

What is Happening at Lion Mountain?

Many people have contacted us to inquire as to the progress on cleaning up septic leachate pollution on Whitefish Lake, and specifically about the Lion Mountain neighborhood. First, WLI's key role in the process is to conduct water quality research and provide our analysis to citizens and resource managers so they can make informed decisions. After providing that information through our *Investigation of Septic Leachate to the Shoreline Area of Whitefish Lake* (Curtis & Koopal, 2012), we were tasked with being technical facilitators to the City of Whitefish's ad hoc Whitefish Community Wastewater Management Committee. As technical facilitators, we assisted in the process of developing the *Whitefish Community Wastewater Management Plan*, and later committed to managing the process of conducting Preliminary Engineering Reports (PERs) for neighborhoods identified as having septic leachate pollution on the lake. In addition, WLI developed relationships with funders and community organizations to support the wastewater management clean-up process and to reduce the financial burden to the public.

The first neighborhood PER was conducted for Lion Mountain by Carver Engineering and approved by the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) and the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP). With the PER complete, project partners had the option of implementing the recommendations of the PER and applying for "construction" funding. Project partners recently decided not to apply for this funding in the 2016 funding cycle. The reason for this decision is that there are a number of goals that need to be