Existing Conditions
Currently Adopted Plan

• Current 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan adopted in 2012
• Covered years 2012-2016
• Accomplishments:
  • Pedestrian amenities/benches
  • Eagles Wooden Park improvements
  • Secured LWCF grant for new restroom facility at Eagles Wooden Park
Why Update the Plan?

• Serves as a guide and decision-making document for future recreation facilities and programs

• Provides 5 years of eligibility for recreation grants through the MDNR

• Available grants include:
  • Recreation Passport
  • Natural Resources Trust Fund
  • Land and Water Conservation Fund
Community Demographics

- Steady population growth
  - 5th fastest growing city/village in Michigan between 2000 and 2010
  - More facilities needed to serve a growing population

- Aging population
  - Median age of 40.0 yrs. in 2014 vs. 38.4 yrs. in 2000
  - Facilities/amenities needed to serve an aging population

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

Figure 1
Population Growth
City Parks

- Linden Mills Park
- Mill Pond Park
- Triangle Park
- Eagles Wooden Park
Linden Mills Park

- 2.09 acres
- Amphitheater
- Gazebo
- Fishing
- Parking
- Linden Mills Building
Mill Pond Park

- 0.39 acres
- Canoe/kayak launch (unimproved)
- Picnic tables and benches
Triangle Park

- 1.26 acres
- Unimproved open space
- No facilities or improved parking
Eagles Wooden Park

• 9.70 acres
• Picnic pavilion
• Play structure
• Boardwalk along Shiawassee River
• Parking area
• New restroom facility to be constructed in 2017
Private Recreation Facilities

- Spring Meadows Country Club
- Loose Senior Citizen Center
- Shiawassee Shores Golf Course
- Faith Baptist Church (ball field)
Recreation Facility Standards

• National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards call for approximately 6 to 11 acres of parkland for every 1,000 persons

• With a population of 3,991 (2010 Census), Linden would require approximately 25 to 42 acres of parkland

• Presently, the City has 13.44 acres of parkland
Accessibility Considerations

• Persons with disabilities should have an equal opportunity to enjoy parks facilities and programs

• Common examples of non-accessibility recreation amenities:
  • Lack of accessible routes (from parking lot to facilities)
  • No or improperly designed curb ramps
  • Accessible routes too steep/no handrails
  • Uneven pathways and surfaces (lips, gaps)
  • Railings along scenic viewing locations are too tall and obstruct the view of wheelchair users
  • No space for wheelchair users next to benches and picnic tables
2010 Recreational Survey Results

- Facilities/Activities Most Wanted:
  - Nature Trails/River Walk
  - Bike Paths
  - Fishing Pier/Dock
  - Canoe Launch
  - Music by the Mill Program
Regional Planning Efforts
Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation
Genesee County Trail Planning
Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail Planning
LAFF Pathways

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

Tickner Street Connector
From Haystack Dr to S. Bridge St.
LAFF Pathways (cont.)
Local Recreation Planning
Currently Adopted Recreation Goals and Objectives

• Divided into six categories:
  • Development
  • Cooperation
  • Balance and Community Health
  • Preservation and Conservation
  • Accessibility and Connectivity
  • Community Development
Development Goal and Objectives

• 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.
  • Renovate, improve, and where possible and appropriate, expand existing and future parks and recreation facilities.
  • Continue the development of Walmar Park as a unique community park by making various park improvements.
  • Encourage developers of new subdivisions to provide dedicated open space.
  • Look for opportunities to acquire land that: is adjacent to or near existing parks; could provide increased and enhanced recreation opportunities; and/or will help to ensure protection and access to the natural features in the community.
  • Develop and implement consistent signage within parks and along access roads to raise the level of awareness of park locations and facilities.
Cooperation Goal and Objectives

• Promote cooperation between all groups, individuals, organizations and neighboring communities that are involved with recreation planning for area residents.
  • Study, in conjunction with Linden Schools, the possibility of further utilizing schools facilities to meet the needs of area residents.
  • Promote coordination of common goals with neighboring municipalities.
  • Foster, promote, and encourage cooperative relationships with other public recreational entities and interests such as: Linden DDA; Linden Schools; Senior Center; Genesee County Parks; Genesee County Regional Trail Council; Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission; Genesee County Road Commission; Headwaters Trails; and, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Balance and Community Health
Goal and Objectives

• 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.
  • Provide a variety of activities that can occur in each season of the year.
  • Promote recreation activities that will allow all residents to take part, including disabled and senior citizens.
  • Promote the planning and design of complete streets to ensure safe and efficient access for all road users.
• Support the operation of a farmers’ market within the Linden community.
• Support and promote various community events throughout the year, such as parades, festivals and races.
Preservation and Conservation
Goal and Objectives

- Dedicate and preserve sufficient and suitable land for recreation and open space.
  - Locate and preserve passive recreation facilities and to take advantage of natural features.
  - Preserve irreplaceable wetland resources within the City through the use of the Michigan Land Trust Fund.
Accessibility and Connectivity

Goal and Objectives

• Ensure that parks and recreation facilities are accessible, and provide non-motorized links to promote a walkable and connected community.
  • Develop linkages between residential neighborhoods/developments to all City Parks.
  • Ensure connectivity between the downtown area and nearby parks (including Walmar Park) through paths, trails, and non-motorized bridges.
  • Ensure barrier free accessibility to all parks within the community, including paths, transfer points, resilient surfacing, picnic tables, play equipment, curb cuts, parking, etc.
  • 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).
  • Promote the development of a multi-use trail along Silver Lake Road to the Linden High School.
Community Development
Goal and Objectives

• 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.
  • 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.
  • Plan and locate needed facilities in such a manner as to compliment and reinforce the City’s strategy for neighborhood preservation.
  • Plan and locate facilities in such a manner to promote an attractive living and working environment and to foster community identity and community pride.
  • Consider the conversion of the City DPW yard to a City park to provide additional recreation land and facilities for City residents.
Needed Recreation Improvements: Linden Mills Park
Needed Recreation Improvements: Mill Pond Park
Needed Recreation Improvements:
Eagles Wooden Park
Needed Recreation Improvements: Triangle Park
Non-Motorized Improvements
Other Recreation Improvements

• Development of new parks
• Programming
• Signage