



Whitewater Township February 2012

Questions, comments, ideas for future stories or to be added or removed from future mailings?

Contact:

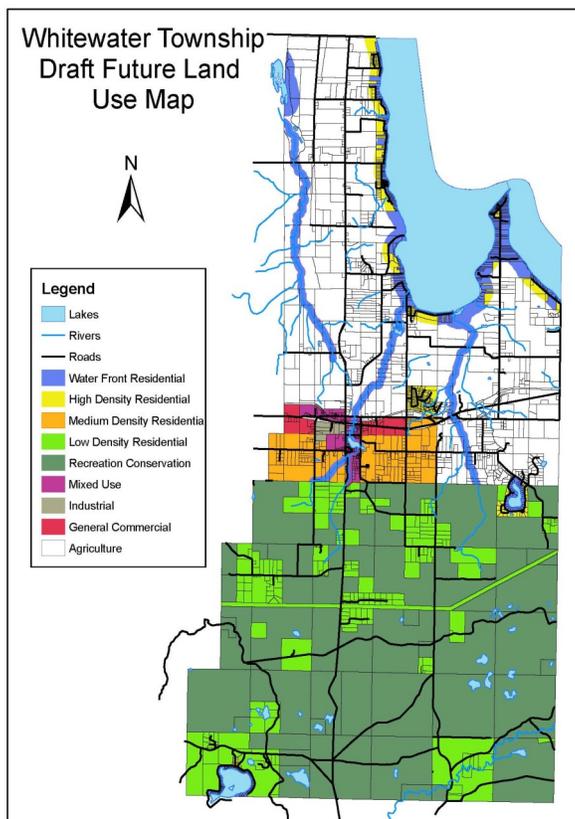
Leslie at Zoning@whitwatertownship.org or
Della at Treasurer@whitwatertownship.org

Monthly Calendar

2/14	Township Board
2/15	Planning Commission
2/21	Zoning Board of Appeals
2/28	Primary Election
3/7	Planning Commission
3/13	Township Board

MASTER PLAN UPDATE #2

As you are aware, the Planning Commission has been working on the Master Plan for the past several years. A Master Plan document (also known as a basic plan, development plan, township plan, land use plan, or any other term) is required by State Law IF zoning is to be in place within our Township.



A draft is nearing completion. It is the Planning Commission's hope that the draft will be ready by late March. While we have been allowing for input throughout the process, it is our hope to begin the State of Michigan's "formal" input period at that time.

For your review please find below the **DRAFT** Future Land Use Map and the categories. The Future Land Use Plan map is not a zoning map, but rather it is a generalized guide to the Township's desired land use patterns for the future. The Future Land Use Plan not only reflects the goals and policies of this Master Plan, but also assumes that land will be developed and redeveloped using the other regulatory tools the Township has at its disposal. Tools, such as the Zoning Ordinance, provide guidance for many elements of a development. Because the Future Land Use Plan map is a representation of the future, readers are cautioned to review other elements of the Master Plan, such as changes which may have occurred since the Master Plan was developed, and the conditions which existed at the time the Future Land Use Plan map and other elements of the Master Plan were prepared.

These proposed categories are further defined as follows:

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TOWNSHIP BOARD CREATES Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

At their meeting on February 7, 2012, the Township Board appointed a Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee has been tasked with updating the Township Parks & Recreation

Plan, preparing the annual budgets for Parks & Recreation, secure grants for park & recreation areas and facilitating volunteer groups to assist with improvements to the park & recreation areas. We welcome Brandon Hubbell, Paul Jorgensen, Phil Knapp, Bill Mouser and Mary Wittbrodt. With input from our residents and property owners we look forward to the implementation of improved parks & recreation opportunities within Whitewater Township.

Election Day Information February 28, 2012

Absentee ballots will be available in the clerk's office after January 16th. An application must be completed to receive the absentee ballot; since this is a closed primary, the voter must select either a Republican or Democratic ballot.

There are no other proposals on the ballot. The applications are available in the clerk's office or on the township website.



Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Awards Whitewater Township \$15,000 for Emergency Equipment

The Band awarded the Township \$15,000 toward the purchase of two LUCAS chest compressions systems, one for each ambulance. With LUCAS, defibrillation can occur during ongoing compressions that can prime the heart for a successful shock. The Lucas System reduces the number of EMTs or firefighters needed to assist with CPR during a cardiac emergency; provides continuous, effective compressions, maintaining good circulation in the patient while medics remain seat-belted for better safety in a mobile environment; and is simple and easy to use with minimal training. Our thanks to the Grand Traverse Band.



Fun Facts about the Elk River Chain of Lakes

- Elk Lake received its name from an elk skull with antlers attached found in the Elk River.
- “Skegemog” is an Algonquin word meaning “meeting of the waters”.
- Elk Lake has a surface area of 8,088 acres and includes 25.8 miles of shoreline. The lake has a maximum depth of 192 feet and an average depth of 67 feet.
- Skegemog Lake has a surface area of 2,755 acres and includes 15 miles of shoreline. The lake has a maximum depth of 29 feet and an average depth of 11 feet.
- Elk and Skegemog Lakes are at the bottom of the Elk River Watershed. The Watershed extends from close to Lake Charlevoix all the way to the mouth of the Elk River in Elk Rapids.
- The Elk River Watershed covers 320,000 acres and contains 54 lakes, 220 streams and tributaries, as well as 110 miles of connecting waterways. It is the largest watershed in the Grand Traverse Bay watershed.
- The Elk-Skegemog Watershed is a 402 square mile portion of Antrim County, Grand Traverse County, and Kalkaska County.
- The Elk Rapids area was first home to Native Americans known as the Anishinabek, who lived and played on its white sand beaches long before the first European settlers appeared.

• Nature Preserves On Our Lakes And Rivers

Many preserves exist on Elk and Skegemog Lakes. These were created over the years by the hard work and generosity of many donors. Large or small in size, each one represents a piece of our shoreline that will remain forever as it exists today. Many are best viewed by boat. Listed below are the existing natural areas on our lakes.

- ⇒ *Battle Creek Natural Area - 255 acres located at the south end of Elk Lake*
- ⇒ *Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area - 3300 acres with 5.5 miles of shoreline along Skegemog Lake*
- ⇒ *Palastra-Holm Nature Preserve - 19 acres on Elk Lake, just south of Whitewater Township Park*
- ⇒ *North Skegemog Natural Preserve - 37 acres at the northwestern tip of the Elk/Skegemog narrows*
- ⇒ *Kewadin Wetlands Natural Area - 41 acres along the northern-most shore of Elk Lake next to Milton Township Park.*

For more information visit www.elk-skegemog.org or [facebook.com/ElkSkegemogLakesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/ElkSkegemogLakesAssociation)



TREASURER'S CORNER - Ardella Benak

Normal Office Hours at the Township Hall are as follows:

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 12:00 pm—5:00 pm, other days by appointment.



- ◆ Winter Tax bills are due without penalty if paid by February 14, 2012
- ◆ Summer 2011 Deferments must be paid (interest will be applied if not paid) by 2/14/12
- ◆ A 3% penalty will be assessed on delinquent property taxes starting 2/15/12
- ◆ Last day to pay your property taxes here at Whitewater Township Hall 2/29/12
- ◆ Delinquent 2011 Real Property taxes are turned over to GT County for collection on 3/1/12
- ◆ A 4% penalty plus a 1% interest fee will be assessed by GTC starting on 3/1/12
- ◆ Payments mailed must be postmarked by February 14, 2012 to not incur penalty & interest fees.
- ◆ When paying by **CASH**, please have the **EXACT** amount of your tax bill.
- ◆ Property taxes starting with the numbers: 28-13-900 will continue to be collected at the Township Treasurer's office. These are Personal Property taxes and they do not get turned over to the County.

Recreation/Conservation - Land designated for Recreation / Conservation is intended to protect, preserve and enhance unique and vital natural features and provide areas for parks and recreation, and open spaces which preserve and enhance the rural character of the Township while, at the same time, broadening recreation and conservation opportunities in appropriate areas. Both public and private recreational / conservation lands are included in this category.

Agriculture – Consistent with its agricultural heritage, this Master Plan expresses a strong desire to preserve agricultural activity and the rural character of the Township as a predominant future land use. This designation encompasses those areas of the Township whose principal activity is, and ought to be, farming. While residential uses are allowed, deference is given to Agricultural uses.

Low Density Single Family Residential - This designation provides for one (1) dwelling unit per two acres (2) or greater. Low Density Single Family Residential development is planned for areas where large recreational conservation use is occurring and which are compatible with existing development. Some areas designated as Low Density Single Family Residential may also contain natural resource features worthy of preservation. The maintenance of Low Density Single Family Residential uses in certain areas is intended to provide for the continued preservation of open space, natural areas, and the Township's rural atmosphere. Areas planned for Low Density Single Family development are characterized by woodlands, public lands and areas which will be served by improved roads in the near future.

Medium Density Single Family Residential - This designation provides for one (1) dwelling unit per forty thousand square feet (40,000) or greater. Medium Density Single Family Residential is planned for areas with existing medium density residential development and areas where soils and other natural resources, and road conditions are moderately capable of supporting additional development. Some areas designated as Medium Density Single Family Residential also may contain natural resource features worthy of preservation.

High Density Single Family Residential – This designation provides for one (1) dwelling unit on less than 40,000 sq. ft. sites. High Density Single Family Residential development is planned for areas compatible with or near existing high density development. This land use is planned for areas with adequate roads and where natural resource conditions are most capable of supporting development. The designation of an extensive amount of new high density development will likely require the construction of new community sewer and water service. Therefore, most areas designated under this category are existing high density residential developments. Where new areas are designated, the determining factor regarding density will be on-site septic system capability.

Waterfront Residential - This reflects the traditional pattern of residential development that occurred predominantly in the 1930's, characterized by lots smaller than currently required. These lots were originally platted for recreational cottages, but many houses have been enlarged and lots combined to create permanent residences. These areas do not reflect the low density patterns that are more characteristic of current development patterns in the areas that surround lakes, but are intended to recognize existing development patterns established during a period of time pre-dating zoning regulations.

Manufactured Home Park - Land designated Manufactured Home Park Residential is intended to provide for manufactured home parks.

Mixed-Use/Village – Mixed/Village is intended to be a traditional village with a variety of uses, small lots, shallow building setbacks and a quaint appearance. Uses will include a mixture of commercial, office, service, apartment, townhouse and single family residential.

General Commercial – Land and buildings where products, goods or services are provided to service a larger community area. These uses will be larger uses and will generate higher traffic volumes. This land use designation will be used for the maintenance and expansion of the existing commercial clusters located along M-72.

Limited Industrial - Limited Industrial is intended to accommodate warehouse, research, laboratory, and light industrial uses. Such uses are intended to be enclosed within a building, and external effects are not to be experienced beyond the property boundaries. Outdoor storage is intended to be minimal.

Comments? Questions? Please send them to zoning@whitewatertownship.org or call 231-267-5141 ext. 21. Also, please attend a Planning Commission meeting.