



Parks and Recreation Workshop

City of Linden

5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

November 16, 2016

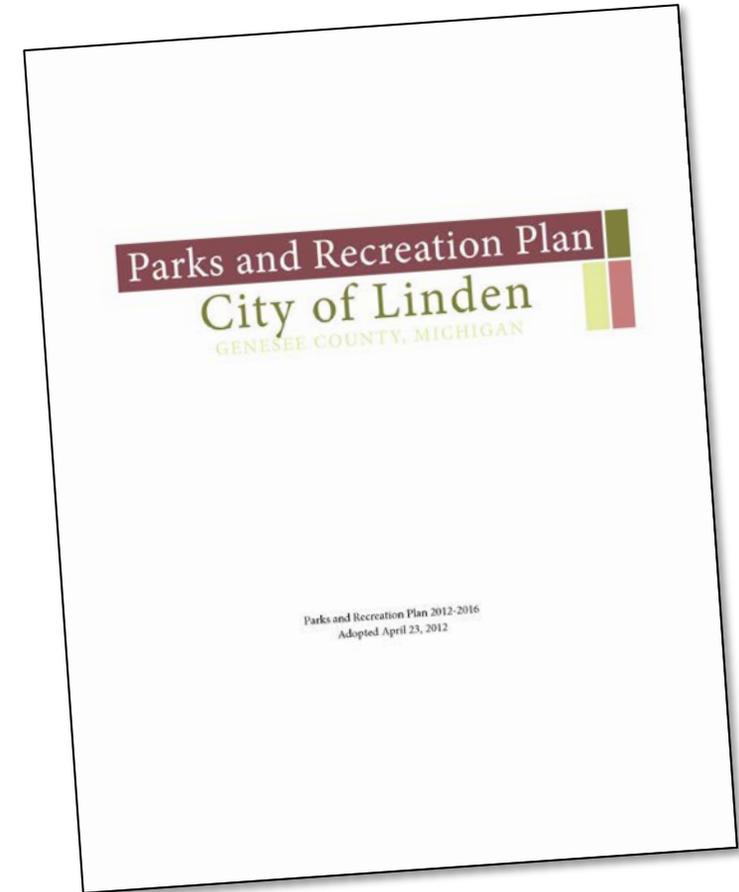


Existing Conditions



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?

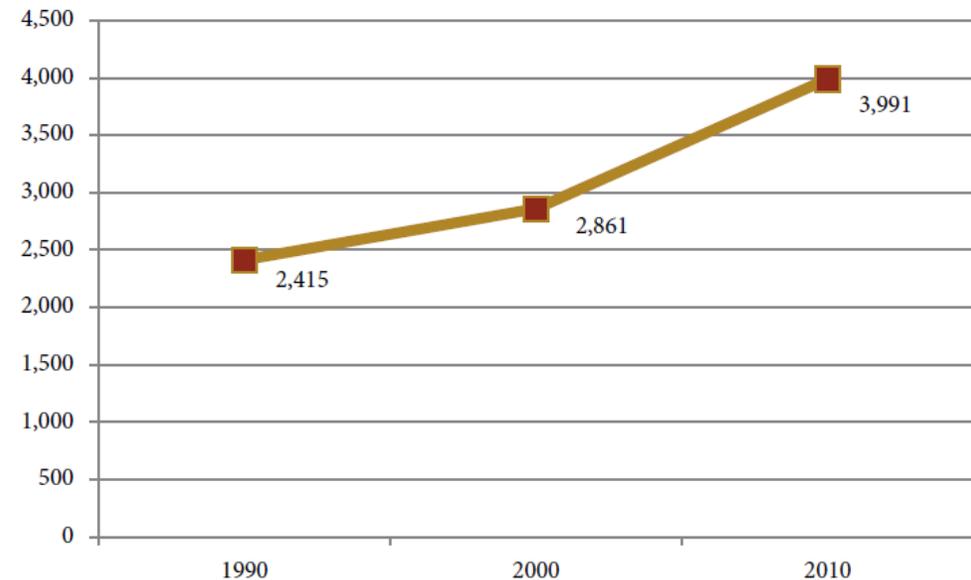
- Serves as a guide and decision-making document for future recreation facilities and programs
- Provides 5 years of eligibility for recreation grants through the MDNR
- Available grants include:
 - Recreation Passport
 - Natural Resources Trust Fund
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund



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

Figure 1
Population Growth

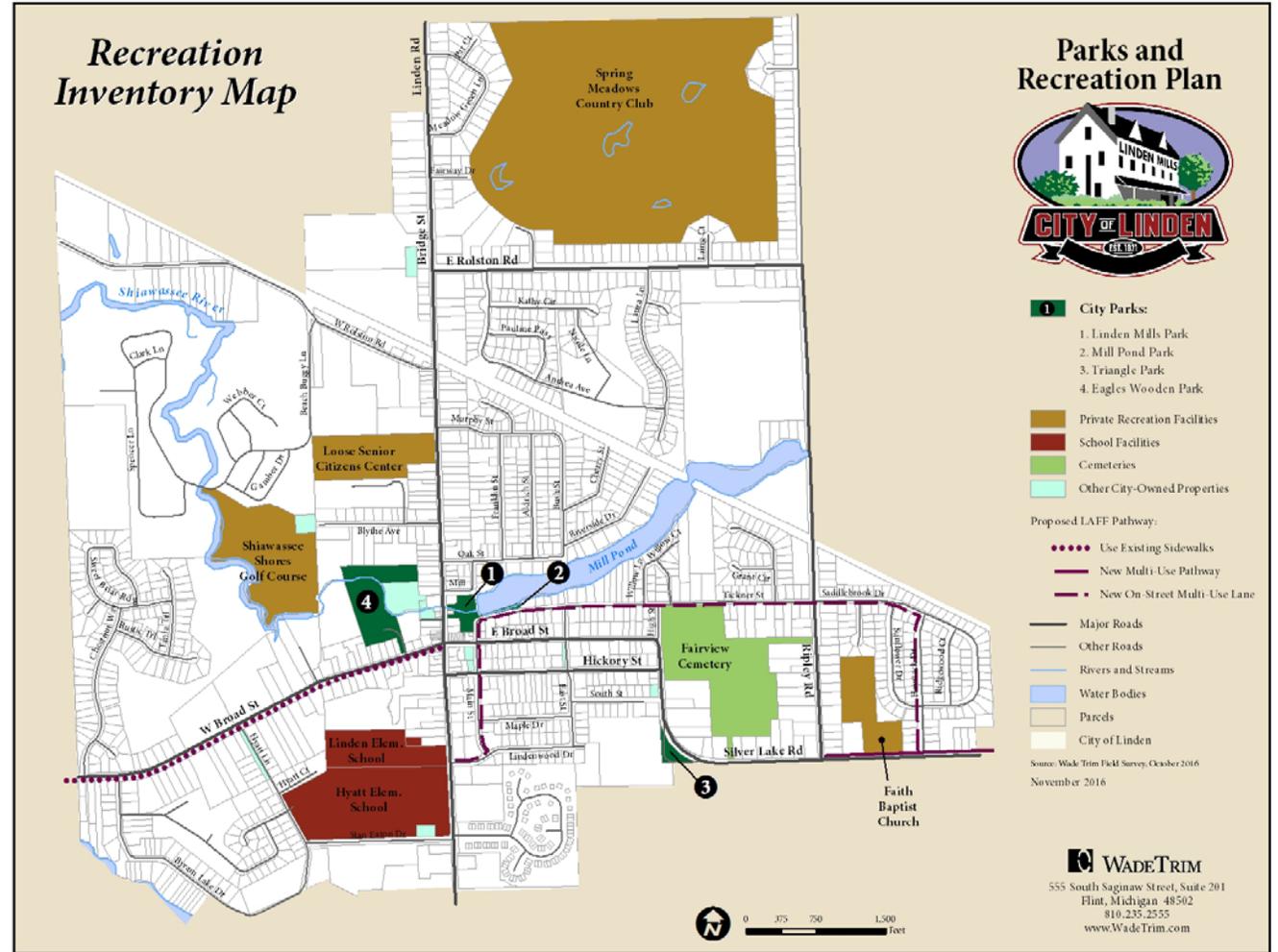


Source: 2010 U.S. Census



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

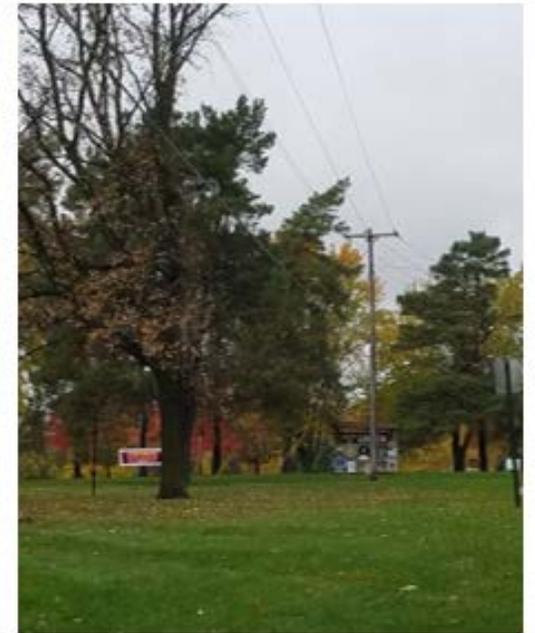
- 0.39 acres
- Canoe/kayak launch (unimproved)
- Picnic tables and benches





Triangle Park

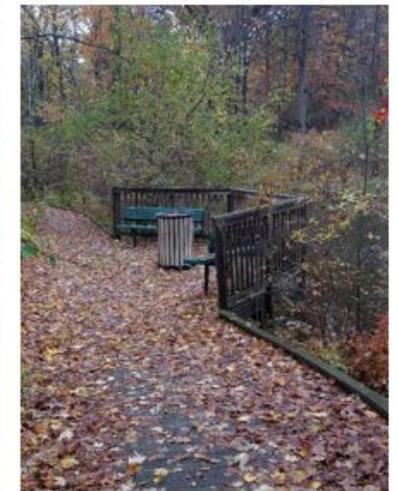
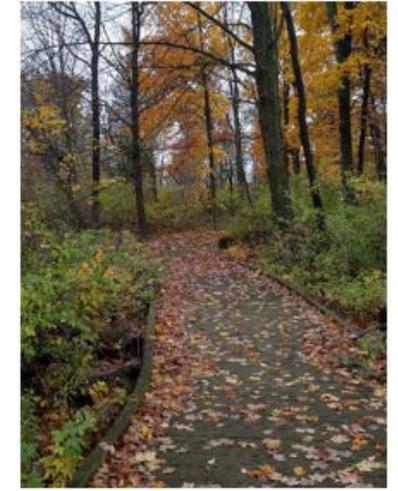
- 1.26 acres
- Unimproved open space
- No facilities or improved parking





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



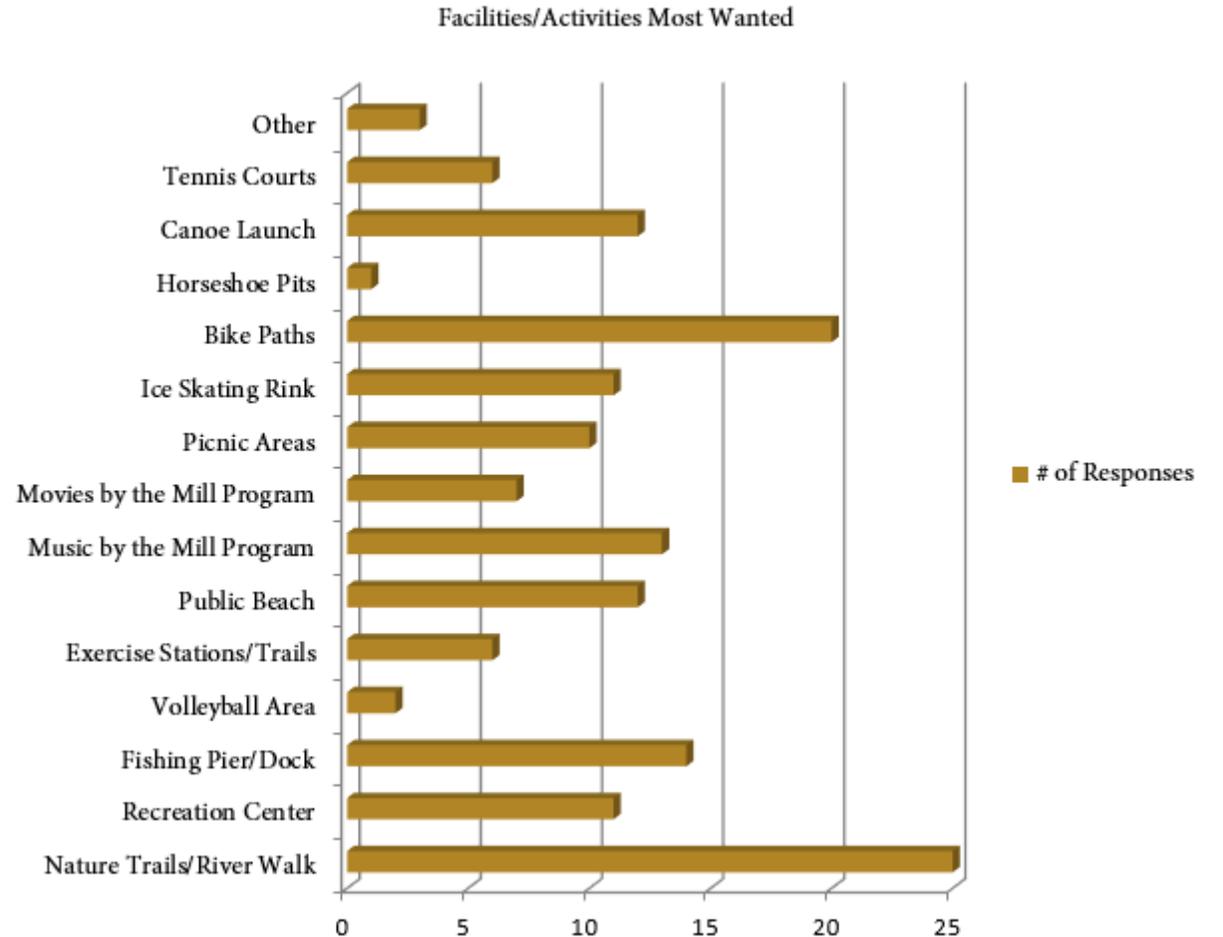
Accessibility Considerations

- 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

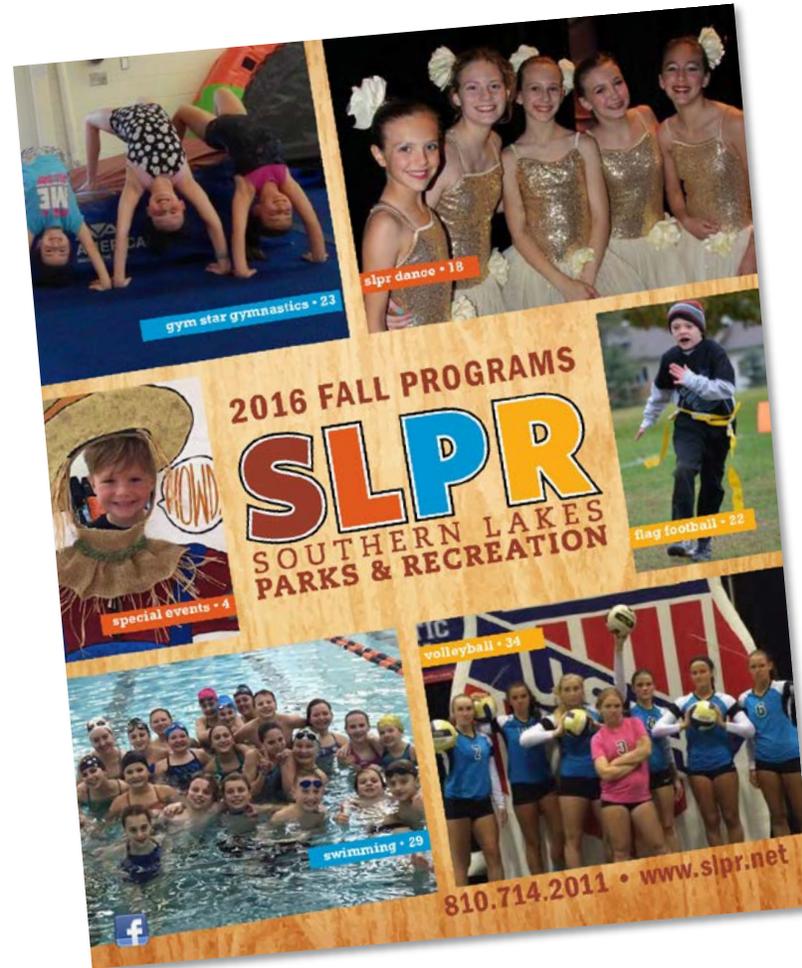




Regional Planning Efforts

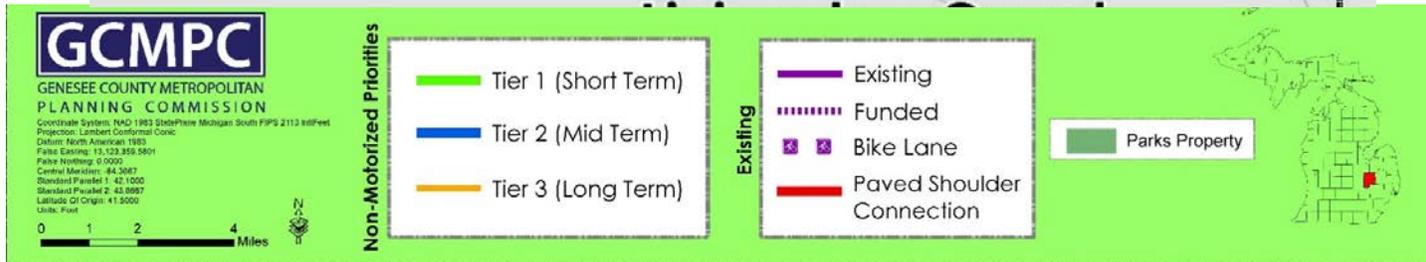
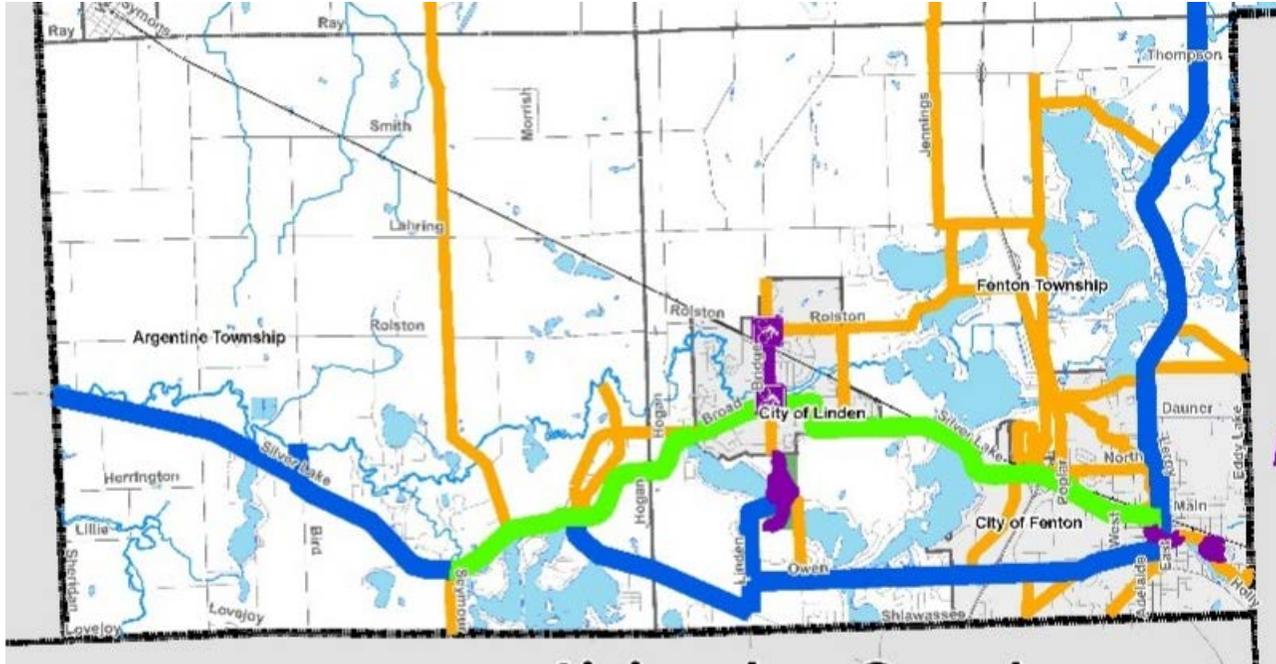


Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation



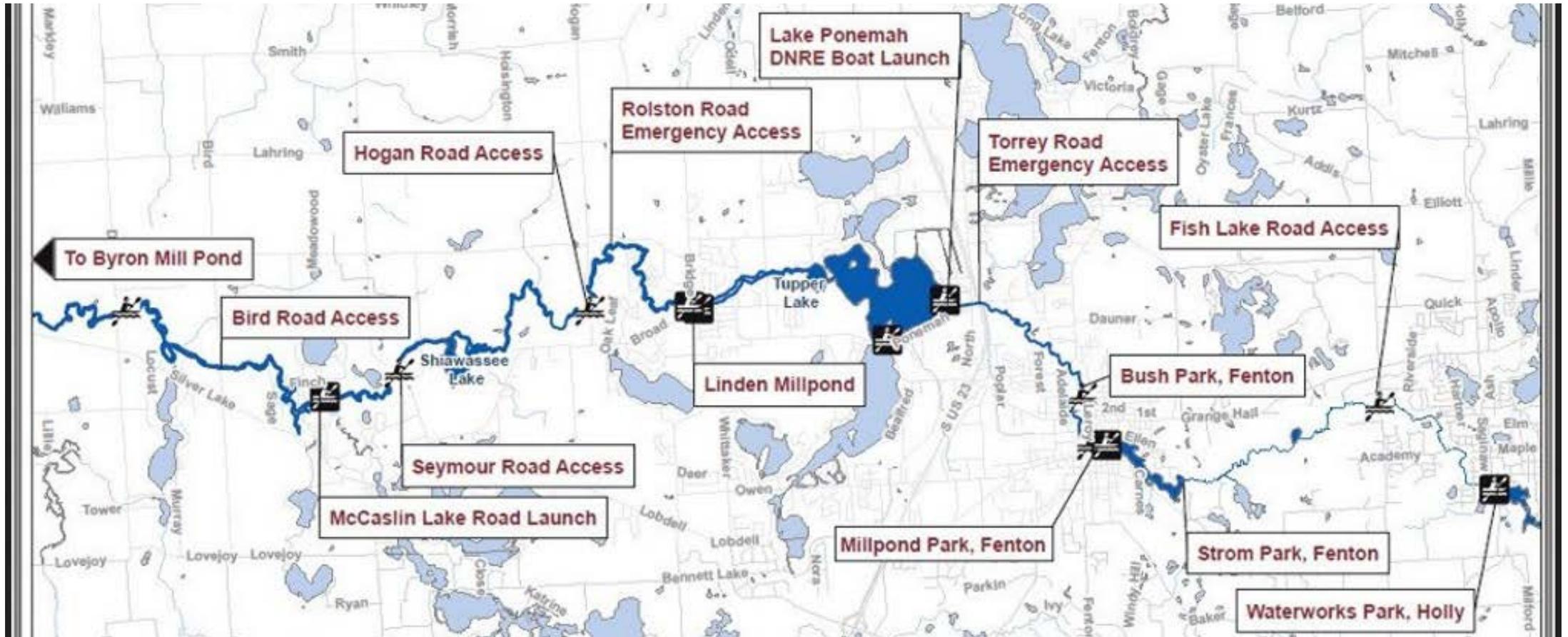


Genesee County Trail Planning





Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail Planning





LAFF Pathways





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.

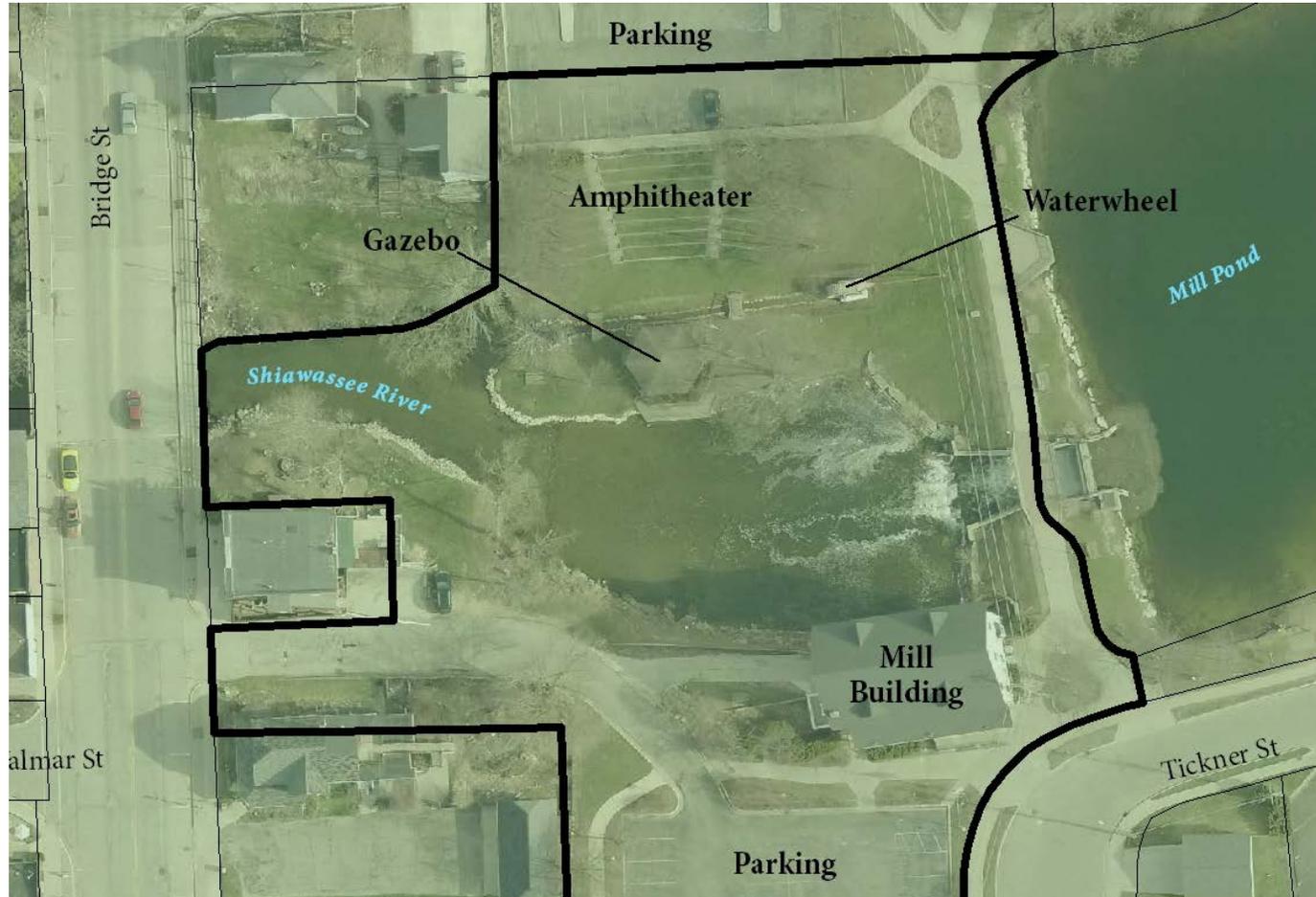


Community Development Goal and Objectives

- 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.

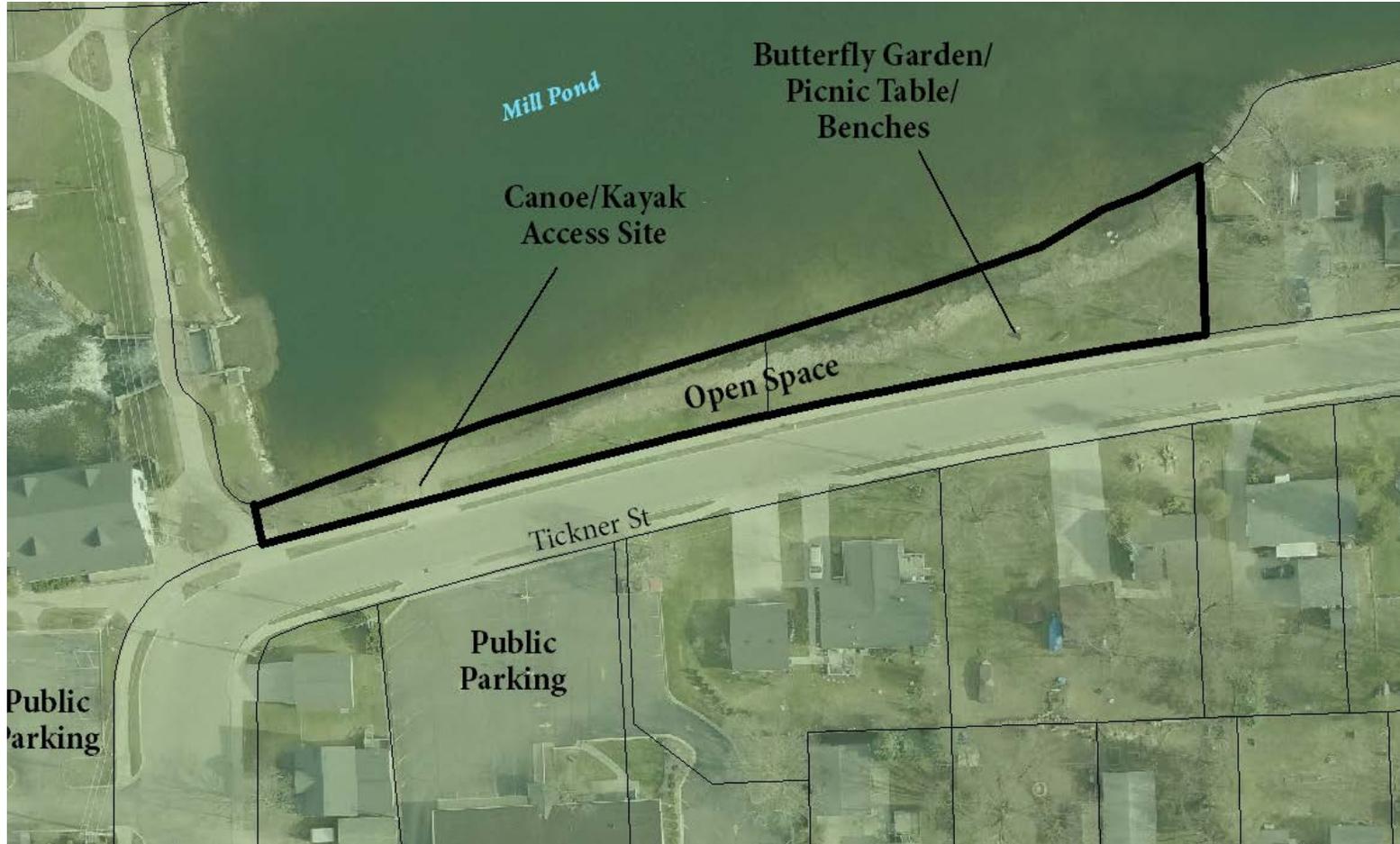


Needed Recreation Improvements: Linden Mills Park



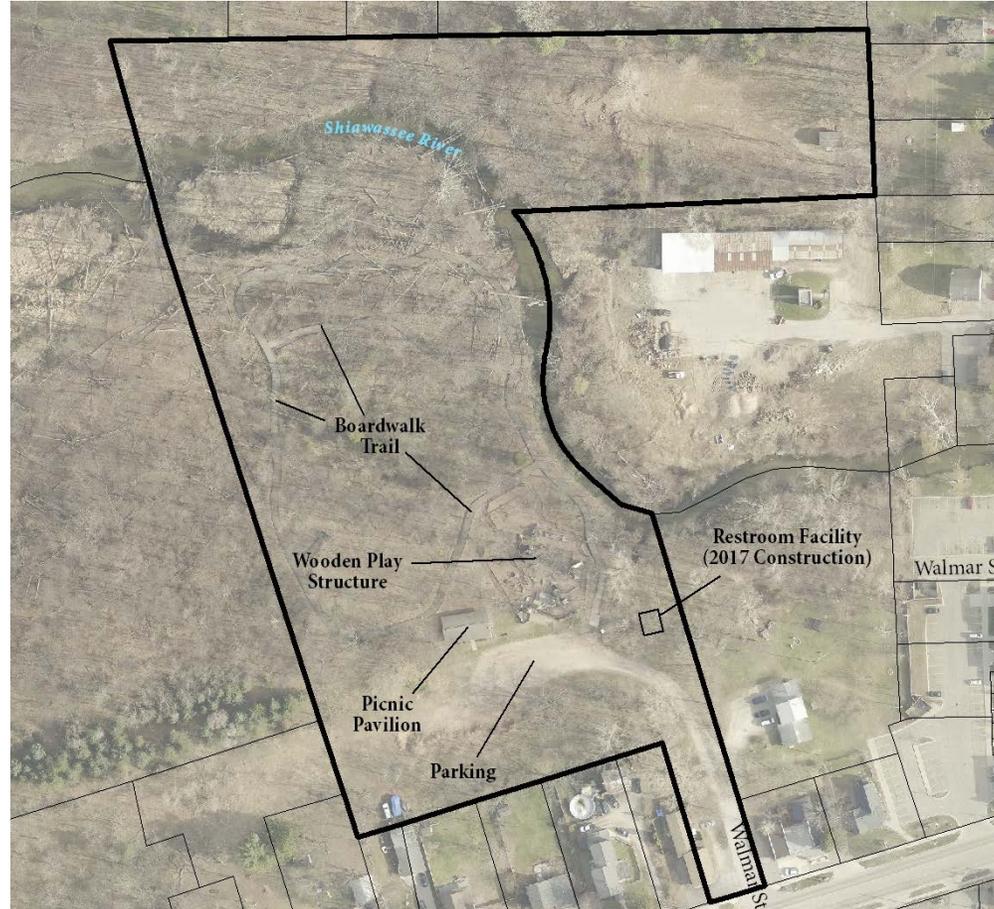


Needed Recreation Improvements: Mill Pond Park



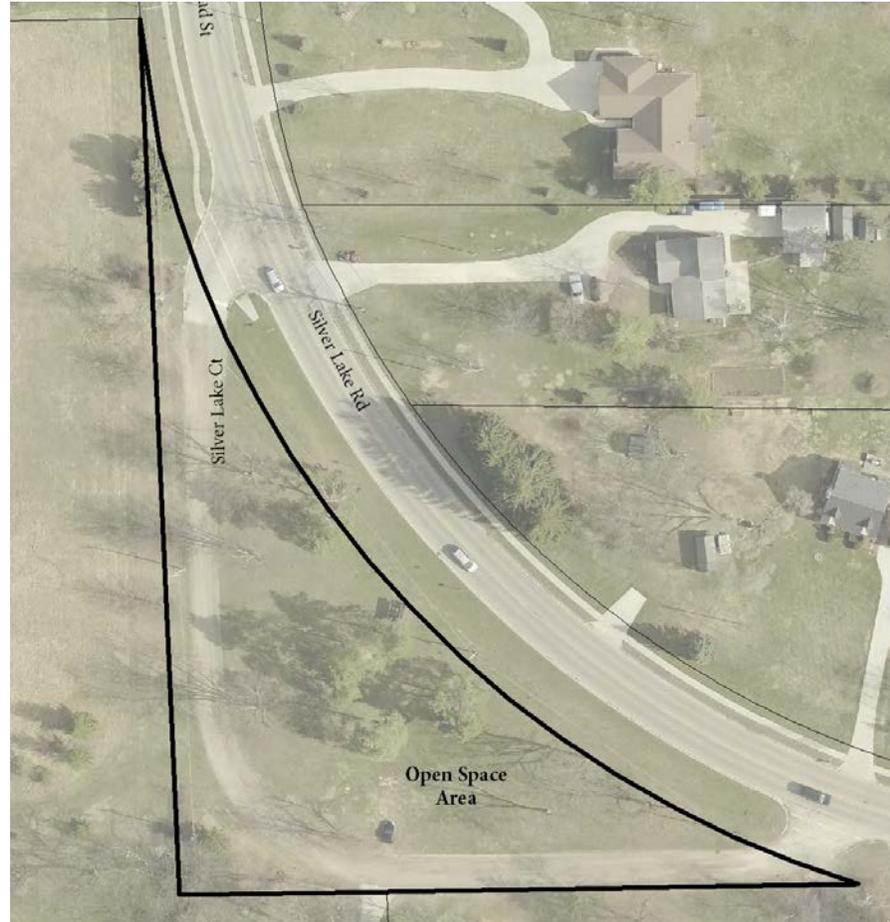


Needed Recreation Improvements: Eagles Wooden Park





Needed Recreation Improvements: Triangle Park





Non-Motorized Improvements





Other Recreation Improvements

- Development of new parks
- Programming
- Signage