



in JEN ee um: Latin. Natural disposition of talents. Root word for "engineer"

# Ingenium

FALL 2021

A PUBLICATION OF EMH&T ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS, SCIENTISTS

EMH&T

**5 Point Roundabout**  
**Whitehall Community Park**  
**Surveying Services**  
**New Albany Amphitheater**

## Delivering **solutions** for **95 years**.

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When anyone asks me what EMH&T is, my answer may not be what you would think. I do not say “engineering firm” or “engineering and surveying.” I do not say any of the words that are in our EMH&T tag line: engineers, surveyors, planners, scientists. While that may be the profession of many of our staff, as a company, EMH&T delivers solutions.

Sounds like a marketing ploy, I know. But think about when you call on a company. The circumstance that drove you to make the call was rooted in the need to have a problem solved.

It is not a new roundabout; it is a solution to a complex and failing intersection. Read about the not-so-common roundabout on page 9 that significantly improved a 5-way skewed intersection in Mahoning County.

It is not a new park; it is creating a community asset that enhances lives. Read about the many facets that went into turning a deteriorating park into a gem for the City of Whitehall on page 2.

It is not a road widening; it is a critical step in promoting economic expansion. Read about the project in Reynoldsburg that brought together the local city, county, townships, and private developer to bring the benefit to all on page 12.

That is why I don’t call EMH&T an engineering firm. We are a team of professionals that connect our wide range of expertise across disciplines to solve problems. The tools we use include engineering, surveying, land planning, environmental sciences, and more. The result is always a solution to our clients’ needs.

Delivering solutions is not a marketing ploy. It is a culture.

At EMH&T, we take the time to understand each individual client’s needs and goals, and ensure we achieve them. Our personal investment starts before a project even begins, and lasts well after it is completed. We provide solutions on projects for which we share a sense of ownership with our client-partners.

This year we celebrate 95 years delivering solutions for communities across the state, country, and indeed, the world.

Sandy Doyle-Ahern  
President

# Ingenium

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# TURNING UNDERUSED PARK INTO A COMMUNITY GEM

## Whitehall Community Park

In 1988, the City of Whitehall received a wonderful gift. As aerospace giant Rockwell International was closing its Columbus manufacturing facility, it chose to give Whitehall the 80-acre park its employees had enjoyed as a company benefit since the 1950s.

Rockwell and its predecessor companies had been a major community employer since it opened its first manufacturing plant in 1940. During World War II, and later the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the company manufactured many different models of military aircraft from its plant at E. Fifth Ave. and N. Yearling Rd., just south of then Port Columbus Airport in Columbus, Ohio. And, many employees lived in Whitehall.

Community Park served Whitehall for many years, mainly through an activity building that was originally built for the Rockwell employees, as well as softball fields that hosted many corporate and league games over the decades. By the early 2010s, the park had lost much of its appeal, and as resources shifted over time, the City put a priority to elevate Community Park to its full potential.

### Master Planning and Infrastructure Improvements

In 2014, Whitehall engaged EMH&T in creating a Park System Master Plan for all of the City's parks. The Planning and Landscape Architecture Studio, led by Jim Dziatkowicz and Franco Manno, developed the plan and the City began

implementing it incrementally. Whitehall self-performed many of the projects and also worked with EMH&T's Public Works Division in the role of City Engineer for larger projects.

With an eye toward upcoming redevelopment and improvements planned near and around Community Park, the City recognized a revived park would serve as an additional catalyst for its redevelopment efforts.

According to Shannon Sorrell, Whitehall's Director of Parks and Recreation, Whitehall's original desire in creating a Park Master Plan was to identify the wants and needs in the community, and then align those with objectives for improving park infrastructure and resources. At the



core of the efforts was a desire to use reinvestment into the city's parks as a means of improving quality of life for all community members.

"The reason we revisited and updated the Master Plan in 2017," said Shannon, "was to incorporate developing resources and relationships, which expanded the role of the Whitehall Community Park in the serving of Whitehall residents."

"Through partnerships, grants, and development, Whitehall Community Park became possible and the project quickly transformed this underutilized asset into an anchor for the north entry of the Whitehall community—offering a beautiful nature park, Big Walnut Creek access, and Big Walnut Trail connectivity.

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*"The reason we revisited and updated the Master Plan in 2017 was to incorporate developing resources and relationships, which expanded the role of the Whitehall Community Park in the serving of Whitehall residents."*

Whitehall Director of Parks and Recreation Shannon Sorrell

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The park also became the home of the Community Park YMCA, which offers fitness, family-hub spaces, teen center, nutrition education, indoor turf, and a unique summer camp," she added.

Once again, EMH&T's P/LA Studio jumped into action to refine the Community Park piece of the larger Master Plan and turn an underutilized park it into a place where Whitehall residents would want to go with their families to enjoy the natural environment so close, and right in their own City.

With the park's Master Plan in hand, EMH&T set about to design its various elements. As with the other parks, the City self-performed some components of the master plan, but its wide-reaching scope meant that several of EMH&T's divisions would be working together to complete major components of the project.

With individual projects ranging from a new park entry and new access roads, to features like a restored natural meadow and a tributary stream restoration, the need for EMH&T's multi-disciplinary capabilities was essential.

### From Plan to Reality

Most of the components of the Master Plan have been implemented in the past three years. The park slopes naturally down toward Big Walnut Creek, which runs along its far eastern edge. The upper area included the park entrance, as well as playgrounds and the existing activity center. The lower area contained mainly softball fields, but with diminishing popularity from within the community,

maintenance, and the resources needed for upkeep, keeping it for that use was fiscally and logistically unsustainable.

EMH&T's Master Plan developed specific uses for each of these areas. The upper area was redesigned for active use, while the lower area was redesigned for passive, nature-focused, recreation.

The redesigned upper area includes the renovated park entryway and circulation roads, improved and expanded parking, an improved walking path, improved and expanded picnic shelters, and improved playgrounds. Designed with a soft rubber material instead of mulch as a base, the new playgrounds became more accessible to children, adults, and caregivers, regardless of physical abilities.

Another significant planned improvement to the upper park area was the renovation and expansion of the existing activity center. Built in 1962, the mid-century modern style building was as an amenity within the company park and used by Rockwell employees for a variety of activities. The City of Whitehall also used it as an activity building for the community.

Improvements and an expansion of this building were part of the Master Plan. During the creation of the enhanced plan, the City worked alongside the YMCA of Central Ohio to create not only an innovative business model for the Central Ohio YMCA, but also a unique approach to the building's renovation itself. The teaming resulted in the original 10,500 square foot building being completely rehabbed with a new addition built onto it.

The new building boasts 25,600 square feet of space and includes a 4,000-square-foot indoor artificial-turf field designed for youth soccer, a teaching kitchen, multipurpose room that provides a place to read or study, and a wellness center with various types of fitness equipment. EMH&T developed the landscape design for the building and the City and YMCA team worked together to implement the robust planting around the building.

Major changes came to the lower area, which was designed for more passive recreation. It required the addition of a new access road and path to bring vehicles and people down the hill to a new parking lot. Once there, multiple options exist for park users.

In place of the repurposed softball fields, park users can now enjoy several areas of recreation. The new elements in the lower park area include a restored meadow with prairie and native plants, a new nature trail running through and around the meadow, and open lawn areas.

### Renewed Park Gains Public Approval

"The public is very vocal about the aesthetic redevelopment of both park levels. The 6-acre flower meadow is frequently photographed, grandparents have approached us to rave about the safe creek access for them and their grandchildren, and the new playgrounds on the upper level are a huge hit for kids, as well as fitness focused visitors," said Shannon.

"Also, as congregate facilities are opening back up, the public will begin to see and use more of the YMCA in the



coming year; from fitness classes to the afterschool teen program, turf areas, to summer camps. Whitehall's YMCA is uniquely scaled to our communities' needs and resources, and connects residents to neighboring communities for opportunities such as swimming," she added.

In addition, the plan called for a tributary stream to Big Walnut Creek, which runs through a section of the lower park area, to be restored and turned into a park amenity. EMH&T's Water Resources Division provided engineering, design, and permitting services for the restoration of approximately 800 linear feet of stream within a 115-foot wide constructed floodplain and planted riparian corridor. The project also included the restoration of pools and riffles in this urban stream channel.

The City funded the project through a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund (COCF) grant, which then required inclusion of educational signage describing the process and its benefits. EMH&T's P/LA Studio worked with City Parks & Recreation and Environmental staff members to design the interpretive signage as part of the project.

Another significant improvement to the lower park areas is the addition of a canoe/kayak put-in within Big Walnut Creek. This addition provides a completely new activity option within the park. EMH&T's Water Resources and Environmental Divisions designed this addition, which is in its final construction stages and waiting to welcome interested creek enthusiasts.

The 9-hole disc golf course is another highly popular activity that transitions



*Infographics like the one pictured were installed to provide an educational resource for the many natural elements of the park.*

between both the upper active park zone and the lower passive park zone. Additionally, an improved sledding hill takes advantage of the grade difference between the park's levels and is a popular place during snow events in the winter.

### **An Award Winning Redesign**

In 2020, The Whitehall Community Park YMCA project received the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Governor's Award. The Governor's Award, OPRA's top honor, was established in 2010 to recognize the one park and recreation program, or project that has had the most significant impact on quality of life in the preceding year.

Some of the Master Plan's elements still remain to be implemented. As plans for the redevelopment of the adjacent areas into mixed-use and commercial developments progress, these additional elements will be implemented by the City, further enhancing the park's allure

and creating an area that will attract new businesses and residents to Whitehall for many years to come.

According to Shannon, as the commercial and residential redevelopment of neighboring properties kick off later this year, the city expects to see more people enjoying the WCP amenities.

"The integration of the park into the new development through strategic design will help people to travel between the areas in a fluid manner. Park users will be able to visit shops, restaurants, and use additional trails while residents will be able to enjoy the features of the park surrounding where they work and live," Shannon said. ■

*To learn more about EMH&T's park master planning and landscape architecture capabilities, contact Jim Dziatkowicz, PLA, ASLA, EMH&T's Director of Planning and Landscape Architecture at (614) 775-4703 or email him at [jdziatkowicz@emht.com](mailto:jdziatkowicz@emht.com).*



# IS AN ON-CALL SURVEYOR CONTRACT RIGHT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

When it comes to land ownership is not the last word. Every community is endowed with non-ownership right-of-ways and easements, meaning the community has the right to either use or traverse the land. Defining the physical nature of both is where reliable land survey shines.

“Many communities are finding it more efficient to maintain a contractual agreement—on-call or master service agreement—with a professional services company, rather than keep a land surveyor on staff or hire a company randomly when the need arises,” said Mike Peecook, PS, EMH&T’s Director of Land Survey.

Is this an option for your community? Consider:

- How often does your community require a study on an easement or right-of-way, a legal land description, or courthouse research?
- How quickly do you require land survey services when the need arises?
- Do you have a strong relationship with a reliable and accurate professional land surveyor or land Survey Company that can meet your needs?
- Can you make a single phone call to get the job done?

“EMH&T’s Land Surveying Division maintains several on-call contracts with communities in Ohio,” said Mike. “The firm has the capabilities to perform virtually any type of horizontal or vertical land survey. These services include ALTA, topographic and boundary surveys, environmental surveys, and FEMA flood elevation surveys.”



Project Managers Heather King, PS, Josh Meyer, PE, PS, Matt Kirk, PS, and Brandon King, PS, are all licensed professionals that lead teams serving both public and private clients. Heather and Josh focus particularly on municipal client needs.

Making that job easier, EMH&T uses state-of-the-art technology—including Windows Mobile data collectors; advanced robotic instruments; 3D laser scanning technology; and GPS receivers—to measure and map the boundaries and features to provide the most accurate and timely data available.

“EMH&T works directly with clients, and supports our in-house project managers on a wide variety of public and private infrastructure,” said Josh. “In fact, the thousands of projects performed by EMH&T annually have the common thread of EMH&T land surveying.”

EMH&T has a thorough understanding of the needed survey types to complete the scope of services such as: boundary retracement surveys for affected properties, topographic surveys of the alignments selected for new infrastructure, existing utility as-built surveys, and preparation of easement descriptions, and exhibits for construction of new infrastructure.

“Our goal is to maintain the project schedule and provide timely surveying

services that coordinate with the overall project plan,” said Josh.

An in-office slate of survey technicians perform courthouse research, compile documentation for field crews, and process the data that comes back from the field.

Field Crew Coordinators Flint Baker and Dave McNamara manage the field assignments for 25 crew members, each having extensive experience, and specialize in a variety of land surveying such as GPS and robotic surveying, 3D laser scanning technology, as well as other types of remote sensing equipment for use along congested highways, relatively inaccessible areas, and right-of-way surveying.

Each surveying crew is led by a tenured crew chief. Depending on the scheduling and budgetary constraints of a project, EMH&T has the flexibility to work with three, two, or even single-person field crews mastering the latest in remote sensing and robotic equipment. ■

*If the idea of professional land survey services available at your fingertips feels right for your community, contact Mike Peacock, PS, at (614) 775-4104 or email [mpeacock@emht.com](mailto:mpeacock@emht.com).*



**Chad Berkley**

## Survey Services

### Preliminary Surveying Services

- ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys
- Boundary Surveys—Lot Surveys and Lot Splits
- Easement Documents
- Annexation Documents
- Zoning Documents
- As-built Surveys
- FEMA Flood Elevation Surveys and Certificates
- GPS Control Surveys
- Route Surveying
- Railroad Surveys
- Environmental Surveys
- Topographic Surveys
- Gas Transmission Surveys
- Subdivision Plats
- Condominium Documents
- Bridge Surveys
- Aerial mapping control
- Utility Surveys

### Construction Layout

- Highway/Roadway
- Public Underground Utilities
- Residential Subdivision and Condominiums
- Commercial and Institutional Sites

### Technology

- Windows Mobile-based Data Collectors
- State-of-the-art Servo Robotic Total Stations
- Trimble GPS—GNSS Receivers
- Trimble Real-time Kinematic GNSS Receivers
- Trimble GeoXH and GeoXT Handheld Mapping Grade Receivers
- 3D Scanners
- Bathymetric/Sonar Equipment

### Specialized Training

- Registered Professional Land Surveyors Certified in Multiple States
- ODOT Prequalification Right of Way (ROW) Plan Development
- E-RAILSAFE Credential



## Meet Mike Peecook, PS

This July, Mike Peecook, PS, took over one of the state's largest land survey groups when he joined EMH&T as the new Director. Mike brings to EMH&T 17 years of industry experience.

Mike also served for many years in the US Air Force, where he was stationed at the Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi, the Ali Al Salem Air Base located in Kuwait, and the Osan Air Base located near Songtan Station in the city of Pyeongtaek, South Korea.

*Ingenium* sat down with Mike to learn a little more about him so we could share it with all of you!

***Ingenium:*** Are you originally from this area (or even Ohio)?

**Mike:** Originally from Wadsworth, Ohio (near Akron), but have been living in the Columbus area for 11 years.

***Ingenium:*** What sparked your interest in becoming a surveyor?

**Mike:** After taking an AutoCAD class in high school my interest in engineering sparked, which led me to join the Air Force as an Engineering Apprentice (EA). During my training as an EA, I was introduced to surveying and I gravitated to it quickly, I held the record for fastest T-16 Theodolite set up. After that, it was full steam ahead in pursuing a surveying career.

***Ingenium:*** What year did you join the armed forces? What prompted that decision?

**Mike:** I enlisted late 2002 for boot camp and had the pleasure to be on kitchen patrol Christmas Day. The decision to join was based on a couple of reasons: Family history—Dad was a Warrant Officer in the Army as a Huey helicopter pilot in Vietnam and awarded the Purple Heart. September 11th—I felt the need to do something and felt called to step up. It paid for college. Lastly, I realized I could use the structure and discipline.

***Ingenium:*** What have you enjoyed most about your career so far?

**Mike:** The variety and range of work. I love Surveying and feel that it is the most fascinating profession. We get to solve problems you didn't know you had.

***Ingenium:*** What types of clients have you served in your previous jobs?

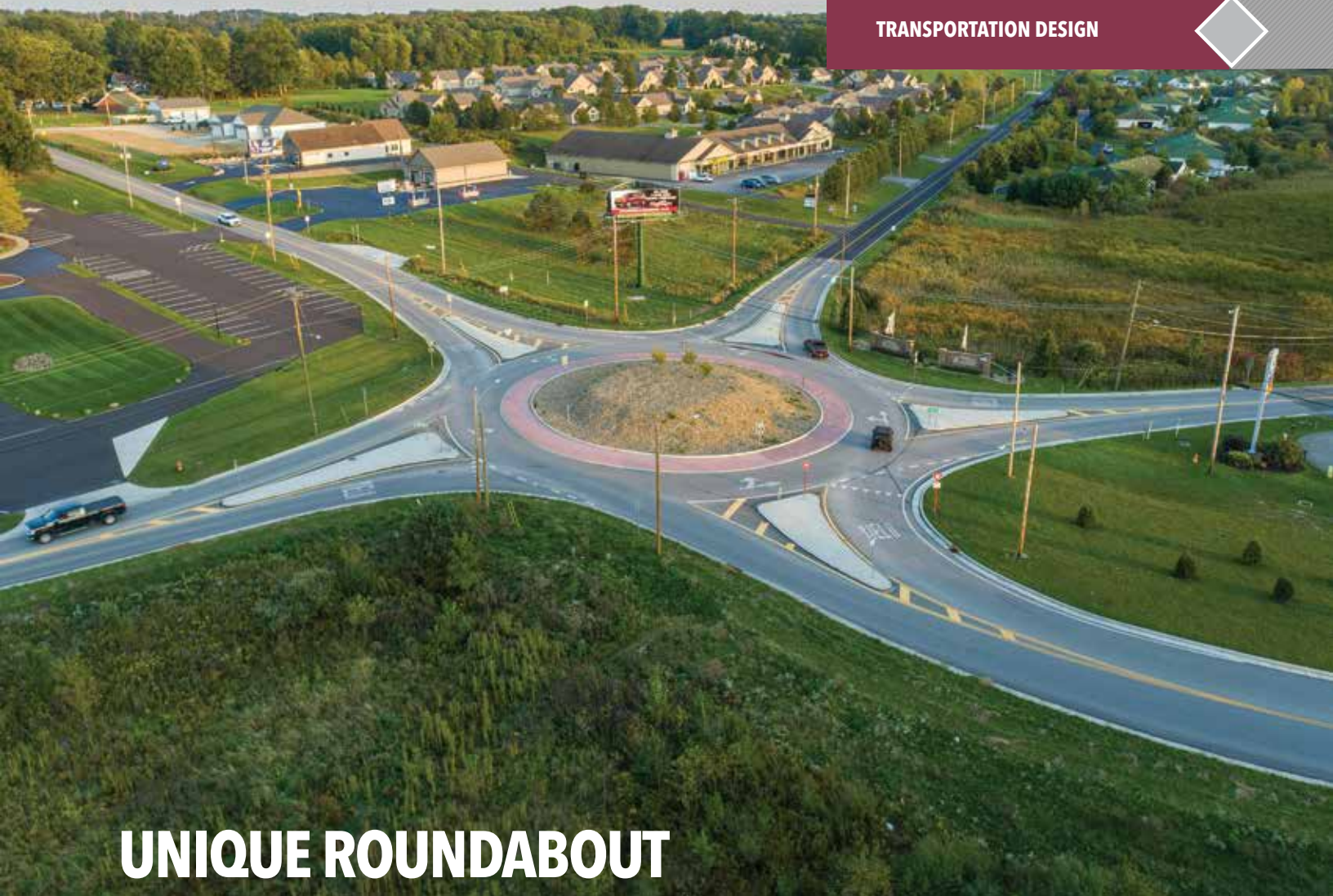
**Mike:** I've worked with a nice variety of government, public, private, and residential.

***Ingenium:*** What have you discovered in your new role at EMH&T?

**Mike:** I'm very excited to be a part of the team and the culture. EMH&T is very invested in its people, which makes them invested in their clients. The personal ownership of the work is appealing. I've always held EMH&T with high regard, so this opportunity is very important to me.

***Ingenium:*** Anything else you'd like to share?

**Mike:** I recently became an official dad! My wife and I just welcomed a baby boy to the family, he is 5 months old and his name is River.



# UNIQUE ROUNDABOUT SMOOTHS TRAFFIC AT COMPLEX INTERSECTION

## Mahoning County Five Points Roundabout

Population growth and increased development continue across Ohio, even in areas that have not traditionally been impacted. One such example is Mahoning County in northeast Ohio. Located within the Youngstown metropolitan area, this part of the state was hit hard by economic downturns in the early 1980s as the area's largest employers—the steel mills—shut down. After many years of decline, fortunes turned around and new industries began replacing the area's former mills and other heavy manufacturing.

As an improved local economy took hold, people were drawn back, and areas that were once quite rural began to see new housing and commercial

development. One such area was near the eastern edge of the county in Poland and Springfield Townships. Within this area is the convergence of three major roadways: Western Reserve Road, Springfield Road, and North Lima Road. These three roadways intersect each other at a point that local residents call the Five Points. At this intersection, Western Reserve Road and North Lima Road cross each other, and Springfield Road's northern terminus meets them, creating a unique five-point intersection.

The intersection was controlled by six (yes, six!) stop signs and because of the large area it covered, driver confusion over right-of-way was significant.



Before.



Rendered plan.

Drivers reaching their stop sign at the same time as another driver were often not sure who had the right-of-way to proceed through the intersection. This situation caused delayed stop times and increasing levels of congestion and traffic queuing, especially during peak travel times.

To determine the best engineering solution for this problem intersection, The Mahoning County Engineer's Office engaged EMH&T.

EMH&T evaluated current and future traffic volumes at this poorly operating intersection in order to provide a long-term solution focused on improving safety and capacity within the corridor for this ODOT LPA project in District 4.

The result of this effort showed that the design of a roundabout intersection would improve traffic conditions by reducing the complexity of the intersection, and minimize the number of decisions drivers must make. These changes would reduce driver confusion regarding right-of-way, and improve capacity.

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“These slight modifications allowed us to design a modern roundabout that accommodates all vehicle types while also achieving Mahoning County’s goal of improving intersection efficiency and safety for the traveling public.”

Jason Smallwood, PE

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EMH&T’s preliminary engineering phases evaluated alternative alignments and roundabout configurations, while minimizing impacts to properties and environmentally sensitive areas adjacent to the project. EMH&T’s design considered impacts on existing properties, as well as future development to ensure the five-leg single-lane roundabout would achieve the County’s desire to improve safety while providing opportunities for future economic development in the region.

The roundabout was Mahoning County’s third such intersection and is rather unique because it accommodates five legs, whereas most roundabouts accommodate only three or four.

According to EMH&T Senior Traffic Engineer Jason Smallwood, PE, even with the additional roadway intersecting it, the roundabout’s design is quite similar to any other roundabout.

“We applied the same series of design and performance standards to this roundabout’s design, although the additional leg made it a bit more challenging,” said Jason. These standards include such things as the approach geometry, speed control, sight distance, and evaluation of truck turns.

According to Jason, one of the challenges with this roundabout was determining the correct approach geometry. Because of the acute angles and short distances between adjacent roadways, centerline alignment and deflection modifications were needed on several legs of the intersection. The design had to force the right level of speed

reduction, but at the same time allow for sufficient space to accommodate turning movement onto adjacent roadways.

“We also had to accommodate tractor-trailer trucks within the intersection, as well as school buses,” added Jason.

Because of these factors, the diameter of the roundabout was slightly larger and an outside truck apron was included between two of the closer roadways to allow trucks to navigate the tight turns.

“These slight modifications allowed us to design a modern roundabout that accommodates all vehicle types while also achieving Mahoning County’s goal of improving intersection efficiency and safety for the traveling public,” said Jason.

The roundabout also incorporates landscaping within the center circle and appropriate levels of street lighting to allow for clear vision and sightlines.

The Five Points Roundabout was completed and opened to the public in December of 2019. ■

*To learn more about EMH&T’s roundabout design capabilities, please contact Jason Smallwood, PE, at (614) 775-4645 or email him at [jsmallwood@emht.com](mailto:jsmallwood@emht.com).*



# **TWO AGENCIES COMBINE FORCES ON MAJOR CORRIDOR INVESTMENT**

## **Reynoldsburg's Waggoner Road Improvements**



Waggoner Road in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, has served as a major north-south corridor within the city for decades. Even though it is a winding, hilly, “country” road, residential development has cropped up all along its scenic 2.2 mile length between East Broad Street and East Main Street, two of the region’s major east-west arteries.

As residential development increased, the usual issues with traffic and safety followed. As the City Engineer for Reynoldsburg, EMH&T has been aware of these issues and has often conferred with the city on the best way to alleviate them.

According to EMH&T’s Ryan Andrews, PE, who leads the firm’s engineering services for the City, the problems along Waggoner Road are a long-term issue that Reynoldsburg has wanted to address for years.

“It is a challenging corridor to drive and even more so to walk, and improvements for both driver and pedestrian safety are an important investment in City leadership’s eyes,” said Ryan.

The travel issues along this corridor became even more relevant this past summer when Columbus-based homebuilder M/I Homes announced the start of construction on over 300 single-family homes in a new subdivision called Spring Hill Farm, which will join the many other subdivisions along Waggoner Road. EMH&T’s Development Division is providing M/I Homes with professional engineering services for this significant project, the first new housing development in Reynoldsburg in 15 years.

“The addition of these new homes will add to the already taxed public infrastructure on Waggoner Road,” said Ryan.

Reynoldsburg Mayor Joe Begeny is focused on solving the problems posed by this challenging corridor.

“The Waggoner Road project will not only provide connectivity that all our residents would like as well as provide traffic relief, but, it also addresses serious safety issues for pedestrian and vehicular travel,” he said.

### **OPWC, Other Funding Offers Hope**

Working with EMH&T, the City of Reynoldsburg filed an application for financial assistance with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) to obtain additional funding for this major corridor redevelopment project along this well-used roadway.

The OPWC application focuses on Phase 1 of the project, which at an estimated cost of \$7 million, runs 4,600 linear feet starting at East Main Street and ending at Priestley Drive, which provides access into one of the corridor’s existing residential developments.

Phase 1 will provide full reconstruction and widening of the roadway pavement to accommodate a center turn lane where significant intersections are present, the addition of curb and gutter, a multi-use path, and sidewalk. EMH&T will design all existing non-ADA compliant curb ramps to replace and conform to current regulations, and ramps will be added to all intersection crossings. The undersized storm sewer system will be modified and enlarged to improve

drainage within the project corridor, and the old, deteriorated water main will be replaced. Street lighting will be replaced to improve nighttime visibility.

Only about 30% of the roadway is owned by the City of Reynoldsburg, with the remaining portions owned by Franklin County. And, since the project represents such a significant improvement to access and safety for the area’s residents—both city and county—the Franklin County Engineer’s Office (FCEO) chose to partner with Reynoldsburg to help fund a portion of the project.

Additionally, since a portion of the project area lies within Truro Township, Township leaders also chose to pitch in some funding for the project. Additional project funding will come from Tax

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“The Waggoner Road project will not only provide connectivity that all our residents would like as well as provide traffic relief, but, it also addresses serious safety issues for pedestrian and vehicular travel.”

Mayor Joe Begeny





Increment Financing (TIF) revenue generated by the new M/I housing development.

### More Improvements to Come

With the OPWC funding decision expected in December, the City is hopeful that the project will be approved. Since EMH&T has already completed preliminary planning and cost estimating, the engineering design will begin in the late fall/early winter, and the project let for bid and a construction start in 2023.

Phase 2 of the project will be planned for a 2024 start and continue the same engineering design elements from Priestley Drive, north to East Broad Street, just over one mile in distance.

A companion project to the Waggoner Road redevelopment will be significant improvements to Pine Quarry Park. This Reynoldsburg City Park is located just east of Waggoner Road, but currently has access only from a residential street in an adjacent neighborhood.

EMH&T's Planning and Landscape Architecture Studio developed a Master Plan for this park that will add new amenities, and create a new entry drive into the park from Waggoner Road. While this project is not yet funded, the chances of it happening significantly increase once the Waggoner Road corridor improvements are under way.

"Since EMH&T serves as the City Engineer for Reynoldsburg, we are better able to

bring our multi-disciplinary capabilities to bear on behalf of the City and its many municipal engineering and construction projects," said Ryan.

"For instance, this project will include other EMH&T divisions such as transportation, traffic, and our land surveyors. We are able to serve Reynoldsburg effectively and efficiently in providing the professional services needed to successfully complete this significant project for the City," Ryan added. ■

*To learn more about EMH&T's municipal engineering services, contact Ryan Andrews, PE, at (614) 775-4555 or email him at [randrews@emht.com](mailto:randrews@emht.com).*



Rendering of Main Street and Waggoner Road intersection looking north.

# NEW ALBANY ADDS AMPHITHEATER, CREATING CULTURAL DISTRICT

Last year was one like no other in many ways, but at the same time, it was business as usual for many others, including the many construction projects across Central Ohio. In New Albany, a major addition to the downtown area began construction even as the COVID pandemic was setting in.

The Charleen & Charles Hinson Amphitheater broke ground in February of 2020, located adjacent to the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, and across Dublin-Granville Road from the new Rose Run Park. Construction continued throughout the pandemic and the new facility was completed in July 2021.

EMH&T provided professional site/civil engineering for the \$7 million project, which was designed by DLR Group/Westlake Reed Leskosky. The amphitheater seats 800 people and fulfills plans developed over two decades ago by the City's civic leaders for this type of venue in the community.

The amphitheater sits on land owned by the New Albany School District and will be operated and maintained by the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA).

The new amphitheater helps create a "cultural district" in this area of the City with the McCoy Center, home of the New Albany Symphony Orchestra and other arts organizations.

In addition to the professional performances anticipated at the new facility, the New Albany-Plain Local School District will also make use of the amphitheater for a range of programs and performances.

The new amphitheater will bring a range of enriching opportunities to the community. In addition to hosting resident arts groups such as the New Albany Symphony, the New Albany Community Chorus, and Community Band, it may well host other central Ohio organizations such as the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, CATCO, and others. There is also the potential to host national and international performers. The first ticketed event at the new venue was held on September 10, 2021.



*Photo by Alan Hinson.*



## New Crew Stadium Ushers in Next Era of Columbus Soccer

On Saturday, July 3, 2021, the Columbus Crew SC, its owners, coaches, and fans celebrated the highly anticipated end to a long and initially uncertain journey to Lower.com Field, the soccer club's new \$314 million home and the country's newest MLS stadium.

EMH&T was proud to be a part of the new stadium's journey, providing a range of professional services to the Crew's new owners as they maneuvered their way through the process of designing and building a 21st century soccer stadium. Working as a member of the team led by national architecture firm HNTB, EMH&T provided professional site/civil engineering services associated with the site improvements for the new stadium, located on the site of the former Jaeger Machine Factory north of Nationwide Boulevard on the far western edge of the Columbus Arena District. EMH&T's Urban Design Division worked closely with not only the team owners, but also other key stakeholders, including landscape architects MKSK, Nationwide Realty Investors, and the City of Columbus.

EMH&T's Water Resources Division was also a key player in the project due to the site's location within the Scioto River's 100-year floodplain. Because the stadium's soccer pitch was designed to sit

10 feet below the 100-year floodplain elevation, EMH&T worked with a hydrogeological consultant to evaluate and recommend measures to protect the stadium from fluctuating groundwater levels influenced by periodic river flooding. We also worked with HNTB to develop a floodgate closure solution for a stadium entry point below the 100-year flood elevation. The development of flood protection solutions included coordination with City of Columbus staff, representatives of ODNR's floodplain management program, FEMA Region V, and national experts on FEMA's published design guidelines for flood protection of non-residential structures.

EMH&T has been actively involved in the development of the Arena District since its beginning. Our involvement began in 2000 with Nationwide Arena, then came Huntington Park in 2009 (voted Ball Park of the Year) and now in 2021 the Columbus Crew SC's Lower.com Field. In addition to the upgrades and additions to the utility and roadway infrastructure, EMH&T has provided professional services for not only these three sporting venues, but also many of the commercial and residential buildings and parking structures within the Arena District.





Proposed looking north on I-75

## HAM-75 win

Congratulations to Project Manager Abby Cueva and her team on the recent HAM-75-1.95 win in ODOT District 8! She, along with several members from Transportation Planning and Design, Traffic, Design Innovation and Visualization, Survey, Environmental, and Water Resources, will provide Final Design services for the project for an estimated fee of \$13 million.

Working from the preferred alternative of the I-75 and Western Hills Viaduct interchange identified during the 2010 Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Study, EMH&T offered an innovative and cost-saving interchange alternative that will be further explored at the onset of the project. Feedback from the District indicated that the concepts and multiple cost-saving ideas presented were unique from the EMH&T team and ultimately won the project!

The team will complete the design and prepare construction plans for the \$175 million project, which includes the following:

- Reconstruction and widening of one mile of I-75 from the Findlay Street overpass to the Marshall Avenue overpass.
- Construction of a new interchange to connect I-75 to the Western Hills Viaduct (WHV), coordinated closely with the City's plan to replace the WHV.
- Replacement of six bridges and 23 new retaining walls.
- Evaluation of local connections to the WHV interchange that will include preparation of an interchange modification study for the original Brent Spence Bridge Access Point Request.



Existing looking south on I-75

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## Giving Back

*EMH&T has long valued its commitment to give back to the communities where we live and work. The firm offers employees paid time off so they can participate in a wide variety of charitable efforts. Working as individuals on personal passions to division staff working together on a group project, philanthropic endeavors are held in high esteem at EMH&T. Here's a brief look at how some of our staff have been giving back.*



### Environmental Tree Planting

This past spring, the EMH&T's Environmental Division volunteered at the City of Whitehall Tree Planting in the Park at Whitehall Community Park.

Environmental Division team member Christine Rahtz and Taylor Gleaves gave their time and joined nonprofit Firefly Support Services for the event. Firefly is a Private Provider Agency for Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. The organization's mission is to provide exceptional services to individuals with developmental disabilities as they work to self-advocate. They promote and advocate for the individuals' choices, so as to empower self-determination.

According to Christine, Firefly had reached out to the City of Whitehall in search of volunteer opportunities for their clients to give back to the community. EMH&T's Environmental professionals were more than happy to join this outstanding group of individuals to do some good for the city, the park, and the environment!

The group planted sycamores and cottonwoods as part of a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant to restore the Big Walnut Creek floodplain corridor in the community park. EMH&T's landscape architecture professionals have already been working to master plan and design improvements to Whitehall's Community Park, and this effort further helps the city's plans along.

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### Earth Day Clean Up

Since 1970, Earth Day has brought hundreds of millions of people into the environmental movement, creating opportunities for civic engagement and volunteerism now in 193 countries. EMH&T's Development II Division had a team-building event to support Earth Day on April 22. The group picked up litter in Columbus and then celebrated with a boxed lunch from Freedom a la cart, a non-profit catering company and social enterprise that employs and empowers survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. To find out more about Freedom a la cart and their fresh and flavorful cuisine, check out their website at <https://freedomalacart.org/online-catering-order/#catering>.



# People In The News

## Joining the Team



**M. Peecook**

EMH&T welcomes Mike Peecook, PS, who joined EMH&T in July as the Director of Survey. He has more than 17 years of industry experience in surveying, civil engineering, and mapping technologies. His technical career began in 2002 during his service in the US Air Force, where he received specialized training in Civil Engineering, GIS, CAD and Land Surveying and managed the planning, design, and cost estimating of projects ranging from \$1M to nearly \$23M. While in the service, he performed total station and GPS surveys to include aircraft mishaps, topographic, site reconnaissance, elevations, facilities and pavements. Mike was an Engineering Apprentice and earned an EA Technician Certificate. Following his time in the US Air Force, Mike returned home to Ohio and earned an Associate degree in Geographic Information Systems and a BS degree in Surveying and Mapping, both from University of Akron. Mike is a licensed Professional Surveyor in Ohio and holds an FAA drone pilots license.



**C. Jordan**

Chad Jordan recently joined EMH&T as Director of Accounting. Chad graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in Business Administration-Accounting Specialization. He is a resident of Central Ohio and brings experience in corporate accounting and management across multiple financial operations. He gained valuable experience with companies such as Thirty-One Gifts, Jeg's Automotive and most recently, Oberfields, where he was the Controller.



**B. Eckert**

Ben Eckert, PE, joins EMH&T as an experienced Structural Bridge Engineer in the Transportation Planning and Design. Ben received his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Ohio University and is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Civil Engineering with a focus on Structures.



## BIA Associate of the Year

Steve Schehl, PE, Director of Development I and Shareholder, has been named the Central Ohio BIA Associate of the Year! This award is given to an Associate Member in recognition of high business and ethical standards and contributions to the home building industry and the BIA. The BIA BIG Night Gala was held on August 29, and is an annual event to honor the industry's top achievers; those who provided outstanding contribution to the housing industry. Steve's recognition was to have taken place at last year's Gala, but it was canceled due to the pandemic.

## Contact Us

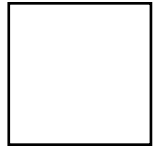
Contact EMH&T today to schedule a visit at your office. You can reach us at **(614) 775-4500** or by email at **info@emht.com**.

You are also welcome to contact any of the experts identified at the end of each article in this issue of *Ingenium*.





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- Infrastructure Renewal
- Railroad Services



**Visit us at Booth 501.**

**Wednesday, October 27**

**10 - 11:30 a.m. | Session 62**

**Room: A123 - 125**

**Scioto Peninsula - Designing an Urban Neighborhood**

Moderated by EMH&T's **Mariah Anderson, PE**



**Robert Ferguson, PE, MS**, EMH&T,  
Columbus, OH  
Tiffany Elchert, City of Columbus,  
Columbus, OH

The Scioto Peninsula, in downtown Columbus, is undergoing a transformation; with the redevelopment of underutilized surface lots into an active and engaged dense, mixed-use urban neighborhood. Green stormwater management practices were embedded into the streetscape design, through the inclusion of permeable pavers, bio-retention planters, and sub-surface aggregate storage. This presentation will focus on the design process from master planning through completed construction drawings.

**Wednesday, October 27**

**8 - 9:30 a.m. | Session 45**

**Room: A120 - 122**

**Public Involvement - Innovations for a Virtual World**

Moderated by EMH&T's **Christy Pirkle, MS**