

Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027

City of Linden Genesee County, Michigan

Adopted
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Acknowledgements

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Introduction

Recreation plays a major role in the lives of the residents of the City of Linden. The community was formed around a natural waterway on the Shiawassee River. The River and Mill Pond have become a destination place for residents of the City and citizens in the region.

Purpose of the Plan

The 2023-2027 City of Linden Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared by the City to serve as a guide and decision making document for future recreation facilities and programs. The Plan presents an inventory of existing facilities and programs within the community as well as an evaluation of opportunities and needs. The Plan considers the existing facilities in and around the community, as well as the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and programs. The Plan also includes goals, objectives and a 5-Year Action Plan.

The jurisdiction of this Recreation Plan includes the geographical limits of the City of Linden.

The Plan is also intended to enable the City to apply for funding assistance from various agencies to work toward implementing the documented recommendations. This Plan provides for five years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

The most recent Parks and Recreation Plan was adopted in 2017. It included long term goals, some of which were accomplished in the following years. Accomplishments in the last five (5) years included:

- Construction of a new restroom facility at Eagles Wooden Park
- Replacement of the gazebo at Linden Mills Park (now called Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park)
- Improvements to the water wheel at Linden Mills Park (back to functioning)
- Canoe/kayak launch improvements at Mill Pond Park
- LAFF Pathway – Design of shared use path from Linden to Fenton along with design of new trailhead at Triangle Park. Construction expected in 2023.

Planning Process

The process used to generate the Master Plan consisted of three (3) phases:

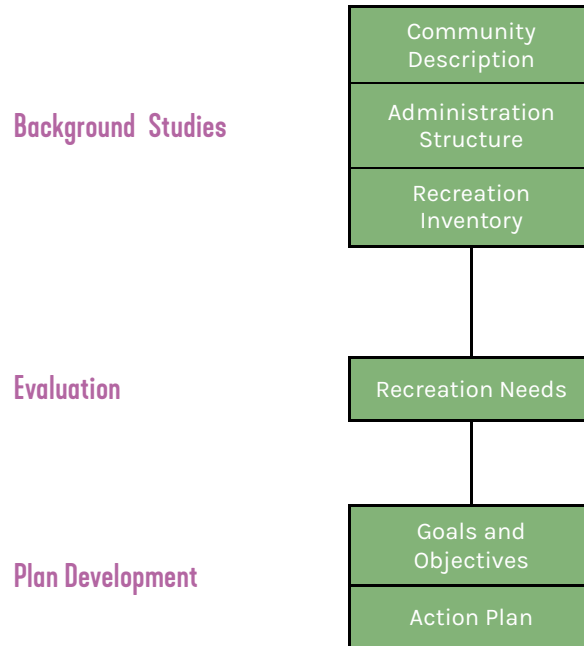
1. *Background Studies*
2. *Evaluation*
3. *Plan Development*

Background studies involved gathering and updating information from existing documents and plans. The information is organized into three (3) main categories:

1. *Community Description*
2. *Administrative Structure of the Parks and Recreation Commission*
3. *Recreation Inventory*

The second phase in the planning process involved evaluation and analysis of the gathered data and included community input to determine recreation facilities and program needs. Community input was sought through two primary methods: a community workshop and a public hearing.

Finally, the last phase in the process entailed plan development and adoption. Goals, objectives, and a 5-Year Action Plan were formulated based on the input gathered. The following diagram illustrates the process and the corresponding requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



The Linden Parks and Recreation Plan was developed with input from members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, City staff, and the residents of Linden. All meetings were open to the public and input was sought during all phases of the planning process.

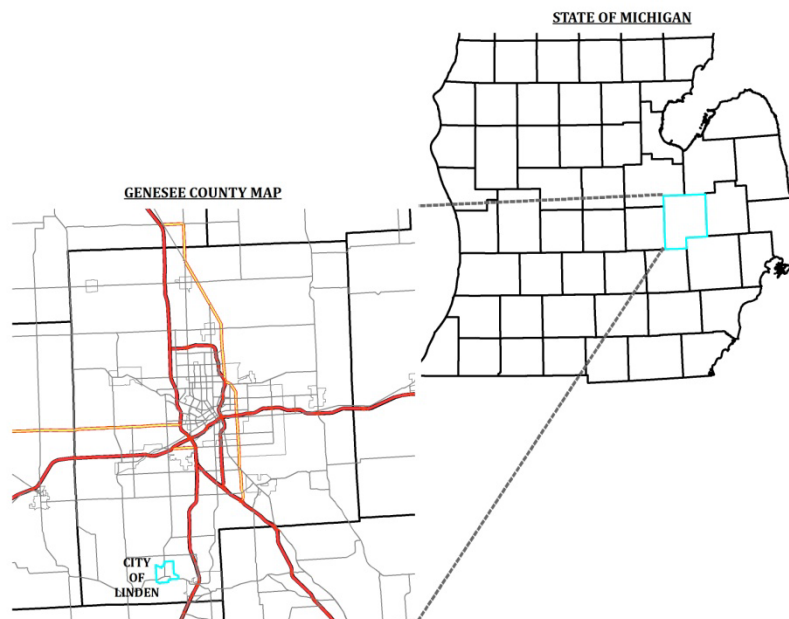
After holding a public hearing on January 19, 2023, the City of Linden Parks and Recreation Commission passed a resolution recommending adoption of this Parks and Recreation Plan. At a regular meeting held on January 23, 2023, the Linden City Council formally adopted this Parks and Recreation Plan by resolution.

Community Description

Recreation plays a major role in the lives of the residents of the City of Linden. The community was formed around a natural waterway on the Shiawassee River. The River and Mill Pond have become a destination place.

The Village of Linden was officially incorporated in 1871. The name Linden came from the Linden trees that were dominant in the area. In December 1988, the Village was officially incorporated as a City.

The City of Linden is situated in southwestern Genesee County, approximately 22 miles southwest of the City of Flint. The City is surrounded by Fenton Township, while other nearby regional communities include the City of Fenton, Argentine Township, and Tyrone Township in Livingston County.



Map 1
Regional Context

The allure of the City of Linden is that it still maintains its small town charm of the past. As the trend to return to traditional small towns grows in the United States, the charm of Linden's downtown commercial/residential area, along with its high quality of life, will continue to attract people to Linden. Maintaining the character of the City will be an important issue for the future of the community.

Historical Background

The southern tiers of Michigan's counties already were being settled by the beginning of the nineteenth century, but the land between Detroit (to the south) and St. Ignace (to the north) remained a virtually untouched wilderness of woods, swamps, and rivers. During the 1820s and 1830s, however, settlers began moving north in search of good farm lands and thick stands of marketable hardwoods and softwoods. The settlers' need for water power generally led the settlers to select town sites along rivers which could be channeled and dammed. Such was the beginning of Linden, located at a convenient bend in the Shiawassee River.

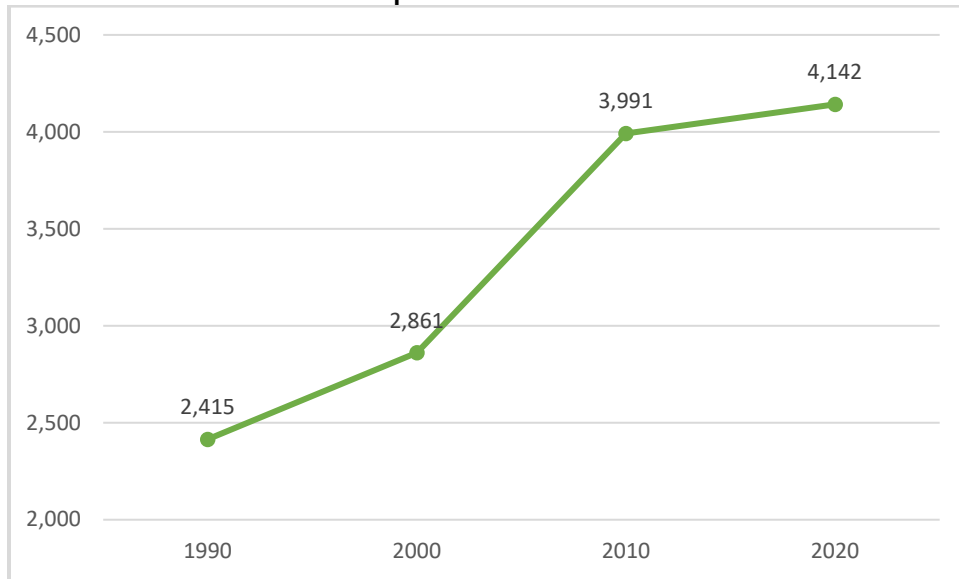
Mills were constructed along the Shiawassee in Linden to support the lumber industry. In the 1840s, a fire destroyed many of the original buildings. The grist mill was rebuilt in the 1850s and still stands as the signature landmark of the community. The area around the mill continued to grow. In the 1800s, the primary products being produced in Linden were buggies and barrels. After World War II, the factories in Flint needed workers and Linden quickly became a bedroom community. The mill ceased operations and was eventually converted into a community building, which now houses a local library, museum, and the City Council Chambers.

Demographics

Historical Population Growth

The City of Linden's population has increased steadily since 1990 due to a substantial amount of new housing starts and development in the City. Between 1990 and 2000, the City's population grew by 15.6%. Between 2000 and 2010, the population increased by 39.5%. Between 2010 and 2020, the population increased by 3.8%. As of 2020, the City's population stood at 4,142 residents. **Figure 1**, below, illustrates the growth that occurred between 1990 and 2020.

**Figure 1
Population Growth**



Source: 2020 U.S. Census

Population Projections

Population estimates for 2021 provided by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) indicate a 2021 population of 4,286. ESRI projects modest population growth over the next five years, increasing to 4,295 residents by 2026. According to Genesee County Long Range Transportation Plan population projections, the city will increase to 4,514 residents by 2040, a 9% increase from its 2020 population.

Age Trends

Over the years, the City of Linden's median age has been steadily increasing. In 2021, the median age of Linden's residents was 41.5 years. This represents an increase of 2.0 years from its median age in 2010 (39.5 years). ESRI predicts the City's median age to be 41.1 years by 2026, a 0.4 year decrease from 2021.

Significantly, the City's percentage of the population over 65 years increased from 19.9% in 2010 (795 residents) to 22.1% in 2021 (830 residents). These statistics generally point to the need for recreational facilities that are desired by, and accessible to, an aging populace.

Housing

Based on the ESRI information in 2021, the City of Linden had a total of 1,749 housing units, which represents an increase of 3.1% from the total housing units in 2010 (1,695 units). Of the 1,672 occupied housing units, 1,376 or 78.7% were owner occupied versus 296 or 16.9% that were rental units.

Housing types and styles vary in the City. Close to the downtown, homes were predominantly built prior to 1940. The core neighborhoods still maintain the small-town character and charm attributed to Linden. Newer developments have occurred on the outer edges of the City which result in more modern development patterns. The Symphony of Linden assisted

living facility, located just south of downtown, has added well over 100 units to the City’s housing stock within the past decade.

Employment

Traditionally, the unemployment rate in the City of Linden has been low due to many residents working in neighboring communities. As recorded in the previous recreation plan, the Genesee County unemployment stood at 7.1% in 2015. As of July 2021, this county-wide unemployment rate had decreased to 6.2%, a notable improvement. **Figure 2** indicates employment statistics for people over the age of 16, as reported in the ESRI 2021 - 2026 forecast:

Figure 2
Employment by Occupation
City of Linden, 2021

Occupation	Number	Percentage
White Collar	952	52.80%
Blue Collar	456	25.30%
Services	395	21.90%
TOTAL	1,803	100.00%

Source: Esri forecasts for 2021 and 2026. Linden city, MI.

Natural Features

Even though the City of Linden is largely developed, the City contains many valuable natural features that contribute to the character and quality of life for the residents in the City. These areas, as described below, should be considered during the process of identifying new lands for recreational development and when considering new or expanded recreational facilities.

Topography

The City of Linden is predominantly flat with elevations ranging from 860 feet to 920 feet above sea level. Elevations increase north of the railroad tracks but not significantly. Vacant parcels that remain in the City do not contain elevation restraints that would discourage future development.

Wetlands and Watercourses

The Shiawassee River and its associated wetlands serve as the predominant water body in the City of Linden. The Shiawassee River was designated as a “National Water Trail” by the U.S. Department of the Interior in October 2020 and a “State Water Trail” by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in December 2018. The river is controlled by a dam, which has created the Mill Pond just east of Bridge Street. Houses border the Mill Pond, which provides an opportunity for fishing and canoeing.

Located on the southwestern edge of the City is Byram Lake, which is 133 acres in size. Byram Lake is an all-sports lake with a maximum depth of fifty (50) feet surrounded by

residential homes. Swimming is also available through the Linden County Park, located on the east side of the lake. However, the lake does not have public boat access.

The City of Linden has several wetland areas, located primarily in the western and northeastern portions of the City. All of these wetlands are regulated by the State of Michigan. A regulated wetland is defined as any wetland over five (5) acres in size that is connected to a river or other body of water. The City does not currently have a wetlands protection ordinance that further regulates wetlands. Wetlands less than 5 acres can be regulated by local governments.

Woodlands and Street Trees

Woodlands are not a prominent natural feature in the city. The largest wooded area in the city is in the area of Eagle's Wooden Park and along the Shiawassee River. The woodlands of Eagle's Wooden Park and other lands along the Shiawassee River offer many opportunities for scenic and recreation attraction. Additionally, mature street trees and neighborhood trees are prevalent throughout the city's neighborhoods.

Road Network

In the City of Linden, nearly all of the roads are under the City's jurisdiction. Therefore, the City is responsible for all maintenance of the road and its right-of-way, which includes utilities, snow clearing and paving. Genesee County has control over two (2) small portions of the road network on Silver Lake Road, from Ripley Road to the eastern City limits, and Ripley Road, from E. Rolston Road to the northern City limits.

Nearly five (5) miles of the road network are classified as major roads. These include Bridge Street, Broad Street, Hickory Street, E. Rolston Road, and Ripley Road. The remaining roads are classified as local streets.

There is only one (1) major route each for east-west (Broad Street) and north-south (Bridge Street) traffic through the City of Linden. Therefore, circulation and traffic is mainly limited to Bridge Street and Broad Street. As population increases and housing developments continue to be built in neighboring communities, traffic counts will continue to increase and will place an increased burden on these roads.

Complete Streets

Complete Streets is a planning and design concept that provides safe access for all road users across the entire right-of-way. Users include motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. During the planning and design of a road project, the complete streets concept would require the consideration of any relevant accommodations that are necessary or appropriate to serve these users. The many benefits of a complete street design include improved safety, quality of life, mobility, economic development, public health, and active living. To promote complete streets and recognize these benefits within the City of Linden, the City Council passed a complete streets resolution in 2010. Presently, Bridge Street and Broad Street feature some of the necessary components of a complete street, including sidewalks along both sides of the street, bike lanes, and only two-lanes of traffic (a middle-turn lane is provided in certain sections and at intersections). However, additional complete street components could be implemented, such as the addition of pedestrian amenities (benches, etc.).

Community Facilities

The City of Linden has more than 13 acres of City-owned recreational property, including four City-operated parks. The locations of these parks are shown on the **Recreation Inventory Map**. A detailed description of each City-operated park is included in the Recreation Inventory chapter of this report.

Beyond City parks, the City owns numerous other properties, as shown on the Recreation Inventory Map. These City properties include City Hall, which is located on East Broad Street in downtown. The City Hall contains the City Administration, Police Department and Fire Department. The Public Works Garage property is located west of North Bridge Street, along the north side of the Shiawassee River. The Linden Mill Building, located on the Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park property, houses a library, historical society museum and City Council Chambers. Other smaller City-owned properties are scattered throughout the City.

Linden Community Schools operates two elementary schools within the City: Linden Elementary and Hyatt Elementary. These are located adjacent to each other on the west side of South Bridge Street.

Existing Land Use Pattern

The below narrative presents a generalized picture of existing land uses in the City. The City of Linden **Existing Land Use Map**, as developed for the City of Linden Master Plan, is included at the end of this chapter.

Single Family Residential

This land use category includes land occupied by single-family dwelling units, including both detached and attached units, seasonal dwellings, mobile homes outside of designated mobile or manufactured home parks, and their related accessory buildings such as garages and sheds.

In total, single-family residential lands comprise 555.3 acres or 36.1% of the city. Older, historic neighborhoods are found immediately adjacent to downtown Linden. These include homes situated on Bridge and Broad Streets, as well as homes along numerous local streets: Main, Oak, Mill, Tickner, Hickory, Maple, Lindenwood, East, South, Franklin, Aldrich and Bush. Many newer neighborhoods are found beyond the core neighborhoods and within the outskirts of the city. These include the Spring Meadows, Forest Ridge, Saddlebrook, Creekwood, Pine Valley, and Chestnut Grove neighborhoods.

Two-Family Residential

Two-family residential structures are buildings with two units under single ownership. The duplexes in Linden are generally older structures, are scattered throughout the community, and are intermingled with single family housing.

Multiple Family Residential

Multiple family residential use includes any residential properties that have two or more units. These include duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes and traditional apartments, along with their related accessory buildings such as garages and community buildings. The multiple family residential use category also includes senior assisted living facilities.

In Linden, multiple family residential use occupies 35.3 acres or 2.3% of the city. Numerous duplex units are scattered within the city's older neighborhoods, particularly along Franklin and Aldrich Streets. Several small apartment complexes are also found within the city, but not in any concentrated area. A new senior housing attached residential community is under construction along North Bridge Street in the northern-most portion of the city. Symphony of Linden, a large assisted living and senior care facility, is found on the west side of South Bridge Street, southwest of downtown.

Manufactured Housing

The Shiawassee Shores Community, located in the northwest portion of the City, accounts for all two hundred sixty-four (264) units of manufactured homes in a land-lease development in Linden. The community is well maintained and offers an exceptional quality of living for the residents. The homes are placed upon foundations (some upon basements), providing an added benefit to the homes. Additional amenities include a private executive golf course and a pavilion for the residents. This is the only property within this use category, which accounts for 136.3 acres or 8.9% of the city.

Public and Semi-Public

Public uses are land and facilities that are publicly operated and available for use by the public. Examples include schools, government buildings, water and sewer utilities, correctional facilities, and airports. Semi-public uses are land and facilities which may be privately owned or operated but used by the public or a limited number of persons. Examples include churches, cemeteries, and hospitals. There are numerous public or semi-public uses throughout the city, comprising about 102.5 acres or 6.7% of the city.

Commercial

There are three primary pockets of commercial activity in Linden, comprising 44.2 acres or 2.9% of land uses within the city. Downtown Linden has the greatest density of commercial activity within the city, featuring a variety of commercial establishments. Many buildings within downtown Linden feature a mixture of uses, including second story residential uses. The other two commercial concentrations are found along West Broad Street, near Hyatt Lane, and along North Bridge Street, between West Rolston and East Rolston Roads

Office

Offices such as financial institutions, professional offices, and clinics are included in this category. There are only a few office land uses within Linden, which make up 10.4 acres or 0.7% of the city. These office uses are primarily found along West Broad Street, South Bridge Street and North Bridge Street.

Central Business District

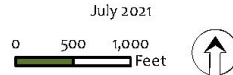
The Central Business District encompasses the historic downtown Linden. This area consists of several small, locally-owned businesses occupying the street level of historic buildings. Some buildings contain second-story residential apartments. City Hall and the Fire Department are also located in the downtown.

Industrial










This land use category is comprised of land occupied by manufacturing industries, processing facilities, warehouses, and non-manufacturing uses which are primarily industrial in nature. Presently, no intensive manufacturing or processing facilities are located in Linden. Only a few uses of an industrial character are found in the northern

portion of the City along West Rolston Road and North Bridge Street. These lands occupy 14.2 acres or 0.9% of the city.

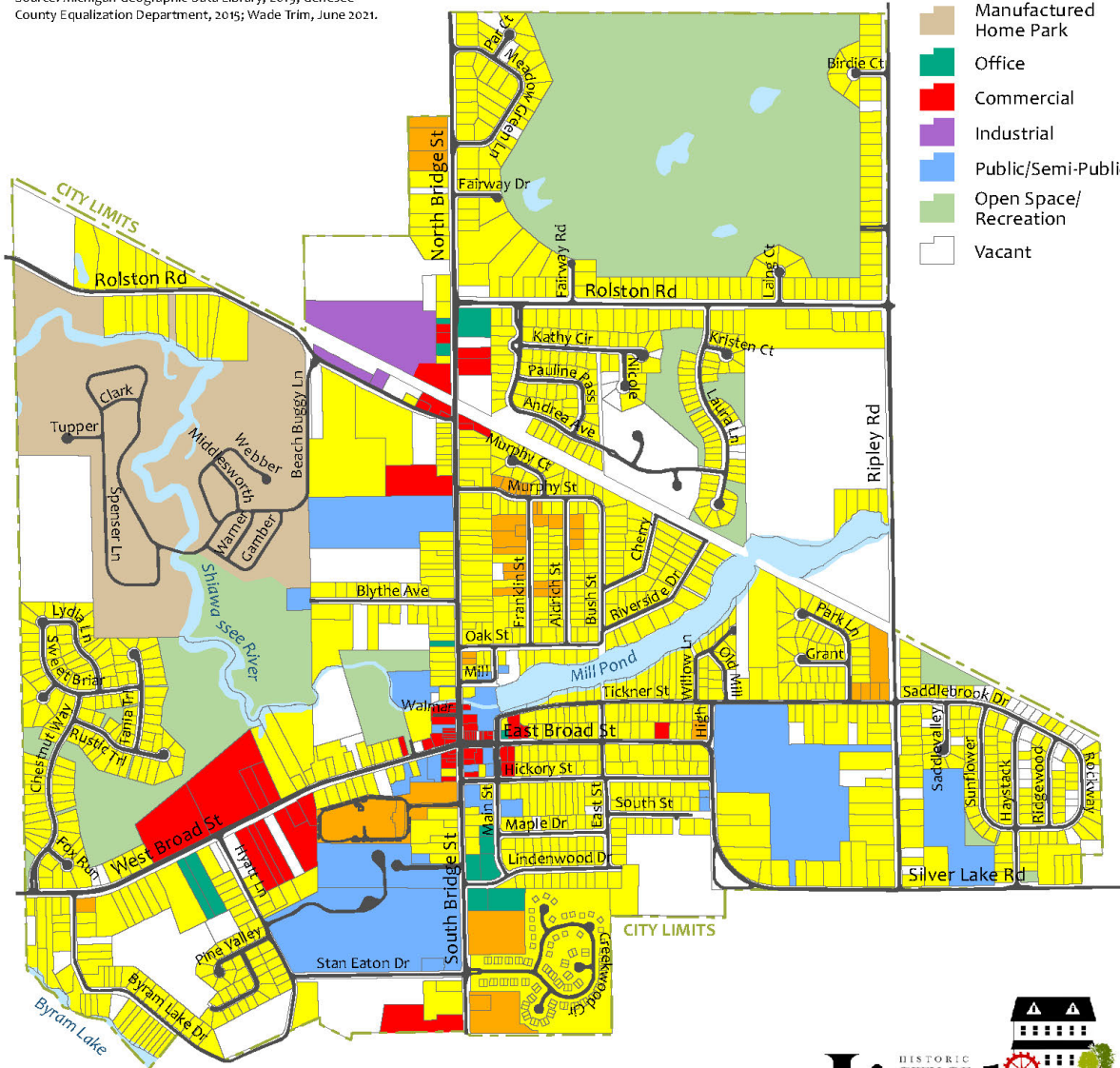
-  Streets
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Parcels
-  Water Bodies
-  Linden City Limits



Existing Land Use:

-  Single Family Residential
-  Multiple Family Residential
-  Manufactured Home Park
-  Office
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Public/Semi-Public
-  Open Space/ Recreation
-  Vacant

Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library, 2019; Genesee County Equalization Department, 2015; Wade Trim, June 2021.



\\sdr\projects\2016\06\06\06\data\projects\Existing Land Use.mxd

Administrative Structure

The following describes how parks and recreation facilities, activities and resources are governed and administrated within the City of Linden. The function of the various entities with recreation responsibilities and the overall administrative hierarchy of the City is outlined. Additionally, City expenditure and revenue trends are summarized.

Public Act 156 of 1917 (Local Government, Operate System of Public Recreation) authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate local recreation facilities and recreation systems. The Act states that a city, village, county, or township may operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds, acquire, equip, and maintain land, buildings, or other recreation facilities, employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants and vote and expend funds for the operation of systems.

City Organizational Structure

The Linden City Council, elected by the residents, is the primary authority in the City. As the legislative body of the City of Linden, the City Council is responsible for adopting all policies, rules, regulations, and ordinances relating to the operation, maintenance, facility development and financing of parks and recreation programming and facilities. Additionally, the City Council has the ultimate responsibility for recreation and is responsible for the adoption of this Parks and Recreation Plan.

Linden has a “Council-Manager” form of government. The City Manager serves at the pleasure of the City Council and runs all day-to-day activities in the City. The City Manager is the Chief Administrative Officer of the City, and as such, oversees the daily administration of parks and recreation facilities and programs. The City Manager is appointed by the City Council and is responsible for making recommendations to the City Council on parks and recreation programming, development, and financing in accordance with the Master Plan and city budget constraints. The City Manager is also responsible for the proper procurement and administration of grant funding and grant programs related to parks and recreation.

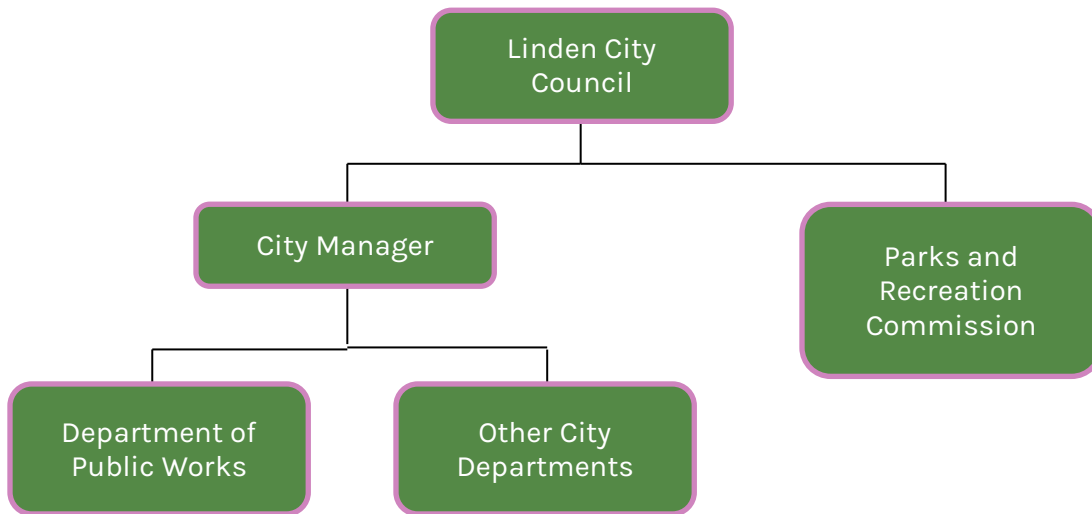
The Parks and Recreation Commission consists of 7 members including 1 City Council liaison and 6 residents. Members serve three-year terms and are appointed by the City Council. The Commission is responsible for advising the City Manager and City Council on parks and recreation policies, projects, and programs. Its mission is to ensure facilities and programs provide the maximum benefit to the community and individual.

The City’s Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for the daily maintenance and upkeep of park grounds, buildings, and equipment. The DPW oversees maintenance activities and reports to, and takes direction from the City Manager.

Volunteer groups are an integral part of the City’s efforts to maintain and conduct special projects in park areas on a yearly basis. These include spring clean-ups, playground maintenance and even construction of additional facilities in the City’s parks. The Linden Beautification Committee is one example of an active volunteer group who assists with City-wide beautification efforts such as flower planting, watering, and upkeep.

The organizational structure of the City is outlined in the chart below:

**Figure 3
City Organizational Chart**



Recreation Funding and Budget

Parks and recreation facilities and services are supported primarily by the Linden general fund. Major improvements and construction funding have been through private donations and the procurement of grants such as the Natural Resources Trust Fund and Community Development Block Grants. A breakdown of revenues and expenditures is as follows, for each of the past 5 fiscal years:

**Figure 4
Parks and Recreation Revenues and Expenditures**

	Fiscal Year			
	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
<i>Revenues</i>				
<i>Gazebo Rental (Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park)</i>	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	N/A
<i>Expenditures</i>				
<i>Parks and Recreation (Salaries/Capital Improvements)</i>	N/A	\$37,769	\$37,000	\$86,344

Source: Linden City Treasurer, 2022

Recreation Inventory

The residents of the City of Linden are able to take advantage of a variety of local and regional recreational resources. In addition to the parks and recreation facilities available in the City, the Linden School District and private entities also play a key role in providing recreational opportunities.

This section details the recreation inventory of the City, schools, private and regional recreation facilities, using information compiled from previous recreation plans, a field survey and City staff.

City Parks Facilities

The City has four parks facilities inside its jurisdiction, all of which are owned by the City of Linden. They are as follows:

Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park (formerly Linden Mills Park)

This 2.09 acre community park is located on both sides of the Shiawassee River in downtown Linden, and includes the historic Linden Mill building. The city park is home to the new Kimble-Sharp Gazebo. In 2022, the water wheel was recently repaired and is once again a functioning amenity. The park and gazebo area are a popular location for outdoor weddings and summertime events, including Music by the Mill, a summer concert series. The park is served by two hard surfaced parking lots, one accessed by Mill Street and the other accessed by Main Street.

Mill Pond Park

This 0.39 acre mini-park is located on the south shore of the Mill Pond along Tickner Street, just northeast of downtown. This park features a volunteer-built and maintained butterfly garden, picnic table and benches. The park also features a paved canoe/kayak access site. No parking area serves the park; however, the park is near two public parking lots in the immediate vicinity.

Triangle Park

Located along Silver Lake Road in the southeastern portion of the City, this 1.26 acre neighborhood park is currently utilized for casual picnicking and other passive activities. Aside from a “Welcome to Linden” sign, this open space area does not include any recreational facilities. No parking lot serves the park; however, a gravel access drive does offer some space for vehicular parking. Improvements are expected for the park following the construction of the new “State Bank Trail.” The trail will connect Triangle Park to the City of Fenton. A new trailhead, parking spaces, bike racks, information kiosk, sidewalk, picnic tables and more will be added to the park. Construction is planned for 2023.

Eagles Wooden Park (formerly Walmar Park)

Eagles Wooden Park is the largest of the City parks at 9.70 acres in size. It is surrounded by an expanse of woods. The city park features a playground and forested trails winding with the bend of the Shiawassee River. Additionally, the park features boardwalks along the Shiawassee River that provide opportunities for the enjoyment of the natural river ecosystem. In 2015, the City received a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for the construction of ADA accessible restrooms, drinking fountain and pathway.

Parks and Recreation Plan



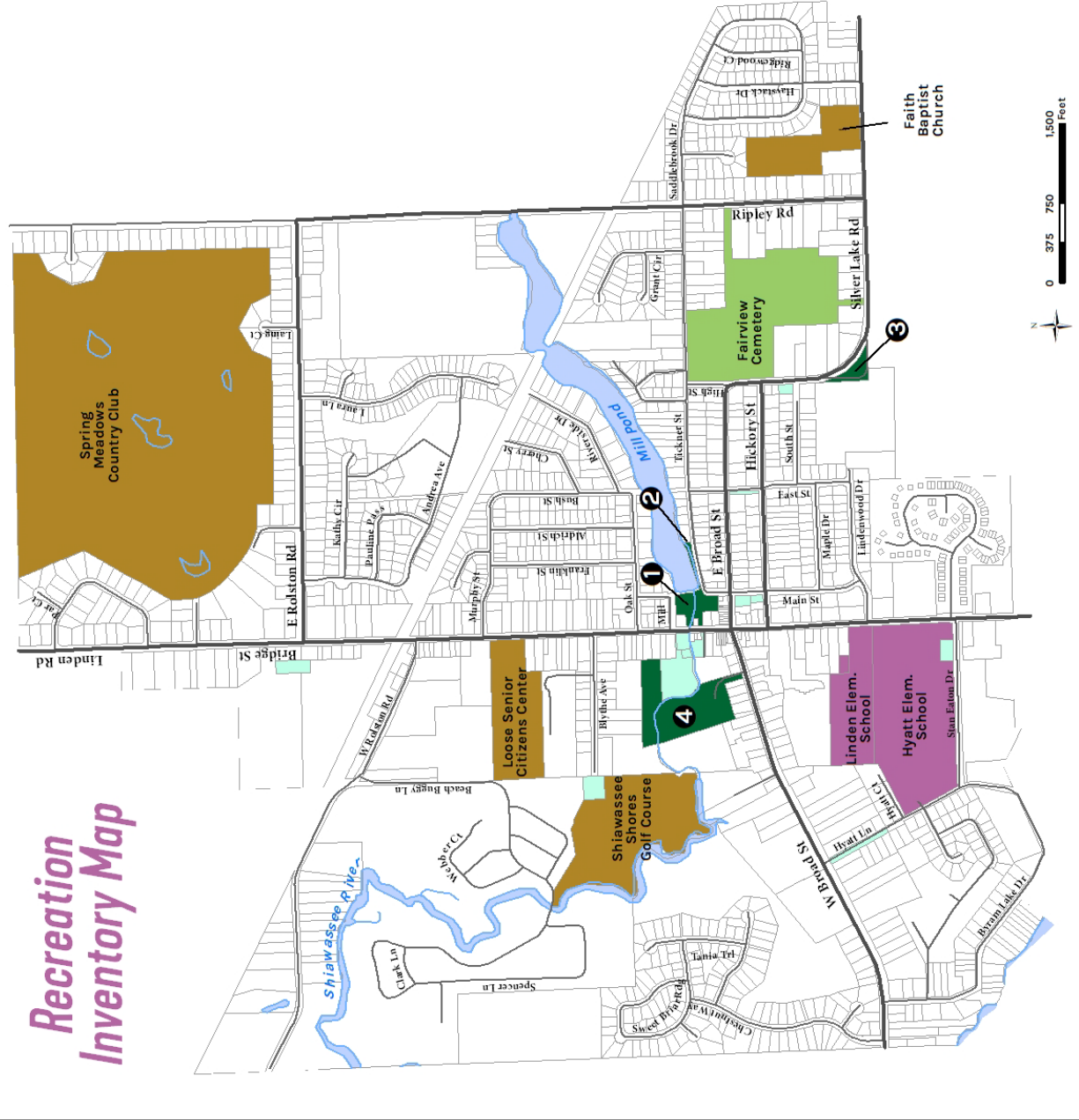
- City Parks:**
1. Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park
 2. Mill Pond Park
 3. Triangle Park
 4. Eagles Wooden Park

- Private Recreation Facilities
- School Facilities
- Cemeteries
- Other City-Owned Properties
- Major Roads
- Other Roads
- Rivers and Streams
- Water Bodies
- Parcels

Source: Wade Trim Field Survey, October 2016
October 2022



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Recreation Inventory Map

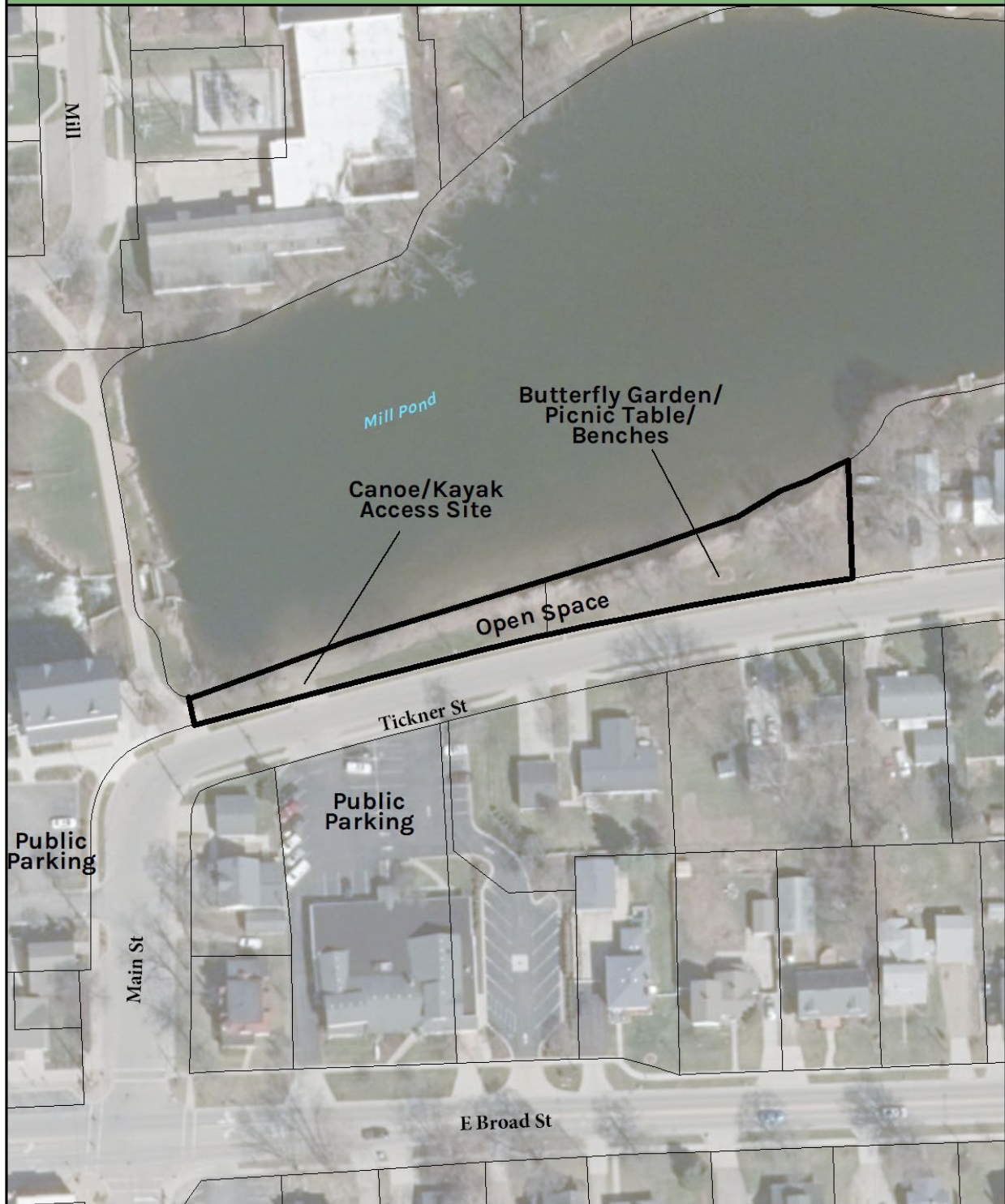
A map and photograph(s) of each of the City parks are included on this page and the following pages.



Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park Photos



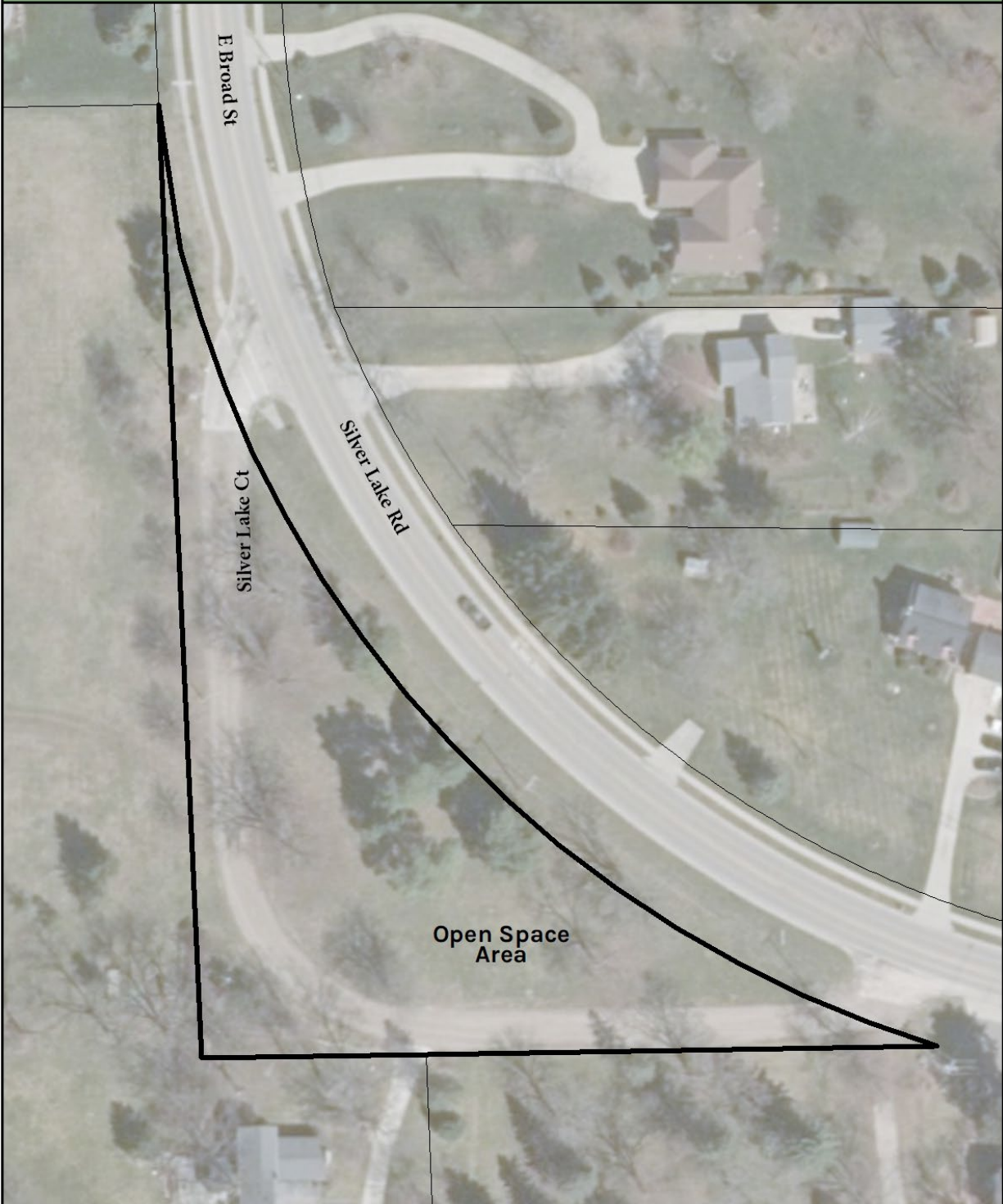
Mill Pond Park



Mill Pond Park Photos



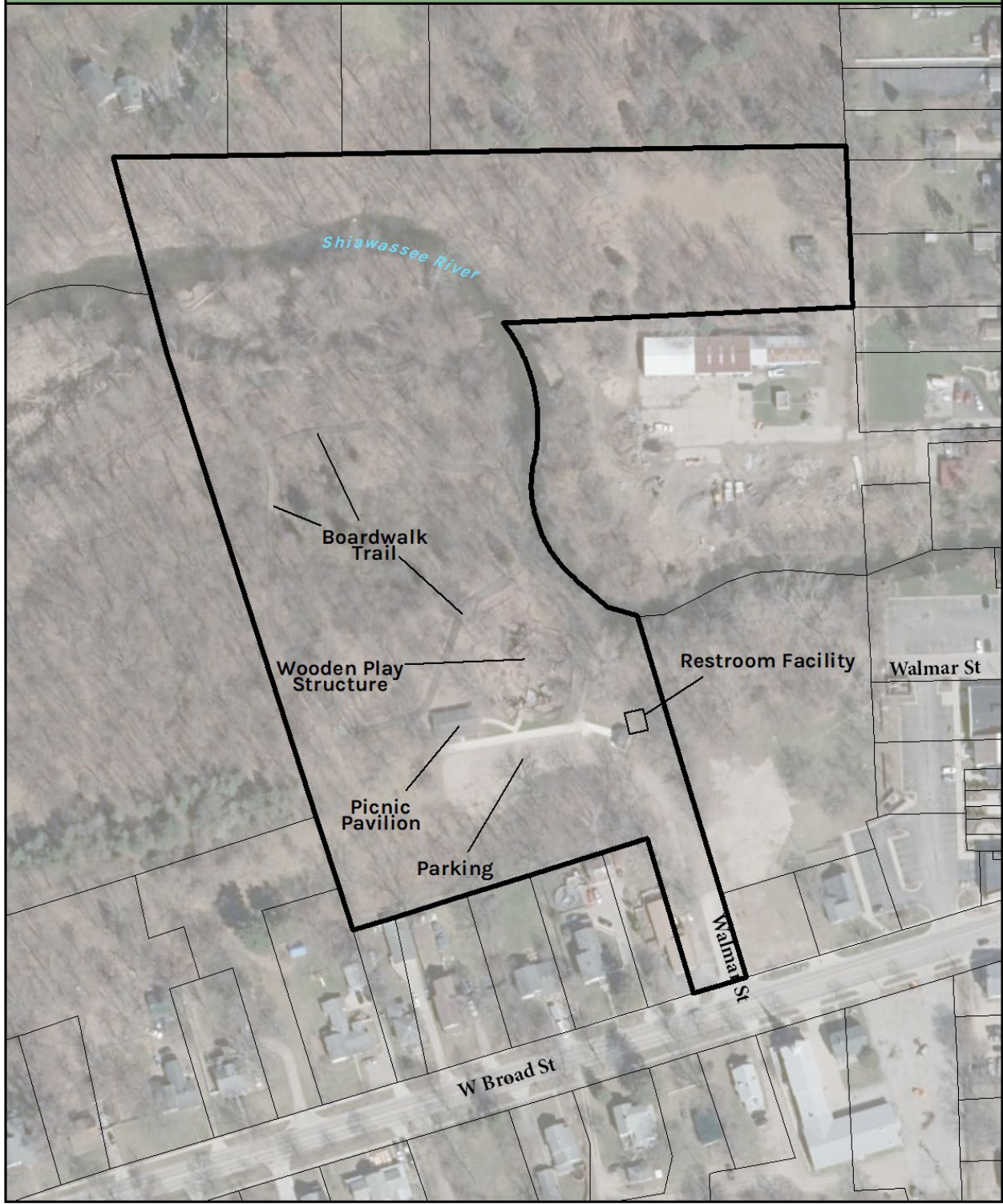
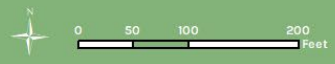
Triangle Park



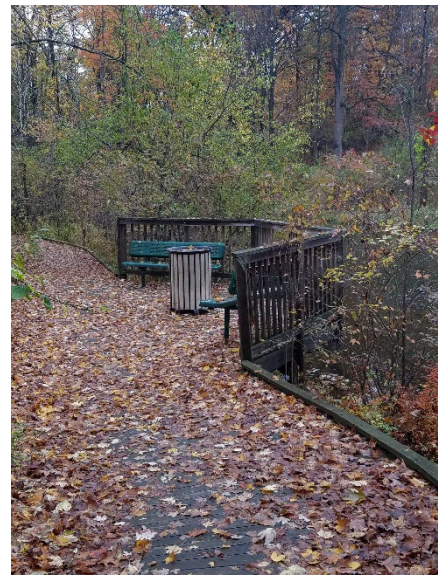
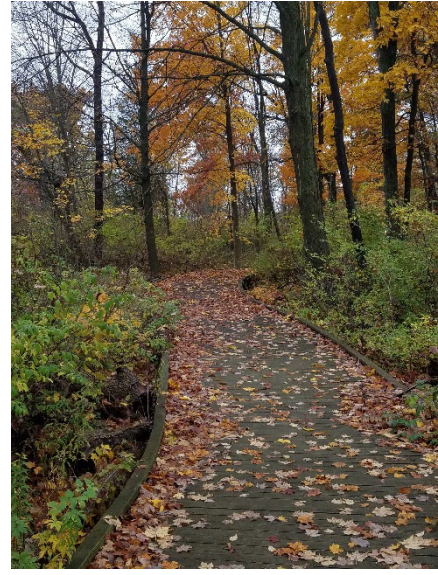
Triangle Park Photos



Eagles Wooden Park



Eagles Wooden Park Photos



School Facilities

The public school grounds in the City of Linden provide valuable recreation opportunities for residents. Public access to these facilities is dependent on school policies and is limited to when the facilities are not in use for school related activities. The following recreational facilities are located at the Linden Elementary School property:

- Gymnasium
- 4 baseball/softball fields
- 4 basketball hoops and ball shoot court
- Playground

The following recreational facilities are located at the Hyatt Elementary School property:

- Gymnasium
- 4 basketball hoops and ball shoot court
- 2 baseball/softball fields
- Soccer field

Private Recreation Facilities

In addition to City and School-operated recreational facilities, several recreational facilities are operated by private institutions and are generally available for use by the general public. A description of these privately operated facilities is provided below.

Spring Meadows Country Club

Spring Meadows Country Club is a private country club located in the northeastern portion of the City. Established in 1957, the club has over the years seen dramatic growth and improvements to both the golf course and clubhouse.

Loose Senior Citizen Center

Loose Senior Citizen Center (LSCC) is a community-based nonprofit organization that is firmly committed to addressing the needs and interests of the rapidly growing population segment of the Southern Lakes region 50 and over. LSCC provides or coordinates responsive programs and services that enhance dignity, support independence, and provide stimulating educational and recreational opportunities. In addition, LSCC is a trusted source of information about, and is an advocate for, programs and services that are important to adults over 50 years of age.

LSCC provides a broad range of high-quality programs and services, within a welcoming atmosphere, at both the Center's facilities and at other accessible locations throughout the service area. Because LSCC is committed to excellence, it subjects itself to national standards for senior center accreditation.

LSCC is open to all segments of the population age 50 and over, including the very old, the disabled and those of limited means. Further, LSCC serves those who are part of the social support system for adults age 50-plus, such as family caregivers.

Shiawassee Shores Golf Course

The Shiawassee Shores manufactured housing community, located in the northwest portion of the City, offers an executive (par-3) golf course and a pavilion for use by its residents. This golf course is located among heavy woodlands near the Shiawassee River.

Faith Baptist Church

Significant to this Parks and Recreation Plan, the Faith Baptist Church site along the north side of Silver Lake Road offers one baseball/softball field.

Nearby Recreation Facilities

The City of Linden is surrounded by Fenton Township, while other nearby regional communities include the City of Fenton, Argentine Township, and Tyrone Township in Livingston County. All the surrounding communities offer a variety of recreation facilities that are generally accessible for residents of the City of Linden. These facilities are summarized in **Figure 5**.

**Figure 5
Nearby Recreation Facilities**

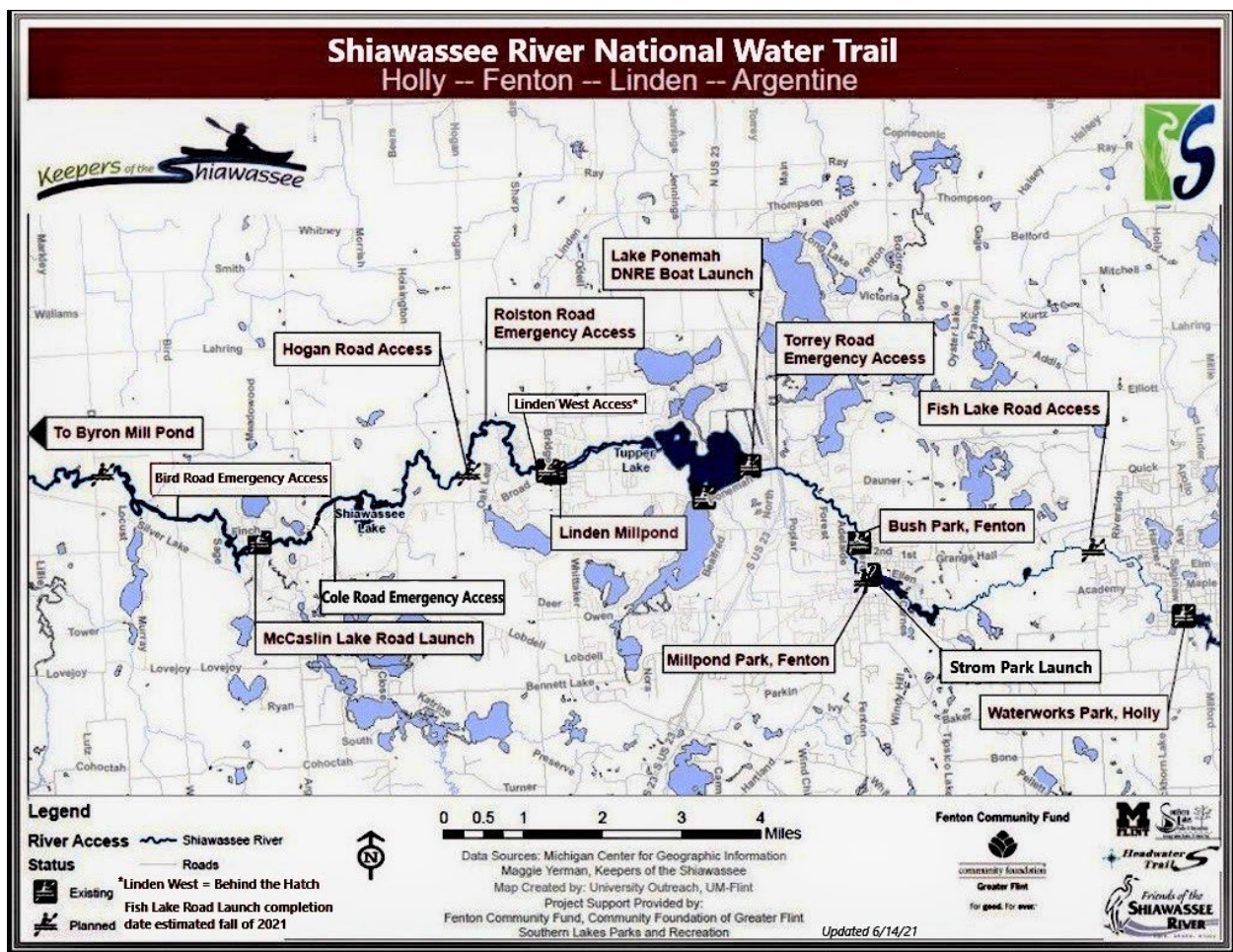
Name	Size	Facilities and Activities	Public/Private
Shiawassee River Water Trail	2.5 mi. (in Linden)	Two launch sites	Public
Spring Meadows Country Club	160 ac.	18-hole golf course, swimming pool	Private
Tyrone Hills Golf Club		18-hole golf course	Private
Fenton Farms Golf Club	115 ac.	18-hole golf course, driving range	Public
Linden Free Methodist Church	15 ac.	Church located just north of Linden which offers various recreation facilities (soccer fields, baseball diamond, pavilion, playgrounds) and programs	Semi-Public
Linden County Park	135 ac.	Swimming at Clover Beach, pavilions, play areas, tennis courts, ball diamonds, bike/hike trail, cross-country ski trails, intermediate sledding and toboggan hill	Public
Myers Lake Resort	2.9 ac.	Boating, fishing, swimming, camping	Public
Linden Sportsman Club	20 ac.	Trap shooting, hunter safety classes, rifle range	Private
Swartz Creek Sportsman Club	40 ac.	Fishing, hunting	Private
Flint Bowman's Club	34 ac.	Archery	Private
Grand Blanc Golf Club	245 ac.	36-hole golf course	Public
AYSO Deer Run Soccer Park	40+ ac.	Soccer fields	Public
Silver Lake Park	40+ ac.	Swimming, picnicking	Public
Mt. Holly Ski Area	N/A	14 downhill ski runs, 7 chairlifts	Public
Holly State Recreation Area / Seven Lakes State Park	7,817 ac.	Camping, fishing, skiing, hiking, swimming, hunting, snowmobiling, Holly Woods Disc Golf Course, Holdridge mountain bike trail system	Public
Deerfield Hills Nature Area	365 ac.	Nature preserve, trails, parking, canoe launch	Public
Groveland Oaks County Park (Oakland County)	362 ac.	Picnicking, swimming, camping, waterslide, trails, mini golf course	Public

Source: Linden 2012-2016 Recreation Plan and Shiawassee River Trail Coalition

Shiawassee River State and National Water Trail

The Shiawassee River State and National Water Trail is part of a 88-mile water trail traversing through communities in Oakland, Genesee, Shiawassee, and Saginaw counties. Recreational opportunities exist for paddling, fishing, cultural-historic-educational experiences, and user services. A “water trail” is defined as an officially designated trail along a waterway or portion of waterway that usually contains a sufficient water level to navigate a small watercraft such as a canoe or kayak with unobstructed passageways while providing safe and convenient access points (put-in and take-out points). Support facilities for water trails may include parking areas, restrooms, signage, and picnic areas.

The Shiawassee River State and National Water Trail presently connects the communities from Holly to Chesaning, flowing through 23 communities (cities, villages and townships) in four counties (see map below). Within this route, the Shiawassee River is a shallow, slow moving stream, which features a view of nature starting from the old water works building in the Village of Holly and travels seven river miles downstream through a natural landscape to Strom Park in the City of Fenton. The river and water trail continues seven miles downstream winding through Lake Ponemah, Tupper Lake, and the Linden Mill Pond. From downtown Linden and continuing downstream, the river and water trail becomes more secluded and wild for eight miles through wetlands and woodlands into Argentine.



There are two public launch sites within the City of Linden: at the Linden Mill Pond and one at the end of Walmar Street. A previous Eagle Scout project at this launch site included wooden steps to the river to prevent erosion along the riverbank.

The volunteer organizations Keepers of the Shiawassee, Inc. and Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition work cooperatively to enhance the river, including the addition of mile markers, interpretive signage, launch sites and trailhead parking along the water trail. Future development and improvement of this State and National Water Trail will enable extended trips to the west through Fenton, Linden and Byron in Genesee County and further northward toward Saginaw.

Genesee County Recreational Facilities

Genesee County offers a variety of regional parks facilities that can be enjoyed by the citizens of Linden as well as the entire region. The closest county park, Linden County Park, is located just south of the City limits on Linden Road. A listing of the facilities provided at each park is provided below, while a map showing the county park locations follows this section. Not included on the map or listing below, the Genesee County Parks also operates four parks in partnership with the City of Flint which are located within Flint. These four parks include Flint Park Lake Park, Max Brandon Park, McKinley Park, and Thread Lake Park.

Linden County Park

- Ball diamonds
- Beach
- Cross-country ski trails
- Paved multi-use trail
- Intermediate sledding and toboggan hill
- Pavilions
- Picnic areas and playground
- Snowmobile area
- Tennis courts

Flushing County Park

- Ball diamonds
- Cross-country ski trails
- Pavilions
- Picnic areas and playground
- Tennis courts

Bluebell Beach

- Pavilions
- Walking trail
- Beach
- Splash pad

Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad

- Historic village and railroad

Stepping Stone Falls

- Man-made waterfall feature
- Picnic areas

Bluegill Boat Launch

- Boat launch
- Snowmobile areas

Buell Lake County Park

- Ball diamonds
- Pavilions
- Picnic areas and playground.
- Fishing site
- Radio-controlled model airplane field
- Snowmobile area

For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum

- Nature preserve
- Arboretum
- Hiking trails

Davison Roadside County Park

- Sledding hill
- Picnic area
- Pavilion

Everett A. Cummings Center

- Equestrian complex
- Waterfowl hunting
- Snowmobile area

Mounds Off-Road Vehicle Area

- ORV area

Richfield County Park

- Ball diamonds
- Bicycle motocross track (BMX)
- Canoe launching site
- Cross-country ski trails
- Pavilion
- Picnic areas and playground
- Snowmobile area
- Tennis courts

Atlas County Park

- Hiking trails

Goldenrod Disc Golf Course

- 18 basket disc golf course
- Snowmobile area

Hogsback Area

- Hiking
- Fishing
- Horseback riding
- Dog training area
- Cross country skiing

Walleye Pike Boat Launch

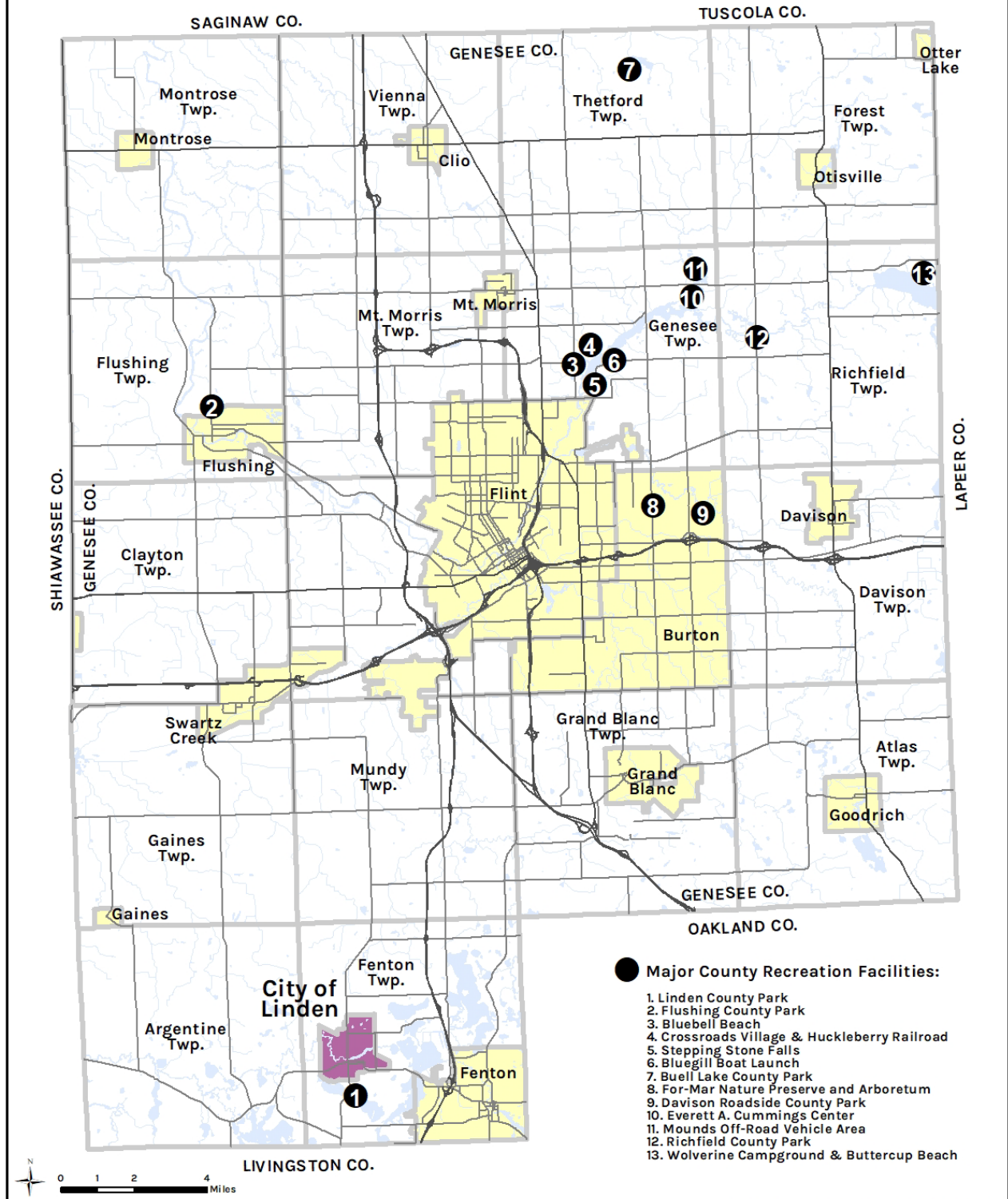
- Boat launch
- Picnic area
- Snowmobile areas

Wolverine Campground & Buttercup Beach

- Campgrounds
- Beach
- Outdoor activities

County Recreation Inventory Map

Parks and Recreation Plan



\\D:\data\Projects\Ldn610\GIS-Data\Projects\Regional Rec Inventory\mxd

Recreation Programs and Services

Most programs available to City residents are either provided through the Linden School District, the Loose Senior Citizen Center, or the Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation Commission.

School District Programs

In the case of the School District, the District either directly sponsors the activity or, as in the case of the Boy/Girl Scouts and Little League, provides space for the programs to meet. Indoor activities typically take place inside of the Linden Elementary School building or the Hyatt Elementary School building. A summary of the School District programs are as follows:

Figure 6
School District Recreation Programs

Program	Sponsor	Number Served
Scouting (Boy & Girl)	Scouts	240
Little League	Linden Complete Auto	250
After School Sports/Seasonal Sport Activities	School	30-40
Men's Basketball	School	15-20
Arts/Crafts (Summer Recreation)	School	30-40
Enrichment Classes (Adult/Various)	School	150
Hunter Safety	Linden Sportsman Club	150-200
Soccer	AYSO	300
Co-ed Volleyball	School	20-30
Karate (Adults/Children)	School/Tang So Do	20-30
Boaters Safety (Adults/Children)	School/Sheriff's Department	30

Source: Linden 2012-2016 Recreation Plan

Keepers of the Shiawassee

The volunteer organization Keepers of the Shiawassee, Inc. offers numerous events aimed at promoting and supporting the use and improvement of the Shiawassee River State and National Water Trail. These include River Fest, paddle events, water monitoring and educational activities.

Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation

The Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation Commission (SLP&R) was formed in 2000, when the cities of Linden and Fenton, and Fenton Township voted a perpetual millage of .4 mills to operate a year-round Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District. Since that time, the Commission has worked diligently to offer a variety of recreational programs from citizens of all ages and backgrounds within the three communities.

The following programs are currently being offered through Southern Lakes:

- Adaptive recreation
- Art
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Book club
- Dance
- Driver's Education
- Fenton Lakes sportsman's club
- Fitness
- Flag football
- Free Medicare 101 seminar
- Gymnastics
- Life safe academy
- Martial arts
- Nutrition
- Safety
- Science camp
- Senior programming
- SLPR's senior Fridays
- Soccer
- Softball
- Spanish
- Special events
- Speed & strength training
- STEM
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Tai Chi
- Tennis

Loose Senior Citizen Center

The Loose Senior Citizen Center (LSCC) provides or coordinates responsive programs and services that enhance dignity, support independence, and provide stimulating educational and recreational opportunities. The center provides a broad range of high-quality programs and services at both the Center's facilities and at other accessible locations throughout the service area. The LSCC is open to all segments of the population age 50 and over, including the very old, the disabled and those of limited means. Further, the LSCC serves those who are part of the social support system for adults age 50-plus, such as family caregivers.

Comparison to Planning Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association provides a recommended park classification system which recognizes that open space has various functions. The system categorizes open space as either **mini-parks**, **neighborhood parks**, or **community parks**. The desirable characteristics relative to size, function, amenities, and acreage provisions per 1,000 people (where available) are identified in **Figure 7**. From the perspective of local municipal recreation facilities, the three most basic park classifications are:

1. **Mini-parks** – Usually between 2,500 square feet and 1 acre in size, these parks address the limited recreational needs and typically serve the population within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the mini-park.
2. **Neighborhood parks** – The neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation. A minimum size of 5 acres is considered the minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal. These parks serve residents within $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the park.
3. **Community parks** – Community parks serve a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. The usual size is between 30 and 50 acres. Community parks usually serve citizens within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to 3 miles of the park.

According to the population standards for the three types of parklands:

- 0.25 to 0.5 acres of mini parkland should be provided for every 1,000 persons.
- 1.0 to 2.0 acres of neighborhood parkland should be provided for every 1,000 persons.
- 5.0 to 8.0 acres of community parkland should be provided for every 1,000 persons.

Based on these standards, the City of Linden, with a total population of 4,142 (2020 Census), should provide the following amount of parkland:

- Between 1.0 and 2.1 acres of mini parkland
- Between 4.1 and 8.3 acres of neighborhood parkland
- Between 20.7 and 33.1 acres of community parkland
- Between 25.8 and 43.5 acres of total parkland (all types)

Currently, the following parks are found within the City of Linden:

- Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park (Community Park) – 2.09 acres
- Mill Pond Park (Mini-Park) – 0.39 acres
- Triangle Park (Neighborhood Park) – 1.26 acres
- Eagle’s Wooden Park (Neighborhood Park) – 9.70 acres

Thus, based on the NRPA acreage standards, the City of Linden is deficient in terms of mini-parkland and community parkland, but has a surplus of neighborhood parkland. For total parkland, based on the NRPA standards, the City of Linden would be considered deficient and in need of additional parkland. Therefore, the City should consider acquisition of additional parkland, where future opportunities arise.

**Figure 7
Park Classification System**

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Acres / 1,000 Population
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.	0.25 to 0.5 A
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼- to ½-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.	1.0 to 2.0 A
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.	5.0 to 8.0 A

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

However, it should be noted that other types of parks, including regional parks, school sites, greenways, and private recreation facilities, can also contribute to local park and recreation system. For example, the Linden County Park, located just outside of the City limits provides more than 100 acres of parkland within easy reach of Linden residents.

Accessibility Assessment of City-Owned Parks

An important component in planning for recreation facilities is providing barrier-free access in order to accommodate the needs of all people, including those with disabilities. The ranking system suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources guidelines was used to evaluate the parks. The ranking system, from one (1) to five (5) is described as follows:

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines,
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines,
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines,
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines, and
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

Each of the parks were evaluated using this ranking system. The specific elements considered including parking, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, activity areas themselves, support facilities such as restroom, and surfacing. The figure below provides the results of this assessment:

**Figure 8
Accessibility Assessment**

Park	Accessibility Rating	Comments
Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park	2	Parking lot and all pathways are ADA compliant. Barrier-free access is not provided to the gazebo and amphitheater.
Mill Pond Park	2	No barrier-free access is provided from the sidewalk to the bench and picnic table. Canoe launch is now hard-surfaced and compliant with universal design principles.
Triangle Park	N/A	No facilities are located at the park.
Eagles Wooden Park	3	Parking lot and routes to all facilities are barrier free. Pavilion and boardwalk are barrier free facilities. Playground is not fully accessible. Amenities, such as benches and tables are not compliant with universal design principles.

Source: Wade Trim July 2022 Field Survey

History of Recreational Grants

In its history, the City of Linden has received four grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for recreational facility development. These past grants are listed below, along with a description of the current use of the grant-assisted facility.

Project No. 26-01113 - Linden Mill Site Improvement

This grant was awarded to the City in 1980 in the amount of \$29,757 for the purpose of developing a seating area, lighting, landscaping and paved walkway at Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park. These facilities remain in place and are a vital component of this highly utilized and highly visible City park.

Project No. 26-01359 - Linden Mills Site Phase 4

This grant was awarded to the City in 1985 in the amount of \$35,710 for the purpose of developing an amphitheater, parking lot, interpretation display, aeration fountain, landscaping, fishing and canoe dock at Linden Mills Park (now called Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park). As with the previous grant, these facilities remain in place and are a vital component of this highly utilized and highly visible City park.

Project No. TF01-134 - Shiawassee River District Trails

This grant was awarded to the City in 2001 in the amount of \$125,000. This grant helped fund the development of the boardwalk trail which is currently located at Eagles Wooden Park. This boardwalk is well maintained and well utilized, and provides an exceptional opportunity for experiencing the riverine and wetland setting of the park, which is located on the shore of the Shiawassee River.

Project No. 26-01758 - Eagles Wooden Park Restrooms

This grant was awarded to the City in 2015 in the amount of \$50,000 to help fund the construction of ADA accessible restrooms, drinking fountain and pathway at Eagles Wooden Park. This project was completed in 2017.

Public Participation and Needs Assessment

An essential component of the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community as a basis for an action plan to improve the parks and recreation system. The needs provide the rationale for the goals and objectives and identify areas for future improvement. To assess needs, consideration was given to current recreation trends, public engagement results, regional planning initiatives, and direction provided by City leaders and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends occurring nationally may provide insight into activities that have shown the greatest growth in popularity. Organizations such as the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the Aspen Institute Project Play conduct national surveys that measure sports participation across the country.

According to the NSGA, based on a 2019 study,¹ the following sports segments experienced growth rates over the past year (ranked by rate of growth):

- Fitness activities
- Outdoor activities
- Wheel sports
- Team sports
- Individual sports
- Personal contact sports
- Snow sports

The indoor sports segment remained relatively flat, while declining sports segments included open water sports and shooting sports. Over the last 5 years, according to the NSGA, the fitness activities, open water sports, outdoor activities, and wheel sports segments have experienced increases over the last 5 years, while the individual sports and team sports segments have remained relatively flat. The remaining segments (indoor sports, shooting sports and snow sports) have experienced slight decreases over the last 5 years, but have seemingly flattened out in the most recent years.

The State of Play report from 2019, published by the Aspen Institute Project Play,² provides insights into youth sports (ages 6-12) participation trends between 2008 and 2018 for the United States. According to the report, the most popular sports in 2018, in terms of total youth participation, were:

1. Bicycling (4.7 million participants)
2. Basketball (4.2 million)
3. Baseball (4.1 million)
4. Soccer (Outdoor) (2.2 million)
5. Golf (1.4 million)

¹ NSGA Sports Participation Study Shows Growth in 2019. NSGA. Website accessed November 2021. <https://nationalsportsmedia.org/news/nsga-sports-participation-study-shows-growth-in-2019>

² State of Play: Trends and Developments in Youth Sports. The Aspen Institute Project Play. 2019.

Over the past ten years, the sports that saw the highest percentage increase in youth participation were:

1. Lacrosse (150.0% growth)
2. Ice hockey (120.0%)
3. Gymnastics (47.8%)
4. Cheerleading (44.4%)
5. Softball (Fast-Pitch) (20.0%)

Conversely, the sports that saw the greatest decline in youth participation were:

1. Bicycling (-43.3% decline)
2. Wrestling (-36.4%)
3. Field hockey (-33.3%)
4. Soccer (Outdoor) (-28.8%)
5. Flag Football (-26.7%)

Linden Master Plan Citizen Survey (2022)

In 2022, a Citizen Survey was conducted as part of Linden’s latest Master Plan update effort. The survey was made public November 2021 to January 2022 and garnered 624 total responses. The survey was an internet-based survey and was promoted through social media. 85.95% of respondents were citizens of Linden. The second highest number of participants stated they work in Linden.

Regarding recreation, results of the survey were mixed. On one hand, survey participants cited, “Lack of youth activities” and “Lack of recreation options” in the Top 10 “least favorable aspects” of Linden. On the other hand, “access to non-motorized transportation” and “recreation options” were both included in the Top 10 “most positive aspects” of Linden. “Need for youth facilities/activities” was a common response regarding things that should be changed in Linden. One way to address this would be spreading awareness to residents about youth programs offered by organizations such as Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation.

Public Workshop (2022)

A public meeting was held in September 2022 at the Linden Mill Building and hosted by the Parks and Recreation Commission to engage the public in the recreation planning effort and brainstorm needed improvements to parks facilities and programming. The meeting was attended by 12 individuals including commission members, city staff and citizens. The technical consultant team began the workshop with a presentation covering the recreation planning process and an overview of existing conditions, key trends, and regional planning efforts. After the presentation, two group exercises were conducted.

For the first exercise, participants were asked to work together to brainstorm issues, desires, and ideas for three topics: **General City-Wide Recreation, Trail Systems, and Specific Parks.** Results from both groups are shown below:

General City-Wide Recreation

- Bike racks
- ADA picnic tables
- Organized activities
- Walking loops with maps around town
- Pedestrian signage

- Arts & culture programs
- Incorporating/improving biking on roads
- Pedestrian crossings
- Cemetery property for community park or garden
- Sidewalk maintenance
- Private partnerships to make trails
- Improved kayak launch near Walmar Street

Trail Systems

- Bike lane on Broad Street
- Bike lanes with a 10 foot barrier, signage, and pavement markings
- Two-way bike lane through town
- Signage for the trailhead
- Trail connecting Eagle's Wooden Park to Blythe Avenue
- Off-street connections between subdivisions within the city

Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park

- Restrooms
- Handicapped accessibility at the gazebo
- Revamped seating at the gazebo
- Acquisition of VFW Hall
- Potential property acquisition to expand park
- Fishing docks

Mill Pond Park

- Kayak lockers
- Seating along the water
- ADA picnic tables
- Shoreline stabilization
- Kayak accessibility
- Floating dock

Triangle Park

- Veteran's honor roll

Eagle's Wooden Park

- ADA picnic tables/amenities
- Bridge across the river
- Kayak launch
- Hammock spots
- Signage for dirt trails
- Potential property acquisition to expand park
- Community garden
- Tree identification plaques

For the second exercise, answers from the first exercise were placed on poster boards and displayed throughout the meeting room. Participants were given 4 stickers each and asked to place them on the ideas they liked the most. Attendees' top activities were then scored. This activity helped determine which proposed projects were of the highest importance to community members. Below is a ranked list of all scored projects:

- Bike racks – city-wide (8 total dot votes)
- Seating along the water – Mill Pond Park (6)
- Potential property acquisition to expand park – Eagle's Wooden Park (5)
- Restrooms – Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park (4)
- Acquisition of VFW Hall – Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park (4)
- Arts & culture programs – city-wide (3)
- Pedestrian crossings – city-wide (3)
- Bridge across the river – Eagle's Wooden Park (2)
- Kayak lockers – Mill Pond Park (2)
- Handicapped accessibility at the gazebo – Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park (2)
- Potential property acquisition to expand park – Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park (2)
- Organized activities – city-wide (2)
- Walking loops with maps around town – city-wide (2)
- Improved kayak launch near Walmar Street – city-wide (2)
- ADA picnic tables/amenities – Eagle's Wooden Park (1)
- Signage for dirt trails – Eagle's Wooden Park (1)
- Veteran's honor roll – Triangle Park (1)
- Shoreline stabilization – Mill Pond Park (1)
- Floating dock – Mill Pond Park (1)
- Fishing docks – Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park (1)
- Trail connecting Eagle's Wooden Park to Blythe Avenue – trail system (1)
- Off-street connections between subdivisions within the city – trail system (1)

Regional Planning Efforts

This plan recognizes the efforts of many groups that continually strive to provide recreational opportunities for the residents of the entire region, including the greater Flint area (Genesee County) and Southeast Michigan. These efforts, particularly as they relate to local recreation planning within Linden, are described below.

Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation (SLPR) 5-Year Master Plan (2022-2027)

Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation (SLPR) recently prepared an updated 5-Year Master Plan, covering the years 2022 through 2027. As noted earlier in this plan, the SLPR jurisdiction includes the communities of Linden, Fenton, and Fenton Township. The Action Plan chapter of the 5-Year Master Plan outlines a strategy for regional recreational facilities and programs to enhance the quality of life for the residents within the SLPR service area.

As stated in the Action Plan, the vision of the SLPR is to offer park, recreational facilities and program opportunities that enhance the education, physical health, personal well-being and social interactions within the community. The Action Plan indicates SLPR's desire to incorporate property and to construct facilities to house different programs (currently, SLPR is focused on programming and does not own/operate any park land or facilities). One property has specifically been identified for development by the SLPR as parkland: the

Hagerman property (privately owned). Additionally, SLPR plans to add 4 pickleball courts at Linden County Park. Other Action Plan strategies of the SLPR include:

- Maintain programming and partnerships
- Continue strong collaborative work with school districts
- Maintain and expand not-for-profit and for-profit partnerships
- Establish stronger marketing and identification
- Promote recreational trail connections
- Construct and acquire new park properties
- Expand programs and recreational facilities
- Evaluate funding and feasibility of future facilities
- Examine the potential for expanding the SLPR service area

LAFF Pathways

The LAFF Pathway is a vision to connect Linden, Argentine, Fenton and Fenton Township in southern Genesee County with a non-motorized trail network. These trails will greatly enhance recreational opportunities and alternative forms of transportation. A LAFF Steering Committee, made up of area residents, has been established to support the development, funding, construction and safe use and preservation of non-motorized pathways. LAFF Pathways seek financial and volunteer resources to assist local communities with the construction of non-motorized pathways and has already established the LAFF Fund with the Community Foundation of Greater Flint for this purpose.

The grassroots LAFF Pathway planning effort began in 2009 and has gained momentum since that time. After preliminary analysis and through participation with area residents, the Genesee County Planning Commission, and local officials, the following routes in the region have been identified for prioritization:

- Silver Lake Road, between Argentine Township and the City of Linden (Phase 1) - Completed
- Silver Lake Road, between the City of Linden and the City of Fenton (Phase 2) - Projected funding for 2023
- Owen Road, Linden County Park to Silver Lake Parkway - Future project
- Fenton Road, Thompson Road south to the City of Fenton - Future project

The LAFF Pathway routes consist of a combination of new off-street multi-use pathways, new on-street bike lanes (signed/marked), and/or existing sidewalks and bike lanes. From Haviland Beach Drive in Argentine Township to Chestnut Way in Linden, a 2 mile long, 10-foot wide asphalt trail was constructed as Phase 1 of the Silver Lake Road Trail. (see Silver Lake Rd - Argentine Twp Connector image). For Phase 2, a 2 mile 10-foot wide multi-use pathway is proposed along Silver Lake Road, from Jennings Road to Triangle Park (see Silver Lake Rd Connector - Fenton image) within the eastern edge of the City of Linden.

Phase 1 of the Silver Lake Road Trail stretching from Argentine Township to the City of Linden was completed in October 2020. Phase 2 is currently in the funding stage. Construction is expected to begin June 2023 and be completed by November 2023.

Presently, the LAFF Pathway group is engaged in fundraising, grant application submittals, and public awareness activities. In support of non-motorized efforts such as those proposed by LAFF Pathways, a joint resolution of support was passed by the councils/boards of Linden, Fenton, Fenton Township and Argentine Township (see **Appendix**).

LAFF Pathway Route Illustrations are presented below:

Silver Lake Rd - Argentine Twp Connector
From Chestnut Way to Lobdell Rd

10 Foot New Multi-Use Pathway

approximately 1.86 miles



Silver Lake Rd Connector - Fenton
From Jennings Rd to Ripley Rd

10 Foot Wide Multi-Use Pathway

approximately 1.60 miles



Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission 5-Year Plan (2019-2024)

The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission has created the “Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Five Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan” as a tool to guide the development and preservation of the Genesee County Parks system in a manner that is consistent with its mission of “providing affordable, quality recreational facilities and programs to all citizens of Genesee County, and to act as a conservator of publicly-held recreational lands and facilities, historical structures, and educational facilities”.

The plan has a particular focus on improvements to the existing county-owned park facilities, such as Linden County Park. For the Linden County Park, which is located just south of the Linden City limits, the plan proposes the following improvements:

- Develop sports area, including grading, utilities, sports fields, sports courts, parking, sidewalk, road, landscaping, restrooms, and signage
- Develop events area, including utilities, grading, roads, parking, paths, landscaping, and fencing
- Improve Park entrance, including signage, landscaping, and fencing

Genesee County Non-Motorized Trails Report (2019)

This report outlines the current state of Genesee County’s trail network. The plan noted more than 92 miles of non-motorized pathways will have been constructed in Genesee County by the end of 2020. However, the plan also noted that the existing non-motorized pathways are not completely interconnected. Therefore, a key objective of the plan is to outline potential trail connections for an interconnected system. Additional goals of the plan include alternative transportation, safety for all users, recreation opportunities, and providing resources for implementation and education.

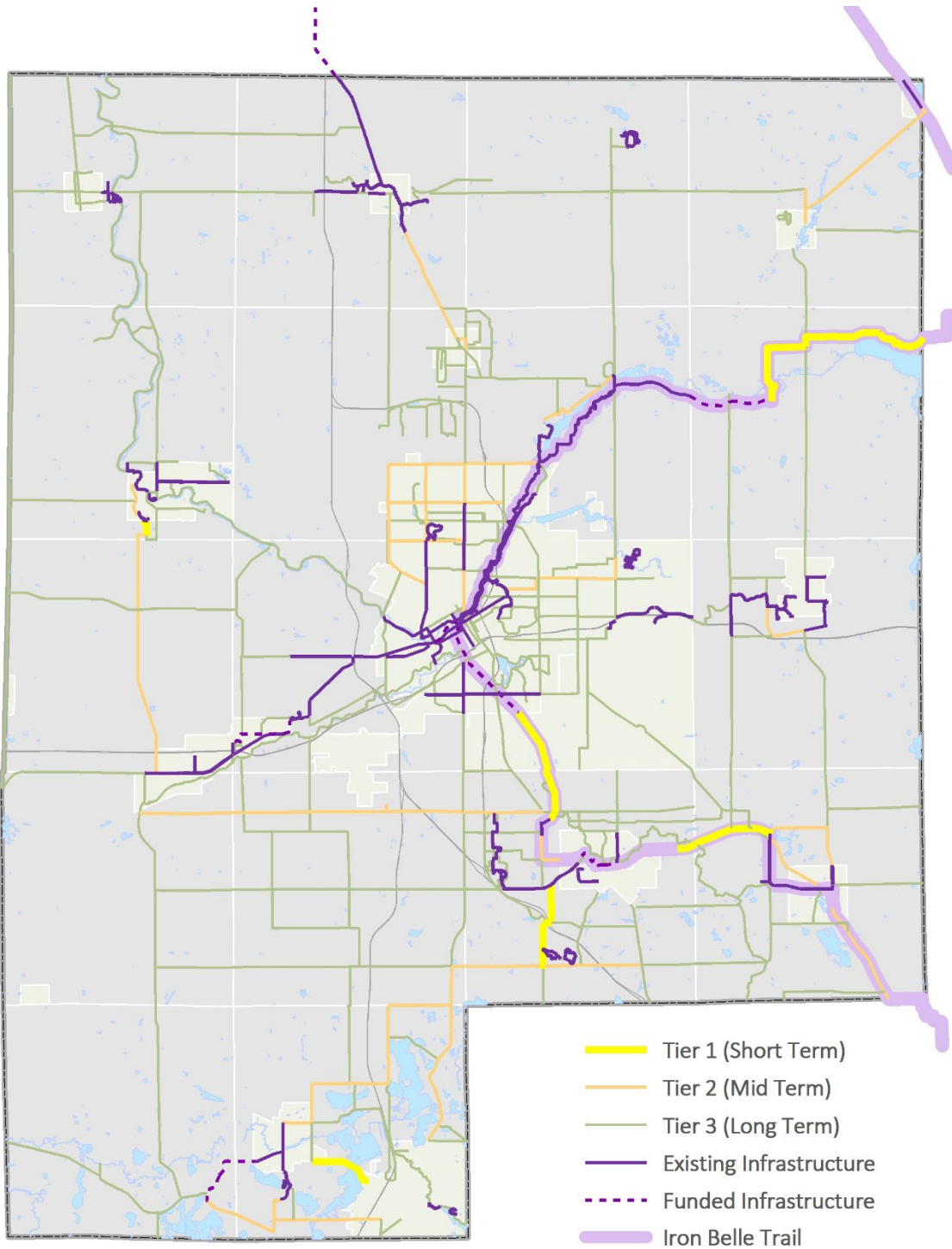
The plan outlines three priority tiers for future trail development:

- Tier 1 – short-term priorities (1-10 years)
- Tier 2 – mid-term priorities (11-20 years)
- Tier 3 – long-term priorities (beyond 20 years)

Within and near the City of Linden, one key Tier 1 non-motorized priority route has been identified. This route begins at the City of Fenton and extends generally along Silver Lake Road to the City of Linden. This route is generally consistent with the proposed LAFF Pathway route described earlier in this section.

Taken from the Genesee County Non-Motorized Trails Report, the county-wide system of existing and proposed non-motorized routes is shown on the map below:

Genesee County 2018 Trail Priorities



Shiawassee River State and National Water Trail Planning Efforts

As was noted earlier in this report, organizations such as Keepers of the Shiawassee, Inc., Headwaters Trails, Inc., Friends of the Shiawassee River, and Shiawassee Water Trail Coalition have worked diligently to develop the Shiawassee River State and National Water Trail, an 88-mile water trail through communities in Oakland, Genesee, Shiawassee, and Saginaw counties. An approximately 2.5-mile segment of the water trail extends through the City of Linden by way of the Shiawassee River and Mill Pond.

A paved canoe/kayak public access point has already been established at Mill Pond Park. Access to the river is also possible at Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park. However, access at Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park is a candidate for improvement. A second launch site is located on the river at the end of Walmar Street adjacent to the City-owned parking lot. Other water trail improvements within the City of Linden could include clearing logjams for navigability, installing wayfinding and educational signs, and providing safe portaging areas. In addition, narrow or low underpasses (i.e. small culverts or low bridges) should be replaced with larger openings, when reconstruction is warranted. (However, within the City, the only low underpass is the Ripley Road bridge deck which only occasionally prevents paddle travel when there is high water after a rain event.) Large box culverts or higher bridges are recommended, provided that the floodwater flow and storage capacity is not significantly affected, which is subject to approval by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Since bridges or overpasses may not be reconstructed for a period of time or not at all, an alternative is to provide safe portaging areas. A durable path should be provided for carrying watercraft, which should consist of more natural, less engineered facilities, such as submerged pavers with openings for vegetation to grow through to help retain the natural river bank appearance, along with providing proper roadside signage forewarning motor vehicle traffic of potential portage crossings.

On October 22, 2020, The Shiawassee River Water Trail was designated as a "National Water Trail" by the U.S. National Park Service. The Shiawassee River Water Trail Planning Team created a detailed water trail plan in 2018 to guide development of the Shiawassee River Water Trail. The plan identifies improvements to trail related facilities that help establish safe and navigable trail corridors for both recreational and educational pursuits in an ecologically sensitive manner. The designation of an official water trail further instills a sense of trail stewardship among canoeists/kayakers to respect the quality of the water and become good caretakers of the river. For the City of Linden, specific trail improvements and support facilities that are identified in the Plan include:

- Providing kayak lockers, boat rinse stations and re-usable/washable brushes, personal flotation devices (PDFs)/life preservers, exercise and balance stations, parking facilities, restrooms, handicapped access, picnicking areas, and covered trash containers
- Removing litter and fallen trees for navigability
- Installing wayfinding and educational signs
- Improving underpasses or providing safe portaging areas with durable paths and crossing signs
- Preserving/improving/stabilizing riverbank structure and habitat
- Improving the quality of the river and adjacent habitat through initiatives such as eliminating invasive species, tree planting, and discouraging illegal releases to storm drains

Goals and Objectives

The City of Linden Parks and Recreation Plan identifies goals and objectives for the next five years. They are broad enough to encompass the needs expressed by residents, Parks and Recreation Commission members, City officials and staff, as well as address the observed deficiencies in the parks and recreation resources of the area. They also consider demographics, current and anticipated growth and development, the area's physical resources and general recreational trends.

Goals can best be broken up into general categories of *Development, Cooperation, Balance and Community Health, Preservation and Conservation, Accessibility and Connectivity* and *Community Development*. They are as follows:

Development

Goal: *Develop a recreation system within the City of Linden which will provide for the full range of recreation and open space needs of City residents.*

Objective: Renovate, improve, and where possible and appropriate, expand existing and future parks and recreation facilities.

Objective: Continue the development of Eagles Wooden Park as a unique community park by making various park improvements.

Objective: Encourage developers of new subdivisions to provide dedicated open space and pathway connections within the neighborhood and to adjoining neighborhoods.

Objective: Look for opportunities to acquire land that:

- Is within neighborhoods which do not have neighborhood parks;
- Is adjacent to or near existing parks;
- Could provide increased and enhanced recreation opportunities;
- Will help to ensure preservation and access to the natural features in the community; and/or,
- Will preserve elements necessary for recreation and fishing.

Lands located along the Shiawassee River and the Mill Pond should specifically be targeted.

Objective: Develop and implement consistent signage within parks and along access roads to raise the level of awareness of park locations and facilities, including multi-use trails/trailheads and water trails/access sites.

Objective: Take advantage of regional recreation programs and facilities (i.e., Linden County Park) to promote and provide information relative to local Linden parks and recreation facilities.

Objective: Monitor and conduct surveys of park usage, to better understand and accommodate the diverse needs of City residents and visitors.

Objective: Work with entities such as the Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation Commission in the development of a dog park which would serve residents within the region.

Cooperation

Goal: *Promote cooperation between all groups, individuals, organizations and neighboring communities that are involved with recreation planning for area residents.*

Objective: Study, in conjunction with Linden Schools, the possibility of further utilizing school facilities to meet the needs of area residents.

Objective: Promote coordination of common goals with neighboring municipalities.

Objective: Support entities such as Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation and the Loose Senior Citizens Center in providing recreational programming to area residents.

Objective: Foster, promote, and encourage cooperative relationships and communication with other recreational entities and interests such as: Linden DDA; Linden Schools; Loose Senior Center; Genesee County Parks; Genesee County Regional Trail Council; Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission; Genesee County Road Commission; Keepers of the Shiawassee; Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition; LAFF Pathways; and, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the provision of local and regional recreation facilities, programs and trail networks.

Balance and Community Health

Goal: *Develop a balanced year-round recreation program for Linden that will encompass a full range of facilities and activities, serve individuals of all ages and abilities, and promote healthy living.*

Objective: Provide a variety of activities that can occur in each season of the year.

Objective: Promote recreation activities that will allow all residents to take part, including disabled and senior citizens.

Objective: Promote the planning and design of complete streets to ensure safe and efficient access for all road users.

Objective: Support the operation of a farmers’ market within the Linden community.

Objective: Support and promote various community events throughout the year, such as parades, festivals and races.

Preservation and Conservation

Goal: *Dedicate and preserve sufficient and suitable land for recreation and open space.*

Objective: Locate and preserve passive recreation facilities and to take advantage of natural features.

Objective: Preserve irreplaceable wetland resources within the City through land development controls, property purchase, putting land into conservancies to prevent future development, stabilization projects, or other mechanisms.

Accessibility and Connectivity

Goal: *Ensure that parks and recreation facilities are accessible, and provide non-motorized links to promote a walkable and connected community.*

Objective: Develop linkages between residential neighborhoods/developments to all City Parks.

Objective: Ensure connectivity between the downtown area and nearby parks (including Eagles Wooden Park) through paths, trails, and non-motorized bridges.

Objective: Ensure barrier free accessibility to all parks within the community, including paths, transfer points, resilient surfacing, picnic tables, play equipment, curb cuts, parking, etc.

Objective: Ensure connectivity between the City of Linden and adjacent communities and destinations (nearby parks and schools) through sidewalks, multi-use paths, bike lanes and water trails (Shiawassee River). An enhanced pedestrian connection along South Bridge Street to the Linden County Park has specifically been identified as a key community need.

Objective: Support and coordinate with the LAFF Pathway planning efforts for the development of a regional non-motorized trail connecting the communities of Linden, Fenton, Fenton Township and Argentine Township.

Objective: Support and coordinate with the Keepers of the Shiawassee planning efforts to promote and improve the Shiawassee River State and National Water Trail.

Objective: Improve accessibility by providing additional amenities such as bike racks, restrooms, pedestrian crossings, lockers at kayak launches, and fishing docks.

Community Development

Goal: *Implement recreation projects and programs which complement other federal, state, local and private investments being made in the community and which further the City's development strategy.*

Objective: Plan and locate needed recreation facilities in such a manner as to complement existing resources and reinforce other investments which have been made in the City’s historic downtown area.

Objective: Plan and locate needed facilities in such a manner as to compliment and reinforce the City’s strategy for neighborhood preservation.

Objective: Plan and locate facilities in such a manner to promote an attractive living and working environment and to foster community identity and community pride.

Objective: Consider the conversion of the City DPW yard to a City park to provide additional recreation land and facilities for City residents.

Objective: Allow for and encourage the development of recreation-supportive land uses within the City, such as sporting goods stores, bait and tackle shops, and bicycle/canoe/kayak sales, rental and repair businesses.

Action Program

The action program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of suggested capital improvement projects along with a sequence and strategies for implementation.

Capital Improvements Schedule

Potential capital improvements for this Parks and Recreation Plan have been established not only to provide a guide and foundation for decision makers, but also to enable the City to apply for grant funding for proposed projects. The capital improvements schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive nor exclusive. The schedule reflects the results of discussion with the Parks and Recreation Commission, City staff, and input from the public workshop, public meetings, and public hearing. As a complement to the Capital Improvements Schedule, an **Action Plan Map** has been developed and is included in this chapter to highlight the locations of the proposed improvement projects.

The Capital Improvements Schedule is to be used as a general guide for decision-making. The estimated costs listed in the schedule are a gauge of the financial resources needed to implement the project, but are not meant to strictly dictate future City budgeting. It is very likely that the schedule and plan will be amended at some point during its life due to unanticipated circumstances such as private donations, changing recreation trends, community opinion, and/or available funding. The schedule should be considered in close conjunction with the goals and guidelines of the plan. The following capital improvements schedule provides an outline and guide as to the desires of the community.

Year 1 – 2023

Project	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Sidewalk/Pathway Improvements Along S. Bridge Street to Linden County Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalk maintenance/repairs • Signage 	\$5,000 to \$10,000	GF; TE; SR2S
Eagles Wooden Park Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boardwalk improvements • Playscape improvements, including ADA and safety surfacing 	\$150,000 - \$250,000	GF; LWCF; RP
Kimble-Sharp Gazebo & Park Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing/railing repairs • Repave walkways • ADA improvements (amphitheater & gazebo) • Replace observation deck with ADA fishing deck • New/upgraded amenities (bike rack, planter, bollard lighting) • New seawall near gazebo • Parking lot improvements 	\$250,000 - \$500,000	GF; LWCF; RP; SPARK
State Bank Trail Construction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver Lake Road multi-use pathway (east City limits to Triangle Park) – Construction planned for 2023 	N/A – Under Construction	LAFF
State Bank Trailhead Construction (at Triangle Park) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8’ concrete sidewalk • Picnic tables • Trail information kiosk • Off-street curbed parking • ADA & van accessible signs • Bike racks 	N/A – Under Construction	LAFF
Installation of Parks & Non-Motorized Amenities at Strategic Locations throughout City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, recycling receptacles, signage, etc. 	TBD	GF; DDA
Key: TBD = To Be Determined; NA = Not Applicable; GF = General Fund; DDA = Downtown Development Authority; CDBG = Community Development Block Grant; TF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund; RP = Recreation Passport; SPARK = Spark Grant; TE = Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Program; SR2S = Safe Routes to School Program; LAFF = LAFF Pathway Funding/Partnership		

Year 2 – 2024

Project	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Mill Pond Park Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved, ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch • Portage improvements • Canoe locker/rack • Swing seating along waterfront • Shoreline stabilization • Floating dock 	\$80,000 - \$120,000	GF; DDA; LWCF; RP; SPARK; CDBG
Signage/Information Kiosk at Linden County Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advertise local Linden recreation facilities to regional park users 	\$1,000 to \$5,000	GF
Hyatt Lane / Stan Eaton Drive Pathway Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct new multi-use trail along Hyatt Street and Stan Eaton Drive, providing safe pedestrian routes for students to and from Linden and Hyatt Elementary Schools 	\$400,000	GF; SR2S; CDBG
Installation of Parks & Non-Motorized Amenities at Strategic Locations throughout City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, recycling receptacles, signage, etc. 	TBD	GF; DDA
Key: TBD = To Be Determined; NA = Not Applicable; GF = General Fund; DDA = Downtown Development Authority; CDBG = Community Development Block Grant; TF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund; RP = Recreation Passport; SPARK = Spark Grant; TE = Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Program; SR2S = Safe Routes to School Program; LAFF = LAFF Pathway Funding/Partnership		

Year 3 - 2025

Project	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Triangle Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Veteran’s Honor Roll <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service Branch Flags ○ Lighting for Honor Roll ○ Flowers and Plantings ○ Decorative sponsor bricks 	\$25,000 to \$50,000	GF; TF; LWCF; RP; American Legion/VFW Partnerships
Pathway Connection from Eagles Wooden Park to Downtown Linden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new non-motorized connection from Eagles Wooden Park to Downtown • Includes 10’ wide asphalt trail section 	\$100,000 - \$150,000	GF; DDA; TF
Installation of Parks & Non-Motorized Amenities at Strategic Locations throughout City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, recycling receptacles, signage, etc. 	TBD	GF; DDA
Key: TBD = To Be Determined; NA = Not Applicable; GF = General Fund; DDA = Downtown Development Authority; CDBG = Community Development Block Grant; TF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund; RP = Recreation Passport; SPARK = Spark Grant; TE = Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Program; SR2S = Safe Routes to School Program; LAFF = LAFF Pathway Funding/Partnership		

Year 4 – 2026

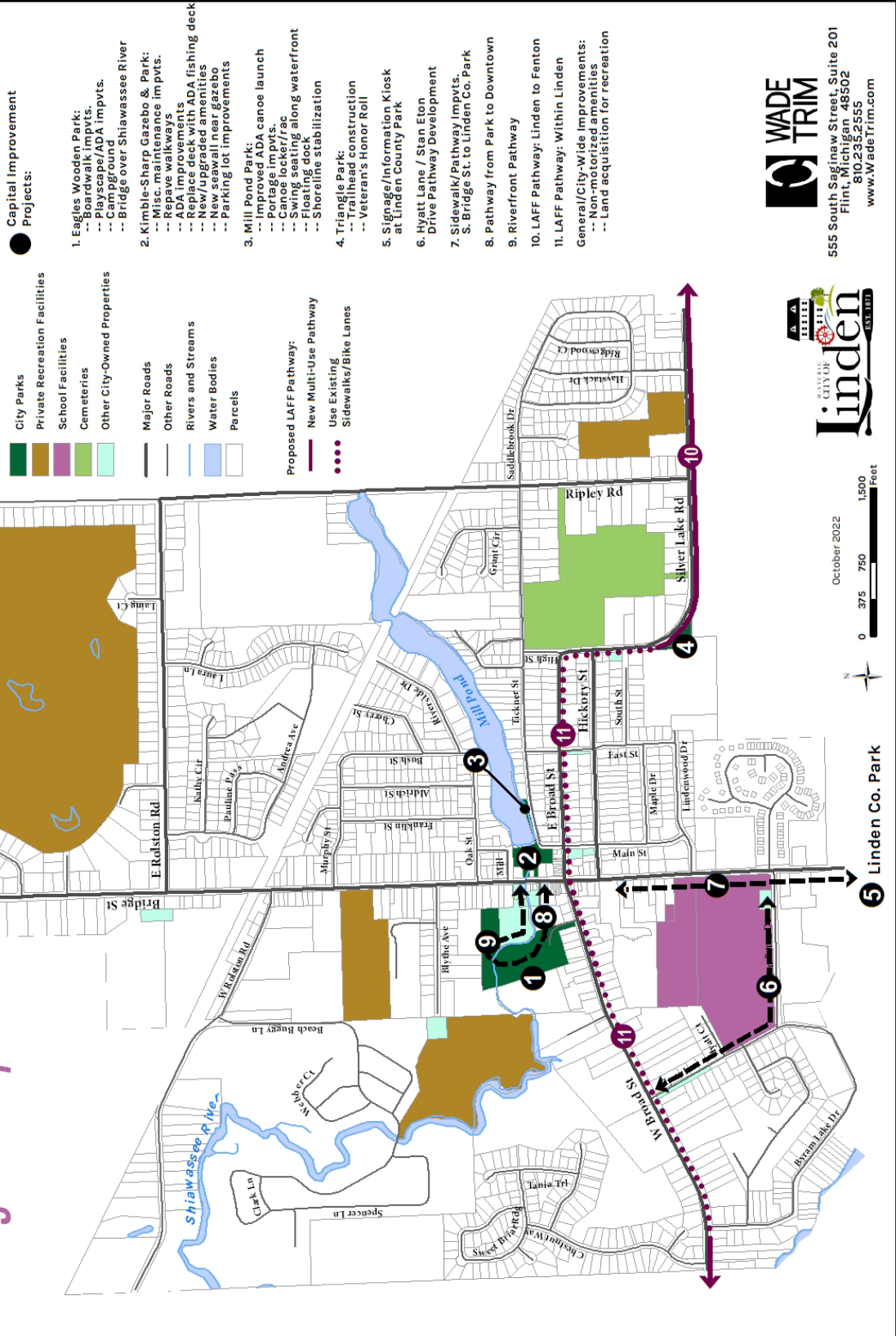
Project	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Eagles Wooden Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campground facility • Bridge over Shiawassee River, which would open up the north side of the park for development 	\$500,000 - 750,000	GF; DDA; TF; LWCF; RP
Riverfront Pathway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along North Side of River from new bridge at Eagle’s Wooden Park to Downtown 	\$250,000-500,000	GF; DDA; TF; LWCF; RP
Installation of Parks & Non-Motorized Amenities at Strategic Locations throughout City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, recycling receptacles, signage, etc. 	TBD	GF; DDA
Key: TBD = To Be Determined; NA = Not Applicable; GF = General Fund; DDA = Downtown Development Authority; CDBG = Community Development Block Grant; TF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund; RP = Recreation Passport; SPARK = Spark Grant; TE = Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Program; SR2S = Safe Routes to School Program; LAFF = LAFF Pathway Funding/Partnership		

Year 5 – 2027

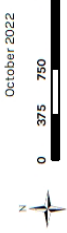
Project	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources
<p>Shiawassee River Water Trail Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the 5-year life of this plan, continue to coordinate with the Keepers of the Shiawassee, Inc. and the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition in planning efforts to promote and improve the Shiawassee River Water Trail. Refer to specific actions outlined on page 47 of this plan. 	TBD	Keepers of the Shiawassee, Inc. Funding/Partnership
Land Acquisition for Future Recreation Facility Development	TBD	GF; DDA; TF
<p>Installation of Parks & Non-Motorized Amenities at Strategic Locations throughout City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, recycling receptacles, signage, etc. 	TBD	GF; DDA
<p>Key: TBD = To Be Determined; NA = Not Applicable; GF = General Fund; DDA = Downtown Development Authority; CDBG = Community Development Block Grant; TF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund; RP = Recreation Passport; SPARK = Spark Grant; TE = Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Program; SR2S = Safe Routes to School Program; LAFF = LAFF Pathway Funding/Partnership;</p>		

Parks and Recreation Plan

Action Program Map



555 South Saginaw Street, Suite 201
 Flint, Michigan 48502
 810.235.2555
 www.WadeTrim.com



Linden Co. Park

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Funding Opportunities

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five (5) years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides only a limited amount of funds for park development and improvements. The amount is well short of the projected expenses involved in the project schedule.

Potential funding sources from outside entities for recreation, non-motorized, and environmental restoration projects change and evolve on a regular basis. Understanding available funding programs, their requirements and deadlines requires continuous monitoring. A few of the more common funding sources have been detailed here as a reference and resource. These are in addition to traditional funding methods such as the general fund, fees, millages, bonds, DDA's, etc.

Transportation Enhancement Funds

MDOT's Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities are federally funded, community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the 12 TE activities and relate to surface transportation. Activities that relate to the implementation of this Parks and Recreation Plan include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
 - Includes new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, bus racks, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses.
 - Paved shoulders four or more feet wide
 - Curb lane width greater than 12 feet
 - Bike lanes
 - Pedestrian crosswalks, sidewalks
 - Shared use paths 10 feet wide or greater
 - Path/trail user amenities
 - Grade separations
 - Bicycle parking facilities
 - Bicycle accommodations on public transportation
 - Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - Programs designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets and signage.
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian and bicycle trails).
- Acquiring railroad rights-of-way; planning, designing and constructing multi-use trails; developing rail-with-trail projects; purchasing unused railroad property for reuse.

A minimum 20% local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted on an on-going basis.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, offered through the MDNR, provides funding for both the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty and the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation use. Goals of the program are to: 1) protect Michigan's natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment; 2) provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreation use; 3) meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities; 4) improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's urban areas; and, 5) stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation-related tourism and community revitalization.

Any individual, group, organization, or unit of government may submit a land acquisition proposal. However, only state and local units of government can submit development proposals. All proposals for grants must include a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of outdoor recreation facilities. In the past, this program has been used for a variety of recreational development purposes, including trailway systems, playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. The minimum grant request is \$30,000 and the maximum grant request is \$100,000. The match percentage must be 50% of the total project cost. Applications are typically due in April of each year.

Recreation Passport

The Recreation Passport grant is a relatively new grant offered by the MDNR. The objective for the program is to provide funding to local units for the development of public recreation facilities. This includes the development of new facilities and the renovation of old facilities. The program emphasizes renovations to existing facilities and providing unmet recreation needs. For 2012, the dollar amount available is expected to be \$7,500 to \$45,000 for each grant. Applications are typically due in April of each year.

Spark Grants

Michigan Spark Grants are a \$65 million program that represents a milestone moment for outdoor recreation, helping local communities that want to create, renovate or redevelop public outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors – especially those whose economic opportunities and health were hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Spark Grants will support projects that provide safe, accessible public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people's health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure and make it easier for people to enjoy the outdoors. This grant opportunity is possible because of the Building Michigan Together Plan, signed in March 2022, which included a historic infusion of federal funding in our state and local parks.

Community Development Block Grant Program

The City of Linden participates in Genesee County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) as a sub-recipient community. Each year, the City receives an annual allotment of CDBG funding from the County to be used for eligible activities that benefit low- and moderate-income citizens and other special needs groups. Related to recreation, the CDBG program could provide funding assistance for the following activities:

- ADA accessibility improvements
- Public facilities improvements (Senior Centers, etc.)
- Recreation facility development within designated low- and moderate-income eligible areas
- Sidewalks within designated low- and moderate-income eligible areas
- Programming (which serves low- and moderate-income citizens or other special needs groups)

Safe Routes To School Program

The Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need to succeed. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. Michigan's SR2S program makes schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program as defined in the federal legislation is:

- To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- To facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

To be eligible, schools must be registered, attend a day long training session, and develop a Walking Audit in order to be eligible to apply. SR2S funding is 100% federal; no match is required. 70% of the funding must be used for infrastructure projects, 10% for non-infrastructure projects, and 20% for either. www.saferoutesmichigan.org

Other Sources of Funding

The City of Linden, with guidance from the Parks and Recreation Commission, should investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund-raising events and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development.

Appendices

- A. Joint Resolution in Support of LAFF Pathways
- B. Draft Plan Availability and Public Hearing Public Notice
- C. Minutes from the Public Hearing
- D. City Council Adoption Resolution
- E. Parks and Recreation Commission Resolution Recommending Adoption
- F. Letter of Transmittal to Genesee County / GLS Region V Planning and Development Commission
- G. DNR Recreation Plan Certification Checklist

Joint Resolution No.

of

City of Linden, City of Fenton, Fenton Charter Township, and Argentine Township

At a meeting of the Linden City Council, held in the Council Chambers on the lower level of the Mill Building at 201 N. Main Street, Linden, MI 48451 on the 14 day of September, 2015, at which time a quorum of the Council was present, the following resolution was adopted by vote taken by yeas (7) and nays (0) and entered at large upon the record of said Council.

At a meeting of the Fenton City Council, held in the Fenton City Hall Council Chambers, 301 S. Leroy Street, Fenton, Michigan 48430 on the 10th day of August, 2015, at which time a quorum of the Council was present, the following resolution was adopted by vote taken by yeas (7) and nays (0) and entered at large upon the record of said Council.

At a meeting of the Fenton Charter Township Board of Trustees, held in the main level meeting room of the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430 on the 21 day of Sept, 2015, at which time a quorum of the Board was present, the following resolution was adopted by vote taken by yeas (6) and nays (1) and entered at large upon the record of said Board.

At a meeting of the Argentine Township Board of Trustees, held in the Township Offices at 9048 Silver Lake Rd. Linden, Michigan 48451 on the 28TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2015, at which time a quorum of the Board was present, the following resolution was adopted by vote taken by yeas (5) and nays (0) and entered at large upon the record of said Board.

Joint Resolution No.

of

City of Linden, City of Fenton, Fenton Charter Township, and Argentine Township

A resolution supporting the joint governmental cooperation between the City of Linden, the City of Fenton, Fenton Charter Township and Argentine Township as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Linden, the City of Fenton, Fenton Charter Township and Argentine Township seek to connect our regional area with non-motorized trails and pathways that create recreational opportunities and alternative forms of transportation, improve public safety, increase community and home values, and realize economic gains for area businesses; and,

WHEREAS, our communities strive to provide connectivity via non-motorized trails and pathways, through joint community and infrastructure planning because it connects adjoining community attributes with shared school facilities, regional features, programs, and parks; and,

WHEREAS, our communities endeavor to enhance the quality of life of area residents; and,

WHEREAS, four routes in our region have been identified for prioritization (*in no particular order*) with the understanding there will be supplemental routes in each community:

- Silver Lake Road between the City of Linden and the City of Fenton,
- Silver Lake Road between Argentine Township and the City of Linden,
- Owen Road between Linden Road and Leroy Street,
- Fenton Road between Thompson Road and Fenton City Limits; and

WHEREAS, working together to support the efforts of adjoining communities to promote smart commuting and alternate forms of transportation that will create strategic growth, environmental integrity, economic prosperity, and social equality, making all the communities in southern Genesee County great places to work, live and play.

Joint Resolution No.
of
City of Linden, City of Fenton, Fenton Charter Township, and Argentine Township

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by these aforementioned communities, that we hereby go on record in support of the aforesaid non-motorized multi-use trail Project.

Passed the 14 day of September, 2015

By the Linden City Council

Authorized Signature: _____

Title: CITY MANAGER

Passed the 10th day of August, 2015

By the Fenton City Council

Authorized Signature: _____

Title: CITY MANAGER

Passed the 21 day of Sept, 2015

By the Fenton Charter Township Board of Trustees

Authorized Signature: _____

Title: SUPERVISOR

Passed the 28th day of September, 2015

By the Argentine Township Board of Trustees

Authorized Signature: _____

Title: SUPERVISOR

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

RECEIVED
JAN 05 2023
BY: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN } SS
COUNTY OF GENESEE

Katie Smith, being first duly sworn, says that (s)he is the Circulation Manager of Tri-County Times Sunday, a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified paper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published

12/18/22 Public Hearing and Draft Plan

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th

day of December, 20 22

Jennifer J Ward
Notary Public, Livingston County, Michigan

JENNIFER J WARD
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of Livingston

My Commission Expires 08-31-2026

My commission expires _____ Acting in the County of Genesee

Prepared by Tri-County Times Sunday
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Lapeer, MI 48446

The Tri-County Times Daily Edition • tctimes.com

CITY OF LINDEN PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PLAN FOR REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the City of Linden Parks and Recreation Commission on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., within Council Chambers on the lower level of the Mill Building located at 201 North Main Street, Linden, MI, 48451. The public hearing is being held to receive comments from citizens and consider the adoption of the City of Linden Parks and Recreation Plan, 2023-2027.

A Parks and Recreation Plan assists the City in identifying recreation needs. The plan will serve as a guide to document priorities for improvements. When approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the plan qualifies the City for recreation grants, which are administered through the MDNR. The proposed plan includes a community description, an overview of the administrative structure of the City, an inventory of existing facilities, a recreation needs analysis, goals and objectives, and capital improvement priorities for the next five years.

A copy of the draft Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027 is available for public review at City Hall, located at 132 East Broad Street, Linden, MI, 48451, as well as on the City website at www.lindenmi.us.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY TOWNSHIP OF ARGENTINE PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION AVAILABLE

The Township is accepting resumes for a part time administrative assistant. The successful candidate will report to the Township Board and will be responsible for performing a variety of duties related to customer service, and office administration. Candidate should be flexible with hours available. Starting wage will be \$15.00 per hour.

Your skills and abilities should include:

- Proven experience with customer service
- Knowledge with accounting practices, receivables and payables
- Excellent time management skills and the ability to prioritize work
- Working knowledge of office equipment, like printers and fax machines
- Proficiency in MS Office (MS Excel and MS PowerPoint, in particular)
- Attention to detail and problem solving skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational skills with the ability to multi-task
- High School degree; additional qualification as an Administrative assistant or Secretary will be a plus

Please submit your resumes to:

Argentine Township
9048 Silver Lake Rd.
Linden, MI 48451
Attn: Clerk Graves



Hartland Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Emmalyn Wheaton (right front row) stands with honorees at the chamber's holiday lunch and annual awards.

Hartland Chamber celebrates local businesses

By Emily Caswell

Howell — The Hartland Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its holiday lunch and annual awards on Thursday, Dec. 8 at the Crystal Gardens Banquet Center. Attendees were treated to lunch and a live performance by the Hartland High School Choir. Guests also were invited to network and play “reindeer” games before the awards ceremony.

Honored at the event were the following:

- Lifetime Achievement: Connie Brinkerhoff, Mary Kay Cosmetics
- Chamber Volunteer of the Year: Jake

Andrews, Hartland Insurance Agency

- New Member of the Year: Eric Glabach, Great State Window Cleaning
- Ambassador of the Year: Michelle Wilson, Mortgage 1
- Innovative Leader: LaFontaine Automotive Group
- Business Investment Award: Two Men and a Truck
- Community Impact Award: Hartland Insurance Agency
- Community Giveback recipients: LaCasa Center, Hartland Community Council, Hartland Optimist Club, Livingston County Chorus and HERO Round Table

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CITY OF LINDEN
Minutes for Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Held at 6:00pm on Thursday, January 19, 2023
City of Linden Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Hunter in the Council Chambers on the lower level of the Mill Building at 201 N. Main Street, Linden, Michigan

ROLL CALL

Present: Heather MacDermaid, Judy Hunter, Sadie Kosin, Kristen Wesley
Absent: Michael Dietz, Pam Howd (arrived 6:40 p.m.)
Others Present: Ellen Glass, City Manager & Don Grice, DPW Director

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY FOR 2023

MacDermaid motioned to nominate Judy Hunter as Chairperson for 2023, second by Kosin. Yeas, all; nays, none
Hunter motioned to nominate Heather MacDermaid as Secretary for 2023, second by Wesley. Yeas, all; nays, none

MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion by Kosin, seconded by Hunter to approve the Minutes from the November 17, 2022 regular meeting. Motion passes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027 Public Hearing

Motion by MacDermaid, second by Hunter to open the Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m. Yeas, all; nays, none

Public comments:

- David Lossing on behalf of the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition submitted a list of seven recommendations for changes to the Plan. He spoke on a few of the items.
- Jannell Tillman on behalf of the Keepers of the Shiawassee, Inc. submitted written comments regarding the plan. She spoke on some of the comments
- Maggy Yerman, a resident of Shiawassee Shores, commented on the low water level of the river this past summer and the effects the dam has on the water levels

Motion by MacDermaid, second by Hunter to close the Public Hearing at 6:17 p.m. Yeas, all; nays, none

Motion by MacDermaid, Second by Hunter to recommend adoption of the Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027 with consideration of the comments received during the public hearing. Yeas, all; nays, none

James Appleton - My Eagle Scout Project Proposal

James Appleton presented a proposal to make improvements at Triangle Park to the east of the improvements being made by the LAAF Pathway. These improvements include three picnic tables, three grills and two trash receptacles. The picnic tables and grills will be affixed to the ground. He will consult with Don Grice on what foundation needs to be for all items for ease of maintenance by the DPW.

Motion by MacDermaid, Second by Hunter to recommend that the project be approved based on requirements set forth by Grice. Yeas, all; nays, none

Heather Harrison - Genesee District Library Linden StoryWalk Project

Heather Harrison of the Genesee District Library on behalf of the City of Linden Library Board presented a proposal for a permanent StoryWalk along the boardwalk through Eagles Wooden Park. The installation would be permanent with the stories being changed out by her every 4-6 weeks, depending on weather. She has been working with Don Grice regarding the location and installation of the project.

Motion by MacDermaid, Second by Howd to recommend that the project be approved. Yeas, all; nays, none

Ed Koledo - Trailhead at Triangle Park requested Change in Parking

Ed Koledo on behalf of LAFF Pathway presented a requested change to the trailhead parking at Triangle Park. He proposed eliminating five parking places. Due to the location of existing trees, the last five parking spaces to the east in the original plan would be located directly in the site vision of adjoining houses. He requested that these five spaces be eliminated. This leaves a total of nine parking spaces with two of them being handicap.

Motion by Hunter, second by Kosin to recommend approval of the revision. Yeas, all; nays, none

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Keepers of the Shiawassee 2023 Calendar of Events

BUSINESS AND DISCUSSIONS

-Thursdays in the Park – tabled until next meeting

- Community Clean-Up

Due to the improvement of park maintenance by the DPW staff and a lack of involvement by the community at last year's Community Clean-Up we are cancelling the spring clean-up for 2023. We will revisit this next year for spring 2024.

-Change in membership

Marguerite Plumb has resigned from the Commission after many years. We will put together a going away gift for her with a T-shirt and a card.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

None

Additional public comment was made by Jannell Tillman that the Keepers of the Shiawassee will be having a river clean-up on May 20 & 21, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Hunter at 7:02PM. Next meeting is March 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather MacDermaid, Secretary

Approved: _____

**Resolution No. 02-22 of
Adoption Linden City
Council
Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027**

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission is an appointed body and establishes direction and policy regarding parks and recreation facilities, projects and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for overseeing and guiding the development of a Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, said Parks and Recreation Commission has made investigations and surveys of the existing recreation resources and probable future need for recreation facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, in order to gather input from the public, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a community workshop in September 2022; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held before the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 19, 2023, to enable additional comments from the public; and

WHEREAS, a draft Parks and Recreation Plan was completed and made available for public review at least 30 days in advance of the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission passed a Resolution Recommending Adoption of the Plan at their January 19, 2023 meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Linden does hereby adopt the City of Linden Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027.

BE IT FUTURE RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Plan shall serve as a guide to future recreation development in the City of Linden.

Ayes: *Howd, Armstrong, Dick, Cusson, Culbert, Simons, MacDermaid*

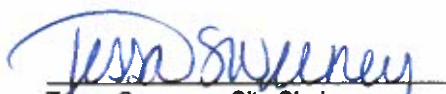
Nays: *None*

Absent: *None*

Adopted January 23, 2023

I, Tessa Sweeney, Clerk of the City of Linden, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted by the Linden City Council at a meeting held on January 23, 2023.


Danielle N. Cusson, Mayor


Tessa Sweeney, City Clerk

**Resolution Recommending Adoption
City of Linden Parks and Recreation Commission
Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027**

Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Commission establishes direction and policy regarding parks and recreation facilities, projects and programs; and

Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for overseeing and guiding the development of a Parks and Recreation Plan; and

Whereas, said Parks and Recreation Commission has made investigations and surveys of the existing recreation resources and probable future need for recreation facilities and services; and

Whereas, in order to gather input from the public, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a community workshop in September 2022; and

Whereas, a public hearing was held before the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 19, 2023, to enable additional comments from the public; and

Whereas, a draft Parks and Recreation Plan was completed and made available for public review at least 30 days in advance of the public hearing;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the City of Linden Parks and Recreation Commission does hereby recommend adoption of the Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027.

Be it future resolved that the Parks and Recreation Plan shall serve as a guide to future recreation development in the City of Linden.

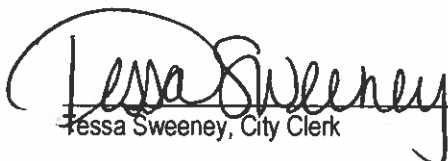
Ayes: *MacDermuid, Huxter, Hosen, Wesley*

Nays: *None.*

Absent: *Howe, Dietz*

Adopted January 19, 2023

I, Tessa Sweeney, Clerk of the City of Linden, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution that was offered by the Linden Parks and Recreation Commission at a meeting held on Thursday, January 19, 2023.


Tessa Sweeney, City Clerk



Letter of Transmittal

WT189-02

500 Griswold Street, Suite 2500 • Detroit, MI 48226
313.961.3650 • 313.961.0898 fax • www.wadetrtrim.com

If transmitted items are not as noted, notify writer immediately.

To: GLS Region V Planning and Dev. Commission/
Genesee County Metro. Plan. Commission
1101 Beach St. Room 223
Flint, MI 48502-1470

Date: January 31, 2023

Attn: To Whom it May Concern

Transmitted By: [X] Regular Mail [] Overnight Delivery
[] Hand Delivered
[] Picked Up By:
[] Other:

Re: City of Linden Parks and Recreation Plan, 2023-2027

We are transmitting 2 copies of the following:

- [] Certificate for Payment No. [] Discs [] Prints [] Specs.
[] Contract Change Order No. [] Drawings [] Product Literature [] Tracings
[] Construction Change Req. No. [] Field Measure Plans [] Samples [] Work Orders No.
[] Copy of Letter [] Plans [] Shop Drawings
[X] Other: City of Linden Parks and Recreation Plan, 2023-2027

For your: [] Action [] As Requested [] Information [] Review/Comment [] Use
[] Approval [X] Distribution [X] Records /Files [] Signature

Remarks: As is required by the MDNR and on behalf of the City of Linden, we are forwarding you a copy of the adopted City of Linden Parks and Recreation Plan for your information and files. It is our understanding that your office serves both the regional planning commission (GLS Region V) and county planning commission (GCMPC); therefore, we are sending 2 copies of the plan to your office as may be required for distribution.

Job No. LDN6008-01D

By: Adam Young, AICP

cc:



COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than March 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan: City of Linden Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027		
List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
City of Linden	Genesee	January 2023

PLAN CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming
- Current Funding Sources
- Role of Volunteers
- Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:

- Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
- Articles of Incorporation

3. RECREATION INVENTORY

- Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- Accessibility Assessment
- Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice December 18, 2022

Type of Notice Newspaper and Online

Plan Location City Hall

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 33 days

Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice December 18, 2022

Name of Newspaper Tri-County Times / tctimes.com

Date of Meeting January 19, 2023

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 23, 2023

2. Official resolution of the Parks and Recreation Commission Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: January 19, 2023

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: January 31, 2023

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: January 31, 2023

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

City of Linden (Local Unit of Government) includes the required content, as indicated above and as set forth by the DNR.

Ellen R. Glass 1/30/2023
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.