



CITY OF LINDEN

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
LOCATION: LOOSE SENIOR CENTER, 707 NORTH BRIDGE STREET, LINDEN, MI 48451**

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:00 P.M.

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- I. CALL TO ORDER**
 - II. ROLL CALL**
(A) Excuse Absent Member(s)
 - III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
(A) April 16, 2026 Special Meeting
 - V. PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
 - VI. PUBLIC COMMENT - PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ARE ASKED TO STATE THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD AND LIMIT THEIR COMMENTS TO FIVE (5) OR TEN (10) MINUTES IF REPRESENTING A GROUP OF PERSONS.**
 - VII. CORRESPONDENCE**
 - VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
(A) 2026 Events and Programming Updates
(B) Parks and Recreation Plan Objectives and Goals
 - IX. NEW BUSINESS**
(A) Shiawassee River Shuttle
 - X. COMMISSIONER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - XI. ADJOURNMENT**



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the City of Linden Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Dietz at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held within Loose Senior Center located at 707 North Bridge Street, Linden, MI 48451.

ROLL CALL

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Aaron Wiens, Mike Dietz, Larry Allen

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: Heidi Fletcher

ABSENT: Sadie Kosin, Elizabeth Armstrong, Stephanie Shaw

OTHERS PRESENT: Tessa Sweeney, Director of Senior Services & Community Engagement; Kristyn Kanyak, City Clerk

(A) Excuse Absent Member(s)

Kanyak shared correspondence received regarding absences, Armstrong and Shaw were excused. Kosin's absence was not excused.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Allen, second by Wiens to approve the agenda as proposed. Motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(A) March 19, 2026 Meeting

Motion by Wiens, second by Dietz to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(A) 2026 Events and Programming Updates

Dietz explained reasoning for the special meeting request, brief discussion with Fletcher regarding event support. Wiens provided an update on fly-tying event details and discussed sign up genius use for other events, also discussed quorum, coordinating and Open Meetings Act, Kanyak addressed.

Fletcher discussed details for the kite flying event; flyers; and item/quantity orders, Kanyak will order. Further discussion between Commissioners and staff regarding Scouts participation; flyers and distribution locations; signage, Dietz will design and staff will order; shirts design, style and details, staff will order; and Memorial Day kayaking details and time. Commissioners discussed details for rock painting event; owl/bat/bird houses; flyer and distribution location and methods.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

COMMISSIONER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Discussion regarding next meeting agenda items: Shiawassee River Shuttle, event planning and objective and goals. Dietz and Kanyak provided an update on the Keepers launch request.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dietz, second by Allen to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Dietz at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristyn Kanyak, City Clerk

Approved: _____

DRAFT

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>		

LINDEN PARKS & REC EVENT SCHEDULE

April 23 – Fly Tying, Loose Center

May 14 – Ben Franklin Kite Making & Flying, Linden County Park

May 25 – Memorial Day Kayaking, Mill Pond Begins at noon

June 18 – Little Explorers, Eagle's Wooden Park

July 16 – Bats in our Backyard, Eagle's Wooden Park

August 6 – Little Explorers, Eagle's Wooden Park

September 17 – Senior Kayaking, Mill Pond

Knit-a-thon, Kimble-Sharp Gazebo

Events begin at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted

 **Follow City of Linden, MI Parks & Recreation for event info & updates**