

City of Whitehall Comprehensive Master Plan and Parks & Recreation Master Plan

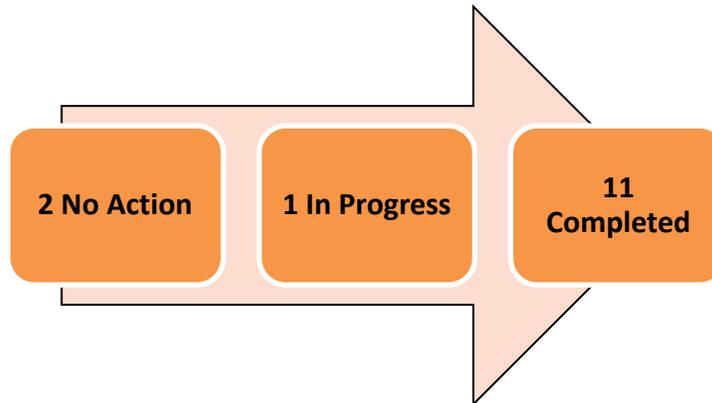
Implementation Update February 2024

The Whitehall City Council adopted a Comprehensive Master Plan in 2015, which included the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Both Plans were developed by the Planning Commission and approved by the City Council. The primary purpose of the Plan is to serve as the basis for zoning ordinances and as a guide for the City's long term growth and development. As part of the State's Redevelopment Ready Community program and as good management practice, an annual review of the progress of the Plan is undertaken. This review looks at the progress of the short term, medium term, long term, and ongoing goals of the Plan in a snapshot format.

With Council support, staff has completed 43 Master Plan and Parks Plan goals.



MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN ONE YEAR



PLANNING AND ZONING

- **Completed** - Revise the C2 District to be consistent with the City Core Future Land Use Category; revised ordinances.
- **Completed** - Revise the RC1 District to be consistent with the Mears Avenue Mixed Use and East Colby Corridor categories; revised ordinances.
- **Completed** - Require parking lot landscaping; revised ordinances.
- **Completed** - Require sidewalks for new developments; Tannery Bay.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

- **Completed** - Install more public bike racks; Downtown Phase III.
- **Completed** - Maintain and improve existing sidewalks; Downtown Phase III, Ealy Elementary, Playhouse, 2023 capital improvements.
- **No Action** - Improve signs and wayfinding for bicyclists.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- **Completed** - Reduce or eliminate runoff pollution through storm water management; Downtown Phase III, Carleton Street, Mears Avenue.
- **Completed** - Work with neighboring communities to reduce sedimentation in White Lake; sedimentation basin, silt wall.
- **Completed** - Preserve and protect White River floodplain; Bishop/Hekkema property.
- **No Action** - Construct additional green streets.

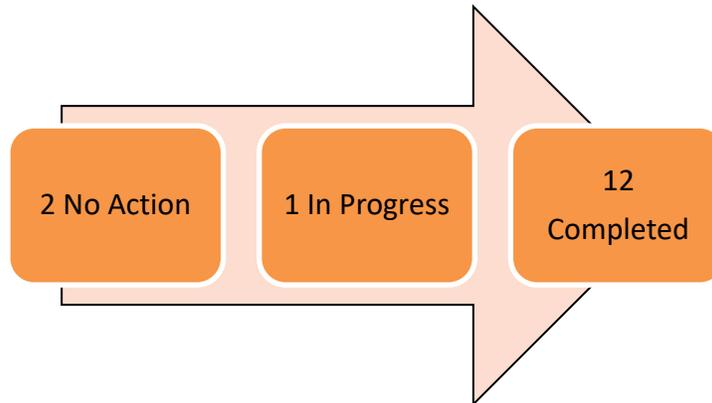
CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

- **Completed** - Replace downtown streetlights; Downtown Phases III and IV.
- **In Progress** - Require a public waterfront boardwalk at Tannery Bay; TIFA property acquisition.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Completed** - Install banners to advertise local events; Downtown Phase III.

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN ONE TO THREE YEARS



PLANNING AND ZONING

- **Completed** - Encourage green storm water practices; Tannery Bay.
- **Completed** – Protect residential neighborhoods in the M2 district; revised ordinances.
- **Completed** - Create a Hamlet Residential District; considered but not adopted.
- **Completed** - Create a Preservation Residential District; reviewed but not adopted.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

- **Completed** - Install mast-arm traffic signals downtown; eliminated as cost prohibitive.
- **Completed** - Provide better pedestrian crossing signals; Downtown Phase III.
- **Completed** - Improve Bush Creek pedestrian bridge with repairs.
- **Completed** - Improve bicycle access along Colby Street, Lake Street, and the bridge to Montague; Colby is under MDOT review, pathway at Covell Park improved.
- **No Action** - Construct a non-motorized path in the unimproved Baldwin Street right-of-way from Gibbs Street to Shoreline Elementary School.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- **Completed** - Encourage home sustainability practices, including a recycling center; White Lake Solid Waste Authority.

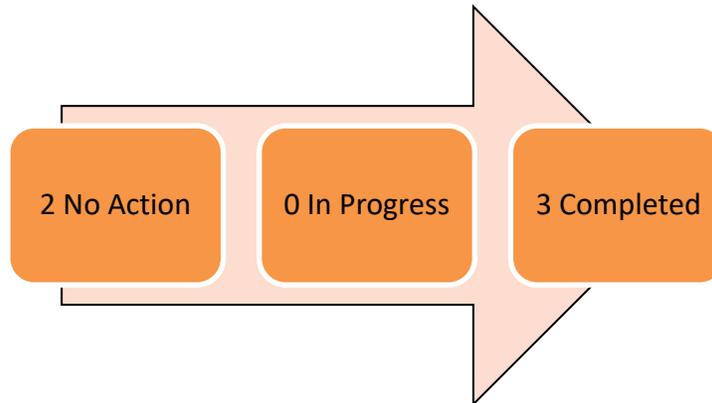
CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

- **Completed** - Replace downtown brick paver crosswalks; Downtown Phase III.
- **Completed** - Provide uniform light pole designs; Downtown Phase III.
- **Completed** - Redesign landscaping in high-visibility areas; Downtown Phase III.
- **In Progress** - Construct a pathway/gathering space connecting downtown to the waterfront; TIFA 2024 Project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **No Action** - Implement a wayfinding program.

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN THREE PLUS YEARS



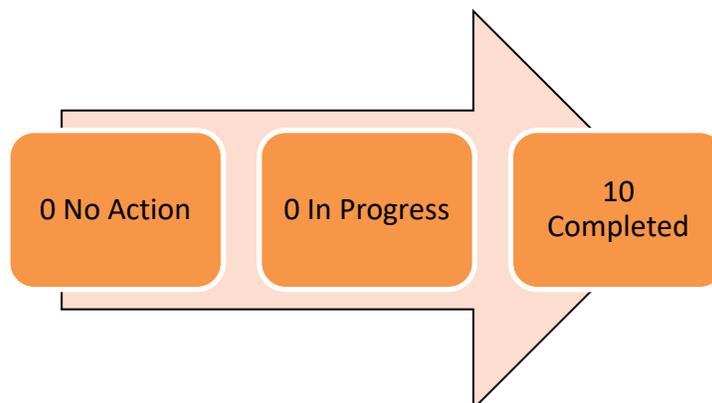
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

- **Completed** - Add on-street parking to key corridors; Downtown Phase III.
- **Completed** - Construct new sidewalks where needed; 2023 capital improvements.
- **No Action** - Construct a non-motorized path in the unimproved River Street right-of-way connecting Norman Park to Funnell Field.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Completed** - Acquire Big Johns and NAPA to redevelop as public access to the waterfront; purchase agreement signed with Big Johns.
- **No Action** - Create a redevelopment plan for Howmet's Misco Drive facility.

MASTER PLAN ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION



PLANNING AND ZONING

- **Completed** - Provide stronger code enforcement for residential properties; rental ordinance, property maintenance code, contractual code enforcement.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

- **Completed** - Evaluate streets for maintenance and improvements; coordinate with sidewalk installation and other infrastructure projects; 2011 Transportation Asset Management Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- **Completed** - Identify wetlands and woodlands to ensure development prioritizes the protection of these areas in design and function.
- **Completed** - Maintain the shoreline naturalization program; Muskegon County Conservation District.

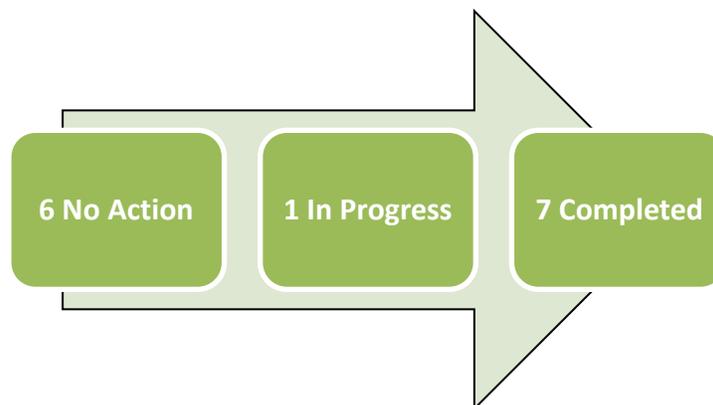
CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

- **Completed** - Hold an annual spring cleanup; Free Dump Day, leaf and brush removal.
- **Completed** - Establish a 20 year plan for potable water supply enhancement; 2017 Water System Reliability Study.
- **Completed** - Place additional public art throughout the City; Arts Council of White Lake, Art Wall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Completed** - Oversee the redevelopment of contaminated properties; Tannery Bay.
- **Completed** - Encourage redevelopment of the tannery site in a manner that respects the environment and existing neighborhoods.
- **Completed** - Expand and improve the downtown façade improvement program; 40 grants awarded for a combined \$510,000 investment, added ADA compliance as an eligible reimbursement.

PARKS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



YEAR 1

- **Completed** - Maintain the structural integrity and ensure view sheds along the White River Trail; Eagle Scout project.
- **Completed** - Repair the boardwalk and develop a small watercraft launch at Lions Park; Public Works and Waterdog Outfitters.

YEAR 2

- **Completed** - Maintain the natural landscape, improve waterfront access, and improve view sheds with additional amenities at Svensson Park; Muskegon Conservation District.
- **No Action** - Expand the White Lake Pathway.

YEAR 3

- **In Progress** - Develop downtown pocket parks; TIFA 2024 Project
- **No Action** - Develop a boardwalk, view sheds, accessible switchback, and parking at Norman Park.
- **No Action** - Enhance Slocum Park with resurfaced tennis courts, gathering space, public art, and playground equipment.
- **No Action** - Pave the gravel parking area at the Funnell Field little league fields.

YEAR 4

- **No Action** - Develop Covell Park as a trailhead with a pavilion and restrooms.

YEAR 5

- **Completed** - Add amenities to Goodrich Park; gazebo and splash pad.
- **Completed** - Develop a community center for youth activities; Viking Athletic Center, Sports n Shorts.
- **No Action** - Develop a soccer complex at Funnell Field.

YEAR 5

- **Completed** - Add playground facilities to Gee Park.
- **Completed** - Improve natural restoration and amenities to Mill Pond Park.