

## Mid Cap Growth Fund

Class N WCGNX | Class I WCGIX | Class R6 WCGJX

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund's prospectus, which contains more information about the Fund and its risks. You can find the Fund's prospectus, statement of additional information and other information about the Fund online at [williamblairfunds.com/prospectus](https://williamblairfunds.com/prospectus). You can also get this information at no cost by calling 1-800-742-7272 or by sending an e-mail request to [fundinfo@williamblair.com](mailto:fundinfo@williamblair.com). The Fund's prospectus and statement of additional information, each dated May 1, 2020, as supplemented, are incorporated by reference into this Summary Prospectus.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, paper copies of the William Blair Funds' (the "Funds") annual and semi-annual shareholder reports will no longer be sent by mail, unless you specifically request paper copies of the shareholder reports from the Funds or from your financial intermediary, such as a broker-dealer or bank. Instead, shareholder reports will be available on the Funds' website ([https://www.williamblairfunds.com/investor\\_services/prospectus\\_reports\\_forms.fs](https://www.williamblairfunds.com/investor_services/prospectus_reports_forms.fs)), and you will be notified by mail each time a report is posted and provided with a website link to access the report.

If you already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. You may elect to receive shareholder reports and other communications from the Funds electronically by notifying your financial intermediary or, if you are a direct investor, by calling 1-800-742-7272.

You may elect to receive all future shareholder reports in paper free of charge. You can inform your financial intermediary that you wish to continue receiving paper copies of your shareholder reports, or if you are a direct investor, by calling 1-800-742-7272. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all Funds you hold directly or through your financial intermediary, as applicable.

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**INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE:** The William Blair Mid Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

**FEES AND EXPENSES:** This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund.

**Shareholder Fees** (fees paid directly from your investment):

	<u>Class N</u>	<u>Class I</u>	<u>Class R6</u>
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on			
Purchases .....	None	None	None
Redemption Fee .....	None	None	None

**Annual Fund Operating Expenses** (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment):

	<u>Class N</u>	<u>Class I</u>	<u>Class R6</u>
Management Fee* .....	0.90%	0.90%	0.90%
Distribution (Rule 12b-1) Fee .....	0.25%	None	None
Other Expenses .....	0.34%	0.36%	0.24%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses .....	1.49%	1.26%	1.14%
Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement** ..	0.29%	0.31%	0.24%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement .....	1.20%	0.95%	0.90%

\* Restated to reflect current fees.

\*\* The Adviser has entered into a contractual agreement with the Fund to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses in order to limit the Fund's operating expenses (excluding interest expenses, taxes, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses, dividend and interest expenses on short sales, other investment-related costs and extraordinary expenses, such as litigation and other expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business) to 1.20%, 0.95% and 0.90% of average daily net assets for Class N, Class I and Class R6 shares, respectively, until April 30, 2021. The Adviser may not terminate this arrangement prior to April 30, 2021 without the approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

**Example:** This example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in shares of the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. The figures reflect the expense limitation for the first year. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
<b>Class N</b>	\$122	\$443	\$786	\$1,755
<b>Class I</b>	97	369	662	1,495
<b>Class R6</b>	92	338	604	1,365

**Portfolio Turnover:** The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 43% of the average value of its portfolio.

**PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets (plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes) in stocks of medium capitalized ("mid cap") companies. The Fund invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (e.g., securities convertible into common stocks), of mid cap domestic growth companies that are expected to exhibit quality growth characteristics. For purposes of the Fund, the Adviser considers a company to be a mid cap company if it has a market capitalization no smaller than the smallest capitalized company, and no larger than the largest capitalized company, included in the Russell Midcap® Index at the time of the Fund's investment. Securities of companies whose market capitalizations no longer meet this definition after purchase may continue to be held in the Fund. To a limited extent, the Fund may also purchase stocks of companies with

business characteristics and growth prospects similar to mid cap companies, but that may have market capitalizations above the market capitalization of the largest member, or below the market capitalization of the smallest member, of the Russell Midcap® Index.

The Russell Midcap® Index measures the performance of the 800 companies with the lowest market capitalizations in the Russell 1000® Index. The companies in the Russell Midcap® Index are considered representative of mid cap companies. The size of companies in the Russell Midcap® Index may change with market conditions. In addition, changes to the composition of the Russell Midcap® Index can change the market capitalization range of companies included in the index. As of July 1, 2019, the Russell Midcap® Index included securities issued by companies that ranged in size between \$1.7 billion and \$1,039.7 billion. The Russell Midcap® Growth Index, the Fund's benchmark, measures the performance of the smallest 800 companies in the Russell 1000® Index with a greater-than-average growth orientation.

In choosing investments, the Adviser performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Adviser evaluates the extent to which a company meets the quality growth criteria set forth below. All of the criteria are evaluated relative to the valuation of the security. The weight given to a particular investment criterion will depend upon the circumstances, and Fund holdings may not meet all of the following criteria: (a) the company should be, or should have the expectation of becoming, a significant provider in the primary markets it serves, (b) the company should have some distinctive attribute relative to present or potential competitors (for example, this may take the form of proprietary products or processes, a unique distribution system, an entrenched brand name or an especially strong financial position relative to its competition), (c) the company should participate in an industry expected to grow rapidly due to economic factors or technological change or should grow through market share gains in its industry and (d) the company should have a strong management team.

**PRINCIPAL RISKS:** The Fund's returns will vary, and you could lose money by investing in the Fund. The following is a summary of the principal risks associated with an investment in the Fund.

**Equity Funds General.** Because the Fund invests substantially all of its assets in equity securities of mid cap U.S. growth companies, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of an individual company or in response to general market, business and economic conditions. If this occurs, the Fund's share price may also decrease. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Adviser may fail to produce its intended result.

**Market Risk.** The value of the Fund's investments may go up or down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. The value of an investment may decline due to factors affecting securities markets generally or particular industries represented in the securities markets. The value of an investment may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. Events such as war, acts of terrorism, social unrest, natural disasters, the spread of infectious illness or other public health threats could also significantly impact the Fund and its investments. The value of an investment may also decline due to factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry. During a general downturn in the securities markets, multiple asset classes may decline in value simultaneously. Geopolitical and other events may also disrupt securities markets and adversely affect global economies and markets and thereby decrease the value of the Fund's investments.

**Mid Cap Company Risk.** Stocks of mid cap companies involve greater risk than those of larger, more established companies. This is because mid cap companies may be in earlier stages of development, may be dependent on a small number of products or services, may lack substantial capital reserves and/or do

not have proven track records. Mid cap companies may be traded in low volumes. This can increase volatility and increase the risk that the Fund will not be able to sell a security on short notice at a reasonable price. The securities of mid cap companies may be more volatile and less liquid than securities of large capitalized companies.

**Share Ownership Concentration Risk.** To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (e.g., by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments).

**Style Risk.** Different investment styles (e.g., growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the growth investment style used by the Adviser for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles.

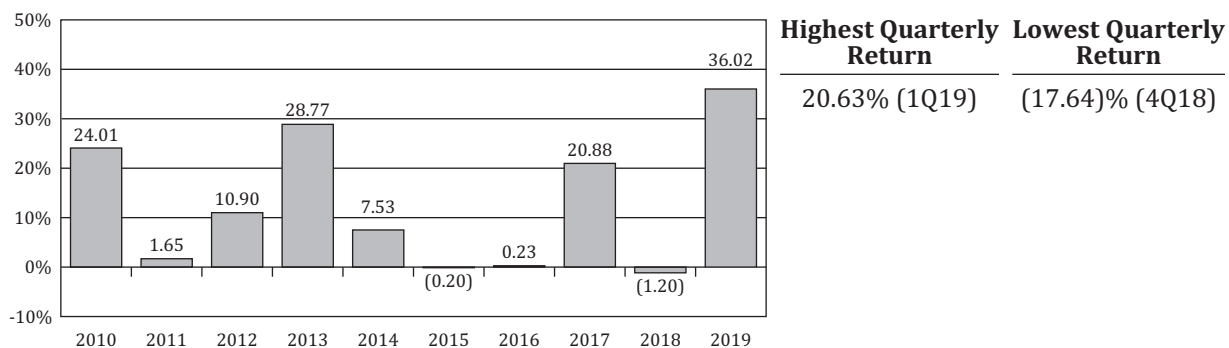
**Focus Risk.** To the extent that the Fund focuses its investments in particular industries, asset classes or sectors of the economy, any market changes affecting companies in those industries, asset classes or sectors may impact the Fund's performance.

**Operational and Technology Risk.** Cyber-attacks, disruptions, or failures that affect the Fund's service providers, counterparties, market participants, or issuers of securities held by the Fund may adversely affect the Fund and its shareholders, including by causing losses for the Fund or impairing Fund operations.

The Fund is not intended to be a complete investment program. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

**FUND PERFORMANCE HISTORY:** The information below provides some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year to year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns for the periods indicated compare with those of a broad measure of market performance. The Fund's past performance (before and after taxes) does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future. For more recent performance information, go to [www.williamblairfunds.com](http://www.williamblairfunds.com) or call 1-800-635-2886.

**Annual Total Returns.** The bar chart below provides an illustration of how the Fund's performance has varied in each of the last ten calendar years for Class N shares.



**Average Annual Total Returns** (For the periods ended December 31, 2019). The table below shows returns on a before-tax and after-tax basis for Class N shares and on a before-tax basis for Class I shares. Class R6 shares commenced operations on May 2, 2019. Performance information for Class R6 shares will be provided after a full calendar year of performance history is available. After-tax returns for Class I shares will vary. After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. In some instances, the “Return After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Fund Shares” may be greater than the “Return Before Taxes” because the investor is assumed to be able to use the capital loss on the sale of Fund shares to offset other taxable capital gains. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor’s tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns are not relevant to investors who hold their Fund shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
<b>Class N Shares</b>			
Return Before Taxes .....	36.02%	10.20%	12.14%
Return After Taxes on Distributions .....	33.13%	6.62%	9.60%
Return After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Fund Shares .....	23.30%	7.33%	9.52%
<b>Class I Shares</b>			
Return Before Taxes .....	36.17%	10.45%	12.42%
<b>Russell Midcap® Growth Index</b> (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes) .....	35.47%	11.60%	14.24%

#### **MANAGEMENT:**

**Investment Adviser.** William Blair Investment Management, LLC is the investment adviser of the Fund.

**Portfolio Manager(s).** Daniel Crowe, a Partner of the Adviser, James E. Jones, a Partner of the Adviser, and Robert C. Lanphier IV, a Partner of the Adviser, co-manage the Fund. Mr. Crowe has co-managed the Fund since 2015. Mr. Jones has co-managed the Fund since 2019. Mr. Lanphier has co-managed the Fund since its inception in 2006. Effective September 30, 2020, Mr. Lanphier will retire as a portfolio manager of the Fund.

#### **PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES:**

**Class N Share Purchase.** The minimum initial investment for an account generally is \$2,500. The minimum subsequent investment generally is \$1,000. Certain exceptions to the minimum initial and subsequent investment amounts may apply. See “Your Account—Class N Shares” for additional information on eligibility requirements applicable to purchasing Class N shares.

**Class I Share Purchase.** The minimum initial investment for an account generally is \$500,000 (or any lesser amount if, in William Blair’s opinion, the investor has adequate intent and availability of funds to reach a future level of investment of \$500,000). There is no minimum for subsequent purchases. There is no minimum initial investment for qualified retirement plans, including, but not limited to, 401(k) plans, 457 plans, employer-sponsored 403(b) plans, defined benefit plans and other similar accounts, or plans whereby Class I shares are held through omnibus accounts (either at the plan level or the level of the plan administrator) and certain other accounts. William Blair may make certain additional exceptions to the minimum initial investment amount in its discretion. Class I shares are only available to certain investors. See “Your Account—Class I Shares” for additional information on the eligibility requirements and investment minimums applicable to purchasing Class I shares.

**Class R6 Share Purchase.** The minimum initial investment for an account is \$1 million (or any lesser amount if, in William Blair's opinion, the investor has adequate intent and availability of funds to reach a future level of investment of \$1 million). There is no minimum for subsequent purchases. There is no minimum initial investment for qualified retirement plans, including, but not limited to, 401(k) plans, 457 plans, employer-sponsored 403(b) plans, defined benefit plans and other similar accounts, or plans whereby Class R6 shares are held through omnibus accounts (either at the plan level or the level of the plan administrator) and certain other accounts. William Blair may make certain additional exceptions to the minimum initial investment amount in its discretion. Class R6 shares are only available to certain investors. See "Your Account—Class R6 Shares" for additional information on eligibility requirements and investment minimums applicable to purchasing Class R6 shares.

**Sale.** Shares of the Fund are redeemable on any day the New York Stock Exchange is open for business by mail, wire or telephone, depending on the elections you make in the account application.

**TAX INFORMATION:** The Fund intends to make distributions that may be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains, unless you are investing through a tax-advantaged investment plan. If you are investing through a tax-advantaged investment plan, withdrawals from the tax-advantaged investment plan may be subject to taxes.

**PAYMENTS TO BROKER-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES:** If you purchase shares of the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.