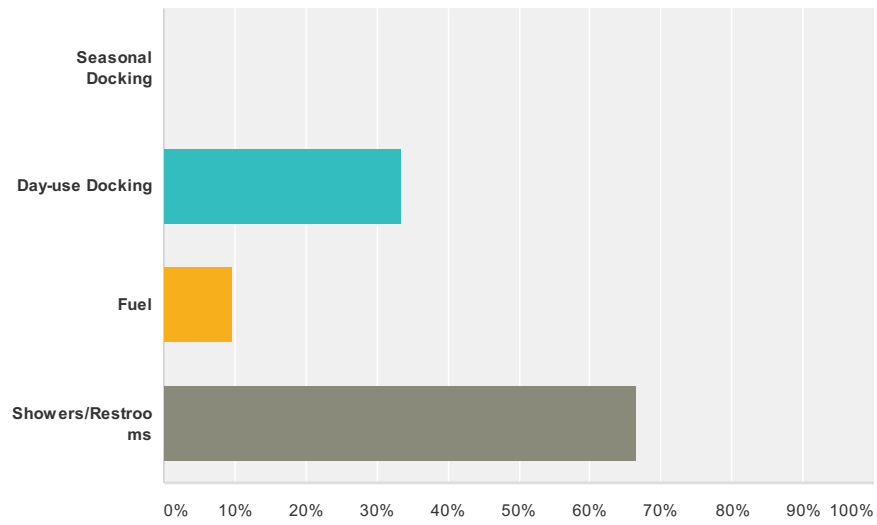


	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Never	Total
Covell Park	2.47% 2	12.35% 10	27.16% 22	28.40% 23	29.63% 24	81
Goodrich Park	6.02% 5	27.71% 23	43.37% 36	16.87% 14	6.02% 5	83
Slocum Park	2.56% 2	2.56% 2	14.10% 11	23.08% 18	57.69% 45	78
Funnell Field	2.50% 2	12.50% 10	21.25% 17	40.00% 32	23.75% 19	80
Svensson Park	5.06% 4	6.33% 5	15.19% 12	25.32% 20	48.10% 38	79
Lions Park	2.56% 2	12.82% 10	15.38% 12	20.51% 16	48.72% 38	78
Norman Park	2.56% 2	0.00% 0	5.13% 4	23.08% 18	69.23% 54	78
Gee Park	3.85% 3	2.56% 2	6.41% 5	16.67% 13	70.51% 55	78
Veteran's Memorial	3.95% 3	9.21% 7	6.58% 5	28.95% 22	51.32% 39	76
White Lake Pathway (Bike Path)	24.10% 20	43.37% 36	19.28% 16	8.43% 7	4.82% 4	83
White River Trail	11.39% 9	25.32% 20	26.58% 21	15.19% 12	21.52% 17	79
Municipal Marina	3.70% 3	8.64% 7	8.64% 7	11.11% 9	67.90% 55	81

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q9 If you use the municipal marina, what do you use it for? Check all that apply.

Answered: 21 Skipped: 80



Answer Choices	Responses	
Seasonal Docking	0.00%	0
Day-use Docking	33.33%	7
Fuel	9.52%	2
Showers/Restrooms	66.67%	14
<b>Total Respondents: 21</b>		



# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

**Q10 Which other public facilities do you use, if any? (please list):**

Answered: 13 Skipped: 88

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

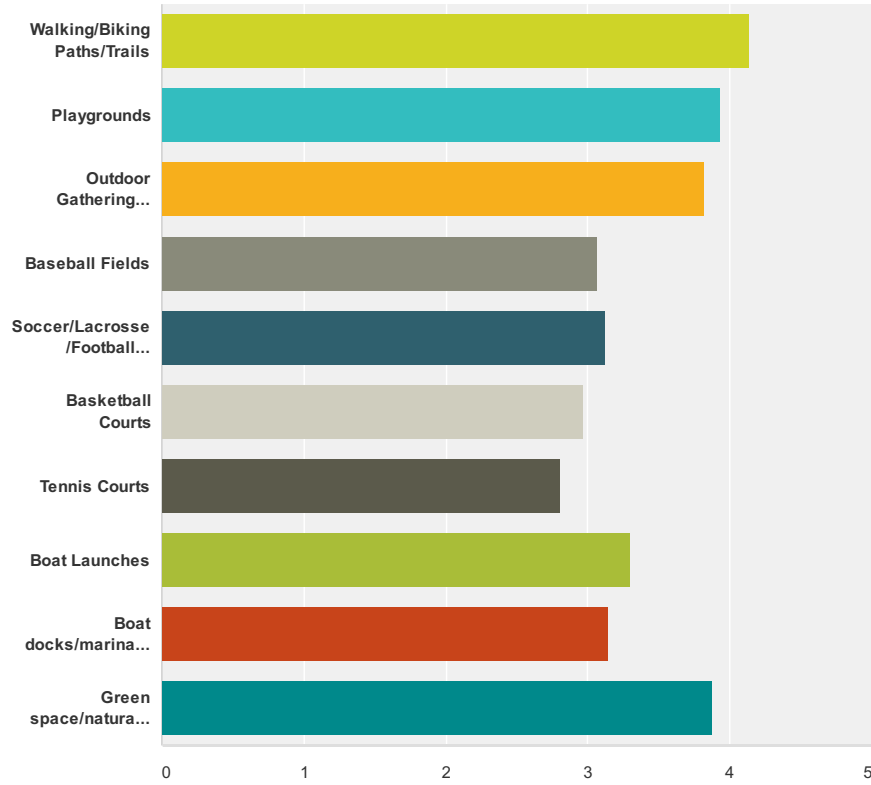
**Q11 Which private recreational facilities  
(i.e. private golf courses) do you use?  
(please list):**

Answered: 17 Skipped: 84

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

**Q12 Please rate the importance of improving the following EXISTING parks and recreation facilities in or around the City from 1 (not important at all) to 5 (extremely important):**

Answered: 84 Skipped: 17

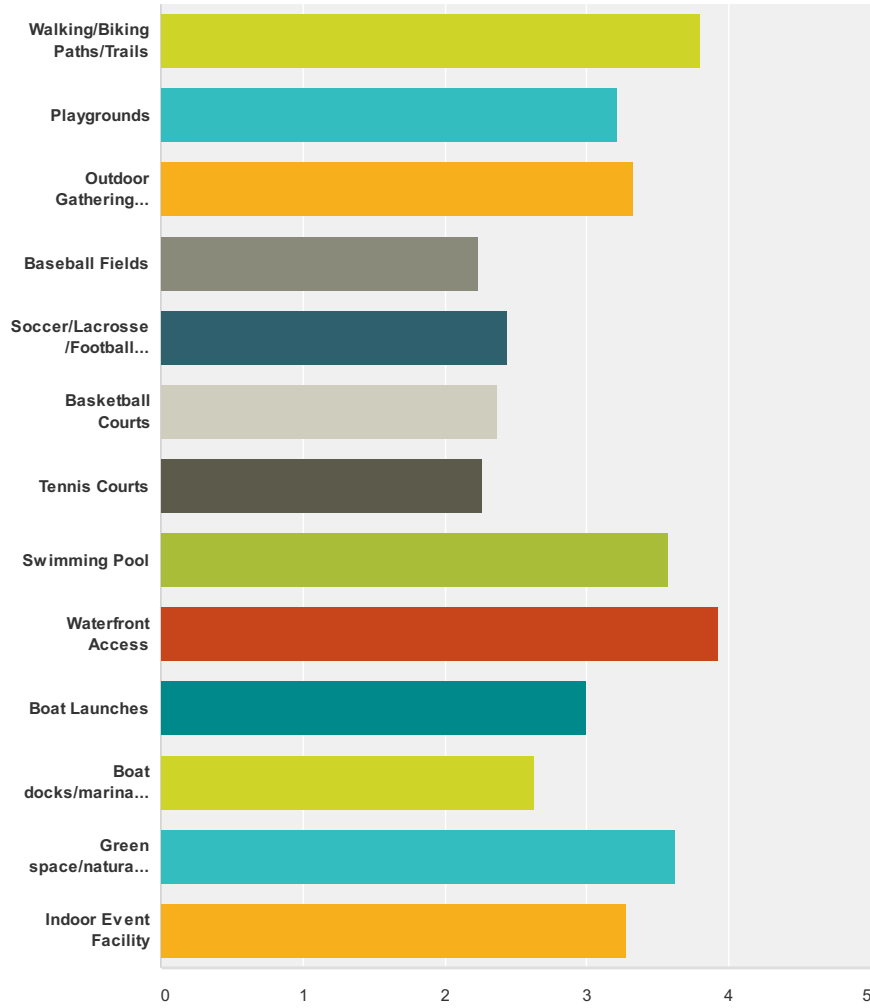


	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average Rating
Walking/Biking Paths/Trails	4.88% 4	6.10% 5	13.41% 11	21.95% 18	53.66% 44	82	4.13
Playgrounds	4.82% 4	8.43% 7	15.66% 13	30.12% 25	40.96% 34	83	3.94
Outdoor Gathering Places, such as Pavilions	4.88% 4	7.32% 6	19.51% 16	37.80% 31	30.49% 25	82	3.82
Baseball Fields	15.85% 13	14.63% 12	31.71% 26	21.95% 18	15.85% 13	82	3.07
Soccer/Lacrosse/Football Fields	13.58% 11	17.28% 14	29.63% 24	22.22% 18	17.28% 14	81	3.12
Basketball Courts	17.07% 14	19.51% 16	28.05% 23	20.73% 17	14.63% 12	82	2.96
Tennis Courts	23.46% 19	18.52% 15	25.93% 21	17.28% 14	14.81% 12	81	2.81
Boat Launches	10.84% 9	15.66% 13	28.92% 24	21.69% 18	22.89% 19	83	3.30
Boat docks/marina facilities	13.25% 11	18.07% 15	28.92% 24	20.48% 17	19.28% 16	83	3.14
Green space/natural areas	5.95% 5	9.52% 8	15.48% 13	29.76% 25	39.29% 33	84	3.87

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

**Q13 Please rate the importance of BUILDING MORE of the following parks and recreation facilities in or around the City from 1 (not important at all) to 5 (extremely important):**

Answered: 84 Skipped: 17



	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average Rating
Walking/Biking Paths/Trails	9.64% 8	13.25% 11	8.43% 7	25.30% 21	43.37% 36	83	3.80
Playgrounds	20.99% 17	8.64% 7	20.99% 17	27.16% 22	22.22% 18	81	3.21
Outdoor Gathering Places, such as Pavilions	15.66% 13	16.87% 14	12.05% 10	30.12% 25	25.30% 21	83	3.33
Baseball Fields	35.00% 28	28.75% 23	20.00% 16	11.25% 9	5.00% 4	80	2.23
Soccer/Lacrosse/Football Fields	27.50% 22	30.00% 24	22.50% 18	11.25% 9	8.75% 7	80	2.44
Basketball Courts	32.10% 26	29.63% 24	16.05% 13	13.58% 11	8.64% 7	81	2.37
Tennis Courts	32.93% 27	31.71% 26	20.73% 17	6.10% 5	8.54% 7	82	2.26
Swimming Pool	14.63% 12	10.98% 9	14.63% 12	21.95% 18	37.80% 31	82	3.57
Waterfront Access	8.33% 7	4.76% 4	14.29% 12	30.95% 26	41.67% 35	84	3.93

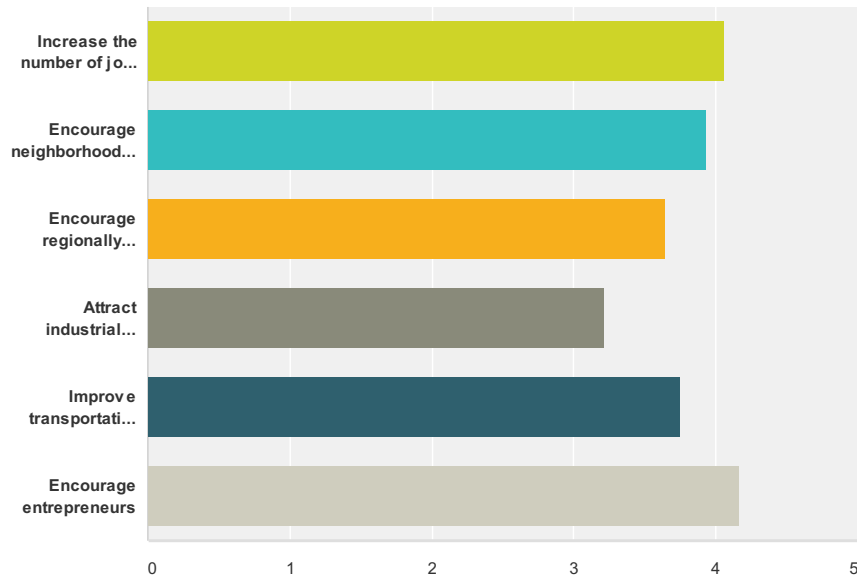
## Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

Boat Launches	<b>19.51%</b> 16	<b>21.95%</b> 18	<b>17.07%</b> 14	<b>21.95%</b> 18	<b>19.51%</b> 16	82	3.00
Boat docks/marina facilities	<b>24.39%</b> 20	<b>26.83%</b> 22	<b>21.95%</b> 18	<b>14.63%</b> 12	<b>12.20%</b> 10	82	2.63
Green space/natural areas	<b>9.76%</b> 8	<b>9.76%</b> 8	<b>20.73%</b> 17	<b>28.05%</b> 23	<b>31.71%</b> 26	82	3.62
Indoor Event Facility	<b>16.05%</b> 13	<b>8.64%</b> 7	<b>28.40%</b> 23	<b>24.69%</b> 20	<b>22.22%</b> 18	81	3.28

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q14 Please rate the following economic development goals from 1 (not important at all) to 5 (extremely important):

Answered: 83 Skipped: 18

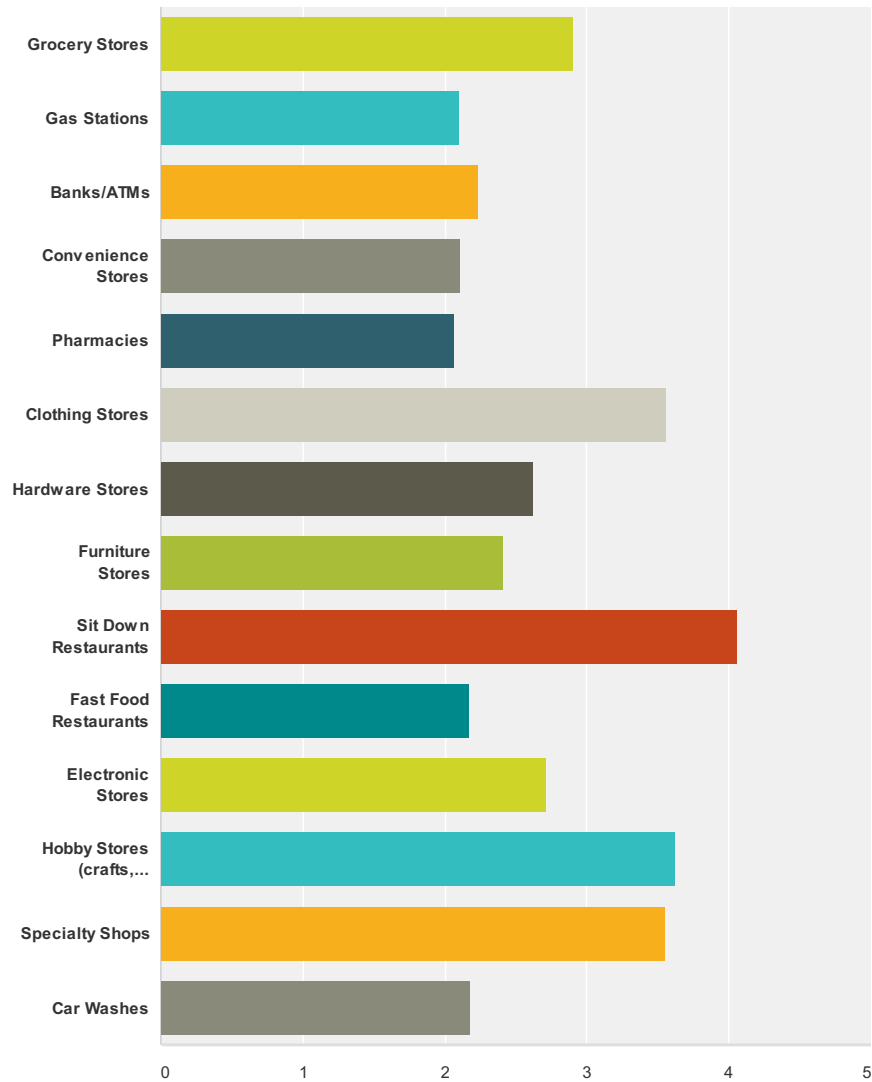


	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average Rating
Increase the number of jobs in the City.	2.44% 2	8.54% 7	17.07% 14	24.39% 20	47.56% 39	82	4.06
Encourage neighborhood serving commercial businesses in the City.	6.17% 5	4.94% 4	16.05% 13	34.57% 28	38.27% 31	81	3.94
Encourage regionally serving commercial businesses in the City.	8.64% 7	7.41% 6	24.69% 20	29.63% 24	29.63% 24	81	3.64
Attract industrial businesses to the City.	16.05% 13	17.28% 14	18.52% 15	24.69% 20	23.46% 19	81	3.22
Improve transportation between Whitehall and nearby job centers such as Muskegon.	6.25% 5	11.25% 9	20.00% 16	26.25% 21	36.25% 29	80	3.75
Encourage entrepreneurs	6.10% 5	1.22% 1	13.41% 11	29.27% 24	50.00% 41	82	4.16

# Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

## Q15 Please rate the need for the following businesses from 1 (not needed at all) to 5 (desperately needed in the City):

Answered: 85 Skipped: 16



	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average Rating
Grocery Stores	28.57% 24	11.90% 10	23.81% 20	11.90% 10	23.81% 20	84	2.90
Gas Stations	47.62% 40	20.24% 17	15.48% 13	8.33% 7	8.33% 7	84	2.10
Banks/ATMs	45.24% 38	16.67% 14	17.86% 15	10.71% 9	9.52% 8	84	2.23
Convenience Stores	45.24% 38	19.05% 16	19.05% 16	13.10% 11	3.57% 3	84	2.11
Phamacies	50.60% 42	16.87% 14	15.66% 13	8.43% 7	8.43% 7	83	2.07
Clothing Stores	10.59% 9	16.47% 14	12.94% 11	25.88% 22	34.12% 29	85	3.56
Hardware Stores	31.76% 27	17.65% 15	22.35% 19	12.94% 11	15.29% 13	85	2.62
Furniture Stores	37.35% 31	18.07% 15	20.48% 17	14.46% 12	9.64% 8	83	2.41
Sit Down Restaurants	4.76% 4	1.19% 1	20.24% 17	30.95% 26	42.86% 36	84	4.06

## Whitehall 2030 Community Survey

Fast Food Restaurants	<b>44.58%</b> 37	<b>20.48%</b> 17	<b>16.87%</b> 14	<b>9.64%</b> 8	<b>8.43%</b> 7	83	2.17
Electronic Stores	<b>27.71%</b> 23	<b>15.66%</b> 13	<b>27.71%</b> 23	<b>15.66%</b> 13	<b>13.25%</b> 11	83	2.71
Hobby Stores (crafts, sporting goods, music, etc.)	<b>8.33%</b> 7	<b>9.52%</b> 8	<b>25.00%</b> 21	<b>26.19%</b> 22	<b>30.95%</b> 26	84	3.62
Specialty Shops	<b>8.33%</b> 7	<b>9.52%</b> 8	<b>27.38%</b> 23	<b>28.57%</b> 24	<b>26.19%</b> 22	84	3.55
Car Washes	<b>40.96%</b> 34	<b>22.89%</b> 19	<b>19.28%</b> 16	<b>10.84%</b> 9	<b>6.02%</b> 5	83	2.18



B. Public Notice

# **NOTICE**

## **City of Whitehall**

### **Public Hearing Notice**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Whitehall Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on February 17th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 405 E. Colby Street, Whitehall, MI 49461. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on the Master Plan. Copies of the Plan can be viewed at City Hall at the above address.

*Brian Armstrong,*  
Zoning Administrator

**Publish: February 1, 2015**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

For more information:  
Christopher Khorey, AICP  
Senior Planner  
McKenna Associates  
248-596-0920

Brian Armstrong  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Whitehall  
(231) 894-4048

## **WHITEHALL UPDATES MASTER PLAN**

*Online survey seeks input from residents on future development and City services.*

**Whitehall, MI; June 4, 2014**—Northville-based municipal services firm McKenna Associates is assisting the City of Whitehall with an update to its Master Plan. As part of the process, the City is looking for input from its residents.

“The City last adopted an update to its Master Plan in 2003,” said Zoning Administrator Brian Armstrong, “we are looking forward to hearing what residents think the future should look like in Whitehall.”

The Master Plan is being updated to provide a guide for the future of Whitehall, including a shared vision for the social, economic, and physical environment of the City. But in order to develop that shared vision, the City needs to hear from its citizens.

“As we look toward the future of the City, we need to make sure that our vision is shared by our residents,” Mayor Emery “Mac” Hatch said. “This plan should reflect what they want to improve about their community.”

In order to do that, the City has made a survey available online, at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/whitehall2030](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/whitehall2030). Alternatively, a paper copy of the survey is available at City Hall, 405 E. Colby Street, Whitehall, MI. Already, 90 people have participated, but City Manager Scott Huebler hopes to hear from many more.

“If we could hear from the entire community, that would be fantastic,” Huebler said. “We want as many people to take the survey as possible.”

In addition to the survey, the Master Plan team has set up Facebook and Twitter accounts to help spread the word about the progress of the plan and to hear informal feedback from residents. The plan can be found on Facebook at “Whitehall 2030 Master Plan Update” and on Twitter at @Whitehall\_MI.

The City will also be setting up focus groups to discuss topics related to the City and advise on the Master Plan’s recommendations and vision. Residents interested in serving on focus groups should contact Armstrong at 231-894-4048. The focus groups will meet on June 30.

In order to lead the Master Plan process, the City formed a Master Plan Committee, consisting of Armstrong, City Council Member Tanya Cabala, Planning Commissioner Steve Salter, and Planning Commissioner Chris Mahoney (who also serves as the President of Whitehall’s Board of Education). The committee engaged McKenna Associates as a consultant to assist with the process. The McKenna team includes Senior Planner Christopher Khorey, AICP, and Assistant Planner Laura Haw.

“We’re very excited to be working in Whitehall,” Khorey said. “It’s a beautiful community with a lot of potential. We’re hoping to create a plan that not only articulates a vision for the City’s future, but also outlines the road map to get there.”

The plan ultimately will provide the Planning Commission and City Council with information they need to make decisions about land use and policy. Work on the plan is underway and will be completed by fall of 2014.

**On a daily basis McKenna Associates provides community planning, landscape architecture, urban design, zoning, economic development, community relations, public participation, and municipal wireless services to more than 150 cities, counties, townships, villages and select private firms across the Midwest. McKenna’s success can be measured by its 33-year history of long-standing relationships with municipalities that value the creative spirit embodied by the firm’s team of professionals and its concept-driven approach to problem solving. Headquartered in Northville, Michigan; McKenna maintains branch offices in Kalamazoo, Michigan and Cleveland Heights, Ohio. For more information about McKenna Associates, call 888.226.4326 or visit [www.mcka.com](http://www.mcka.com).**

###

## C. Meeting Minutes



# D. Resolution

## E. Transmittal Letters



February 25, 2015

West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission  
316 Morris Avenue  
Suite 340  
Muskegon, MI 49440-1140

**Subject: City of Whitehall 2030 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Whitehall, McKenna Associates is pleased to enclose a copy of the **Whitehall 2030 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**. We have submitted this plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for certification and to the Muskegon County Commission to ensure cooperation and coordination of planning efforts.

This plan was adopted by the Whitehall City Council on February 24, 2015. A certified resolution of the adoption is included in the plan.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate contacting us at (248) 596-0920.

Respectfully submitted,

**McKENNA ASSOCIATES**



Christopher Khorey, AICP  
Senior Planner

Enclosure

February 25, 2015

Office of the County Administrator  
Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice  
990 Terrace Street  
Fourth Floor  
Muskegon, MI 49442

**Subject: City of Whitehall 2030 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

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Respectfully submitted,

**McKENNA ASSOCIATES**



Christopher Khorey, AICP  
Senior Planner

Enclosure



# F. MDNR Certification Checklist



## COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

*By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants*

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: <span style="font-family: cursive;">City of Whitehall 2030 Plan</span>		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
<span style="font-family: cursive;">City of Whitehall</span>	<span style="font-family: cursive;">Muskegon</span>	<span style="font-family: cursive;">Feb. 2015</span>
<span style="font-family: cursive;">Whitehall Public School District</span>	<span style="font-family: cursive;">Muskegon</span>	<span style="font-family: cursive;">Feb. 2015</span>

PLAN CONTENT
<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart</li> <li>Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><b>Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participating Communities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>3. RECREATION INVENTORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</b></p>

**6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment - *enclosed*  
Date of the Notice \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Notice \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 730 days; Dec. 10, 2014
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies) - *enclosed*  
Date of Notice \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

**7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**8. ACTION PROGRAM**

**9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-INSPECTION REPORT**

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: Feb. 24, 2015
- 2. Official resolution of the Planning Commission Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: Feb. 17, 2015
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: Feb. 25, 2015
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: Feb. 25, 2015

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

the City of Whitehall includes the required content, as indicated  
(Local Unit of Government)  
above and as set forth by the DNR.

[Signature] 2-17-15  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

**DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL**

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grants Management Date

## G. Recreation Grant History





**COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSULTANTS**

**Planning · Landscape Architecture · Community Development**

235 E. Main Street, Suite 105

Northville, MI 48167

(248) 596-0920

[www.mcka.com](http://www.mcka.com)

Phillip McKenna, AICP, PCP

Christopher Khorey, AICP

Laura Haw

Sabah Aboody-Keer

Carrie Wakulat

President

Project Manager

Project Planner

GIS Mapping

Graphic Design