Whitley County

The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Whitley County is located in Northeast Indiana and is bordered by the following Indiana counties: Noble to the north, Allen to the east, Huntington to the south, Wabash to the southwest, and Kosciusko to the west and northwest. State Highways 9 and 14 and U.S. Highway 30 cross the county. Elevation is 800 to 950 feet.

Most of the landscape is mostly slightly sloping across the north half of the county; in the south slightly sloping land is interrupted near the southern border by nearly flat areas. The landscape features hickory, oak, maple, birch and beech trees. The county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Whitley county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are \(15^\circ/31^\circ\) in January and \(59^\circ/85^\circ\) in July. Annual precipitation is about 37 and snowfall about 25-40 inches. The first freeze occurs between October 10-15, and the last freeze occurs first (October 5-10) in the southeasterly half of the county and a bit later (October 10-15) in the northwesterly half of the county. The last freeze is May 5-10. The growing season lasts 148-163 days.

Agriculture is diversified. Main crops include corn for grain, soybeans, hay, oats and winter wheat. Livestock include hens/pullets, cattle/calves, milk cows, hogs/pigs, and sheep/lambs. About three-fourths of the land is in farms and about three-fourths of that land is in cash crops. Important natural resources include construction sand and gravel and forestland. Water resources include lakes/reservoirs (including Black, Blue, Brown, Cedar, Crooked, Dollar, Goose, Larwill, Little Cedar, Little Crooked, Loon, Mud, New, Old, Rine, Robinson, Round, Scott, Shriner, Troy Cedar, and Wilson Lakes), thye Blue and Eel Rivers, and several streams (Spring, Clear, Stony and Sugar Creeks).

Communities include the city of Columbia City, which is the county seat, and the towns of Larwill and South Whitley.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.