

## Whitehall Public Library Land Acknowledgment\*

The Whitehall Public Library respectfully acknowledges that we are on ancestral land of the Osage and Shawnee people. The process of knowing and acknowledging the land is a way to honor and express gratitude for the indigenous people who occupied this space before us. We not only honor these original inhabitants, but acknowledge the history of colonialism that has led to our presence here. Public libraries, as educational institutions, have an obligation to steward accurate history. And while we cannot change that history, we can commit to continued gratitude and ongoing respect for this land, each other, and future generations.

Adopted 12/8/2021

\*What is a land acknowledgment?

Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth. Imagine this practice widely adopted: imagine cultural venues, classrooms, conference settings, places of worship, sports stadiums, and town halls, acknowledging traditional lands. Millions would be exposed—many for the first time—to the names of the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of the lands they are on, inspiring them to ongoing awareness and action. <https://usdac.us/nativeland>

