

CITY OF FLINT 2020 PARKS PLAN



IMAGINE FLINT



Flint is a city poised and ready for transformation. A city committed to reinventing itself by building upon its rich history, strong character, and enduring work ethic. A city eager to once again stand as a symbol to the nation as to what hard work, ingenuity, and commitment can achieve. Flint is a city dedicated to forging innovation and creativity into a city of new opportunity, vitality, and livability.

The last half century has been hard on Flint. A fifty percent population decrease, thousands of vacant structures, a decimated local economy, and a fragmented development pattern have left the City a bruised and battered version of its former self. But, while disconnected neighborhoods, contaminated industrial sites, and neglected facilities are now too common, the seeds for reinvention have already begun to emerge – community groups and residents eliminating blight lot by lot; churches leading community gardening initiatives; local organizations promoting change through community activities; world class cultural and education facilities; and the development of the City's first Master Plan in more than 50 years.

Imagine an extensive network of well-kept parks, safe and accessible to all and beautifully maintained by an alliance of City, non-profit, volunteer, and resident partners.

*Imagine the Flint River revitalized for economic growth and recreation, brimming with kayakers and canoers, and home to a vibrant green waterfront of parks and trails spanning the entire length of the river. - **the *Imagine Flint* Master Plan***

The City of Flint thanks our Park Adopters, neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations, and residents who have attended a park meeting and shared their stories and ideas to help craft this plan. Our planning is grounded in the vision of our community and we work to implement their goals to bring about an extensive network of parks and open space that is safe, accessible, and ecologically sound for all of our youth and residents.

Mayor Sheldon A. Neeley

City of Flint City Council: President Kate Fields, Vice President Maurice D. Davis, Monica Galloway, Allan Griggs, Santino J. Guerra, Eric Mays, Herbert J. Winfrey, Jerri Winfrey-Carter, Eva L. Worthing

City of Flint Department of Planning and Development Staff

City of Flint AmeriCorps VISTA service members

2020 PARKS PLAN

The 2020 Parks Plan will guide development within Flint's J. Dallas Dort Memorial Park System for the next five years. The plan was prepared by the City of Flint Planning and Zoning Division as an update to the 2013-2017 Park and Recreation Plan, and is aligned with the 2013 Imagine Flint Master Plan. This Parks Plan enables the City of Flint to pursue Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants in accordance with MDNR requirements as stated in the "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans" as well as establish a basis for other funding opportunities.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

GOALS AND ACTIONS	8
GUIDING PRINCIPALS:	9
STRATEGIC INVESTMENT	10
ACCESS & EQUITY	19
SAFETY & SECURITY	22
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	25
FLINT RIVER WATERSHED REVITALIZATION & ACCESS	29
LIST OF GOALS	32
ACTION PLAN	37
FINISHED PROJECTS	38
ONGOING AND POTENTIAL PROJECTS	39
PROJECT PROFILES	40
DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS	45
OVERVIEW OF FLINT PARKS	48
APPENDICES	55

FIGURES AND MAPS

CITY OF FLINT PARK SYSTEM MAP	6	PARK SERVICE AREAS	21
PARK MILLAGE SPENDING: 2016	8	HARDENBROOK PARK AND ADJACENT SUBSTANDARD PROPERTIES	24
'DOLLAR EXERCISE' RESULTS FROM PLANNING WORKSHOPS	8	IRON BELLE TRAIL - GENESEE COUNTY SEGMENT	31
PARKS MILLAGE REVENUE: 2009-2019	10	CITY OF FLINT PARKS STAFF	49
PARKS NET OPERATIONS: 2009-2019	10	PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS MAP	50
PARKS WITH HIGHEST YOUTH POPULATION WITHIN 1/4 MILE	11	CITY OF FLINT TRAIL SYSTEM MAP	52
PARKS ADJACENT TO AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY CENTER OR SCHOOL	11	MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES GRANT HISTORY	53
LOW INCOME AREAS	11	APPENDICES	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDS FOR A POPULATION OF 100,000 PEOPLE	12	A: YOUTH POPULATION AROUND PARKS	55
'DOLLAR EXERCISE' RESULTS FROM PLANNING WORKSHOPS	12	B: LOW-MODERATE INCOME MAP	56
PARK CONDITIONS: 2010 vs 2019	12	C: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDS	57
SAMPLE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SITE PLAN: MOTT PARK 2015-2019	13	D: PUBLIC INPUT MATERIALS	58
PARK PARTNERSHIP MAP	14	E: 2015 PLAYGROUND BUILDS	60
CURRENT GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS	18	F: 2016-2017 IMPROVEMENTS	61
		G: 2018 IMPROVEMENTS	62
		H: 2019 IMPROVEMENTS	63
		I: PARK SITE PLANS	64
		J: MDNR GRANT HISTORY	67
		K: ITEMS FROM PUBLIC HEARING & APPROVAL	68

“Parks and playgrounds are the soul of a city.” - *author Marty Rubin*

WHY INVEST IN PARKS?

With the numerous areas of need throughout the City of Flint, the question of “why is it important to invest in parks?” is a critical one.

Flint’s J. Dallas Dort Park System was created to ensure public open space be available within walking distance to all residents of the city. We work to continue that legacy of access and equity to help stabilize and strengthen our neighborhoods.

With significant decline in population over the past few decades, the City of Flint, with over 1,800 acres of parkland, has twice as much parkland per resident as recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Flint has incredible opportunities to redevelop its park system and harness the many benefits of parks and open spaces.

In the face of the ongoing Water Crisis, Flint residents continue to demonstrate their dedication to their parks as stable neighborhood gathering space by passing the 2016 Parks Millage renewal vote with overwhelmingly 76% approval. The City is committed to using this millage to its maximum potential with the help of our partners, volunteers, and grant-makers to foster a vibrant Flint with thriving communities.

PARKS HAVE POWER!

ECONOMIC POWER

A thriving park, used and enjoyed by residents, is a sign of a desirable neighborhood, attracting new residents, businesses, and investments. Research has shown that parks and open space increase the value of neighboring residential property, with growing evidence showing a similar benefit to commercial property value.

HEALTH POWER

Increased access to places for physical activity leads to a 25% increase in people exercising three or more days a week, reducing the risk of a wide range of diseases such as heart disease and diabetes. Parks and open spaces are also important areas for mental health, providing respite from the urban environment. Studies have shown that even ten minutes in an urban park or woodland area can tangibly reduce stress.

COMMUNITY POWER

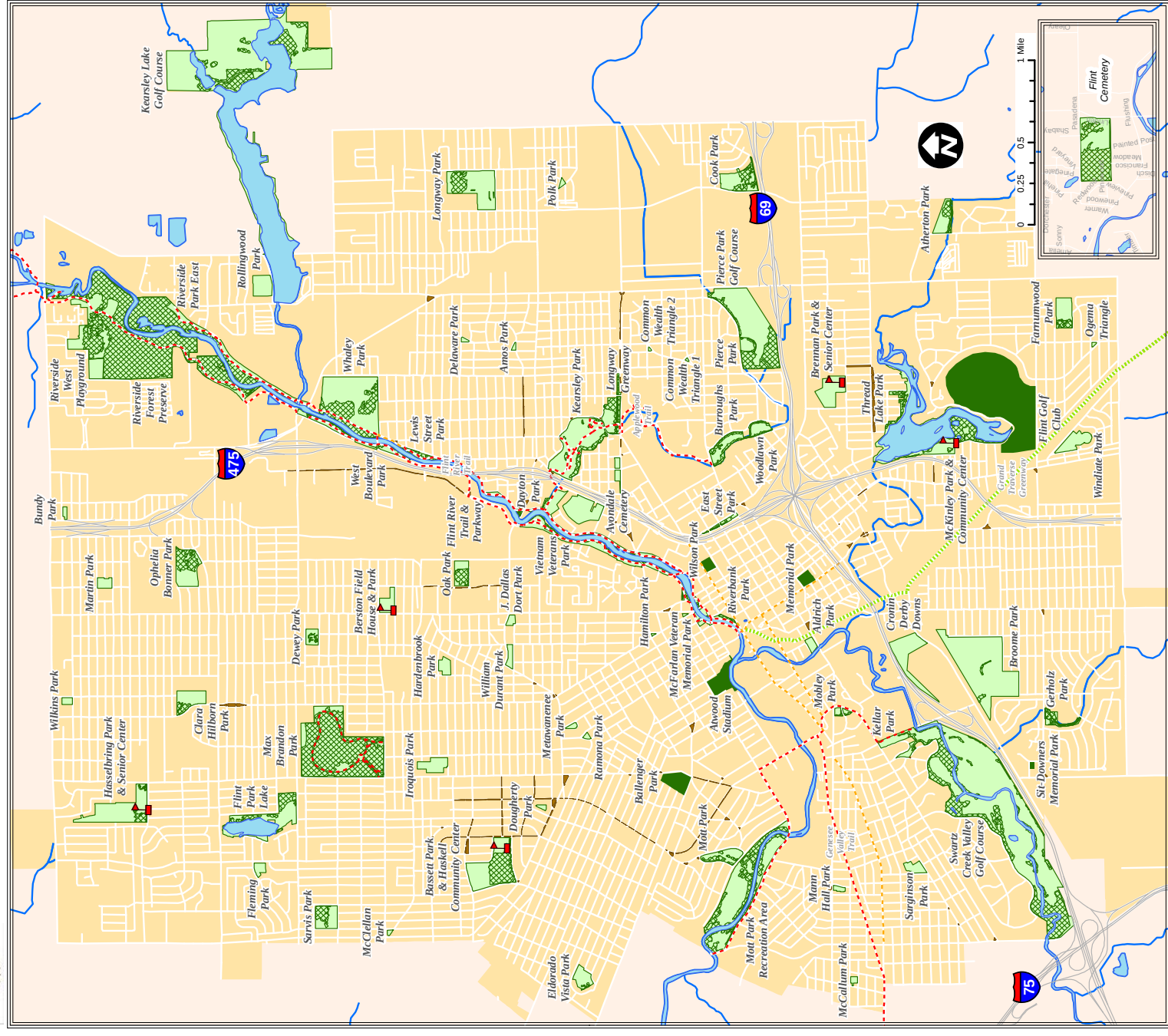
Parks strengthen *community ties* and bring *diverse populations* together. Parks and community facilities are perhaps the greatest opportunity for social interaction as prime candidates for neighborhood gatherings and events. Parks are key sources of recreational opportunity for at-risk youth and low-income families; access to public parks and recreational facilities has shown strong links to reduction in crime, especially juvenile delinquency.

ENVIRONMENTAL POWER

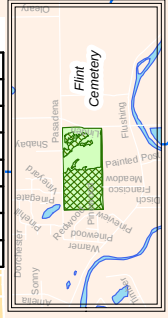
One acre of trees absorb the carbon dioxide produced by driving a car 11,000 miles. Parks and trees are also incredibly effective at managing stormwater, at a much lower cost than pipe systems or other infrastructure. Parks are important buffers against the urban heat island effect, in which pavement and other reflective surfaces increase temperatures.



City of Flint J. Dallas Dort Memorial Park System



- City Owned Parks & Open Space
- Privately Owned Parks & Open Space
- Wooded Area
- Community Centers
- Pedestrian/Bike Trail
- On Street Bike Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Street Triangles & Medians
- Open Water
- City Limits
- Genesee Limits



HOW DOES FLINT COMPARE TO PARKS AND RECREATION NATIONAL AVERAGES?

The incredible decline in Flint's population over the last few decades has resulted in a large surplus of parkland and greenspace per resident. The City now has nearly double the national average of the amount of parkland per 1,000 residents, as reported by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). With fewer residents per park than the national average, Flint parks are less crowded. Most glaring, however, is the amount of staff and operating expenditures per resident Flint has to manage such a large parks system. The City has less than one full-time parks staff member for not just every 10,000 residents, but **for all 97,810* residents!** Additionally, because expenditures are tied to the declining parks millage, Flint spends 21 times less than the average parks and recreation agency.

	Flint*	NRPA AVERAGES†
Park Land	18.5 acres per 1,000 residents	10.1 acres per 1,000 residents
Residents Per Park	1,378 residents per park	2,181 residents per park
Staff Members	0.05 staff members per 10,000 residents	8.3 staff members per 10,000 residents
Operating Expenditures	\$3.59 per resident	\$78.69 per resident
Percent Recovery of Operating Expenditures by Revenue Generation	0%	27.3%

* US Census Bureau 2017 ACS 5-year estimate of 97,810 residents, with Margin of Error +/-68

† Based on 2019 NRPA Field Guide <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>



SUMMARY

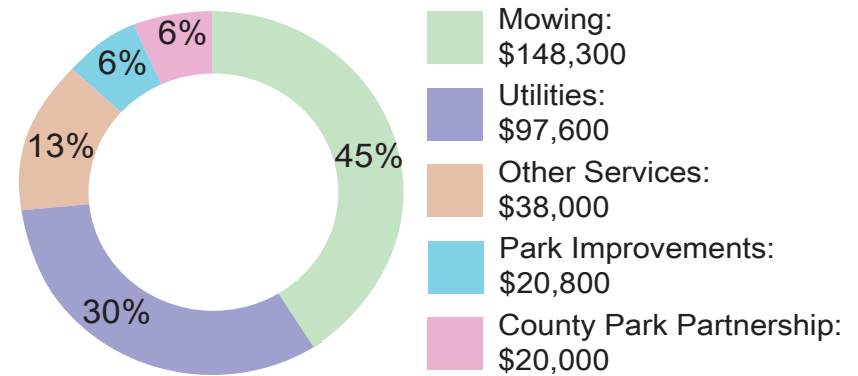
The principles, goals and proposed actions of the 2020 Parks Plan derives from and builds on the 2013 *Imagine Flint* Master Plan. All components are supported by or are an update of, the goals, objectives, and guiding principles of the “Environmental Features, Open Space, and Parks Plan” chapter of *Imagine Flint* and past parks and recreation plans.

The City of Flint is tasked with balancing the needs of a community with 70 parks and recreation facilities, while drawing funding from a declining parks millage. The City places a high priority on partnerships, community-led planning, and efficiently allocating resources to provide parks, open space, and recreation infrastructure that both meets the needs of the community and is maintainable by the City and its partners.

Since the 2013-2017 *Parks and Recreation Plan* was published, the functions of the former Parks and Recreation Department have been

absorbed into the Planning and Zoning Division. The number of full-time equivalent employees has dropped from 75 in 2007 to just 1/2 of a full-time equivalent employee in 2020. Likewise, the parks millage, which is the only dedicated source of funding for parks administration, operations, and maintenance, has been in steady decline since first being approved in 1996. In 2019, actual millage revenue stood at just \$332,012, while it was \$780,214 in 2009. Together, these limitations have curtailed the bandwidth of the City to carry out parks operations.

PARKS MILLAGE SPENDING: 2018-2019



Currently, 75% of millage funds goes to paying for mowing services and utilities. Our community workshops have demonstrated how residents want to spend our remaining funds while also expressing a strong consideration for green infrastructure and energy efficiency projects to decrease the amount spent on mowing and utilities, eventually freeing up more funds for other projects.

“DOLLAR EXERCISE” RESULTS FROM PLANNING WORKSHOPS



The City of Flint will provide equitable park planning and project-based improvements to further implement the goals and objectives of the *Imagine Flint* Master Plan based on the following guiding principles:

**THESE ALIGN
WITH THE
GUIDING
PRINCIPLES
OF THE**

**IMAGINE FLINT
MASTER PLAN**

Social Equity & Sustainability

Reshaping the Economy

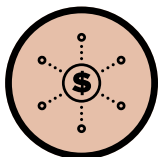
Quality of Life

Adapting to Change

Youth

Civic Life

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Strategic Investment:

Provide equitable and efficient use of limited resources through data-driven, strategic investment to our most vulnerable populations while exploring all opportunities for investment throughout the park system



Equity and Inclusive Access:

Prioritize geographic and demographic equity and provide residents with free, barrier-free access to safe and attractive parks and natural areas throughout the city



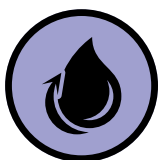
Safety and Security:

Provide safety and security to increase park use, promote partnerships and volunteerism, and foster a sense of community



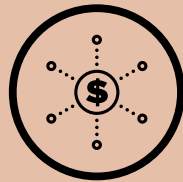
Environmental Justice, Sustainability, & Resilience:

Implement natural landscaping and green infrastructure in our parks to improve environmental quality, foster neighborhood stewardship, and to limit the City's carbon footprint



Flint River System Revitalization:

Use placemaking and natural landscaping to transform the river, creeks, lakes, and riverfronts into clean and appealing recreation and entertainment destinations



STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

Provide equitable and efficient use of limited resources through data-driven, strategic investment to our most vulnerable populations, while exploring all opportunities for investment throughout the park system

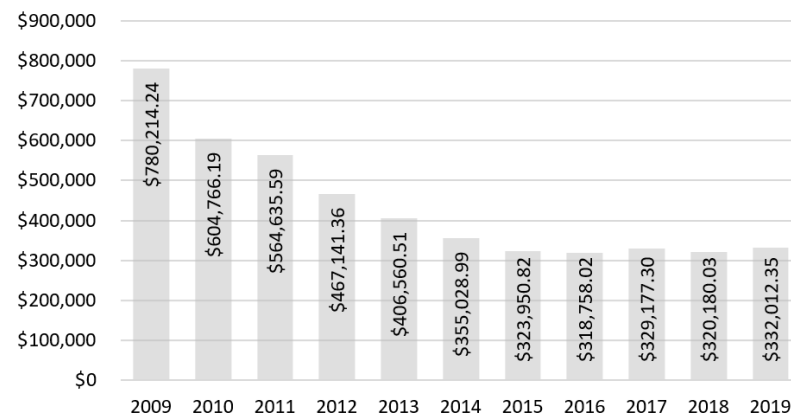
Through data-driven, strategic investment we provide a more equitable and efficient use of our very limited resources. The *Imagine Flint* Master Plan calls for prioritizing investment due to decreasing funding and the high cost of capital improvements. Considering our most vulnerable areas for investment does not mean ignoring or abandoning other areas; rather, it simply looks to efficiently use and leverage limited resources, when possible.

When groups and residents come to the City with ideas or special opportunities to improve their neighborhood park we will help connect them to the resources and organizations that could aid them, even if they are not strictly in an area of consideration.

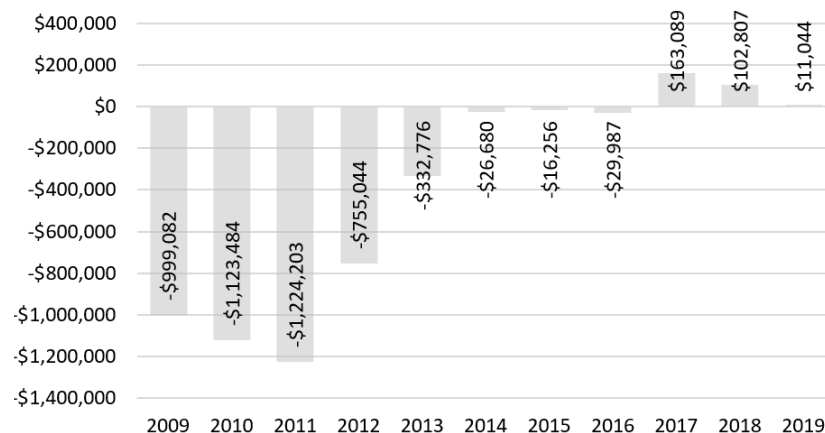
Facilitating community-led public planning ensures that new park amenities and investments are not solely guided by population numbers or place types, but also by the unique needs of the populations served by our parks and community centers, especially the youth.

Public planning is an important way to efficiently allocate limited resources by allowing residents to plan their most desired amenities and projects, guaranteeing improvements with the greatest impact and the largest return on investment. Properly maintained and utilized parks function as vital anchors in neighborhoods that have faced decades of disinvestment.

PARKS MILLAGE REVENUE 2009-2019



PARKS NET OPERATIONS 2009-2019





STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

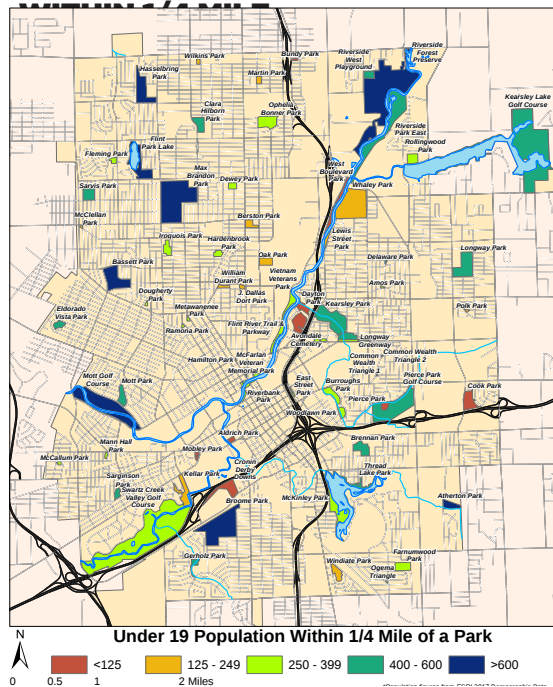
Goal: Use a data-driven approach to prioritize parks investment to Flint's most vulnerable neighborhoods

Using data concerning the youth population and poverty rates will allow for more equitable distribution of funding for park maintenance and investment. In neighborhoods that have been particularly impacted by blight and abandonment, investing in parks and community centers is a crucial strategy for stabilization.

When drafting plans for parks, Flint should explore opportunities to develop improvements adjacent to active community centers and schools. Complementing amenities at these facilities provides an opportunity to build off of previous investment where residents and children are already visiting, and thus limit the building of redundant amenities. Plans will also emphasize placemaking as a way to make park spaces engaging and raise the rate of use. For example, redeveloping old tennis courts or disused green space gives us a chance to activate underutilized spaces and adapt to the changing interests of the City's residents.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." - John Muir

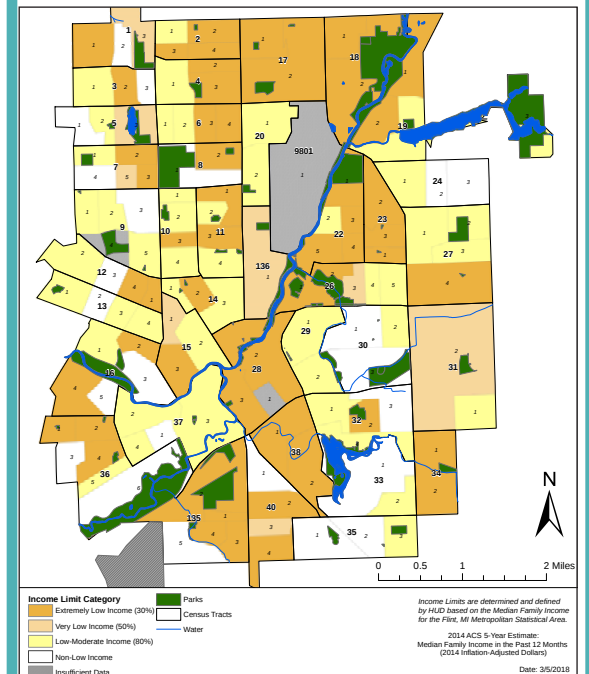
CONSIDERATION 1: HIGHEST YOUTH POPULATION



CONSIDERATION 2: ADJACENT TO AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY CENTER OR SCHOOL

Park	Community Center /School
Atherton	Manley Early Childhood Education
Bassett	Haskell Community Center
Berston	Berston Field House
Cronin Derby	Flint Southwestern Academy
Farnumwood	Freeman Elementary
Gerholz	Neithercut Elementary
Longway	Potter Elementary
McKinley	McKinley Center
Pierce	Pierce Elementary

CONSIDERATION 3: LOW INCOME AREA





STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

Goal: *Equitably distribute capital improvements and amenities using the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards per capita as a reference while planning with city residents*

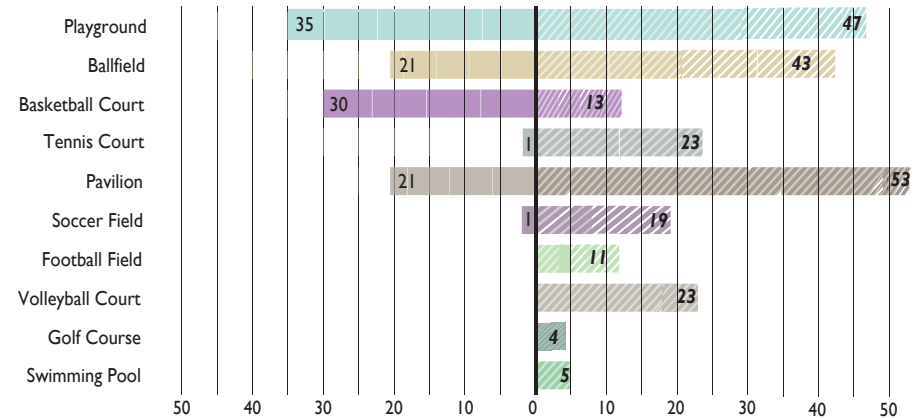
ACTION: Maintain a parks inventory assessment to provide a city-wide analysis, tracking the condition of every amenity, park, and recreation facility

The NRPA is a recognized authority for parks and recreation planning in the United States and provides an extensive list of amenities standards per capita for park systems. While these standards serve as a baseline, Flint must respond to its demographic changes, available funding for installation and maintenance, and community planning to calibrate these recommendations to best fit the needs and desires of the community. For example, even though Flint would need many more volleyball courts and ballfields to meet NRPA standards for our population, we saw through our dollar exercises that these amenities are not currently popular with Flint residents.

Flint parks also need a variety of amenity improvements to meet the needs of our residents. Items such as park signs, garbage cans, grills, picnic tables, and energy-efficient lighting, are also important investments to improve the usability of our parks.

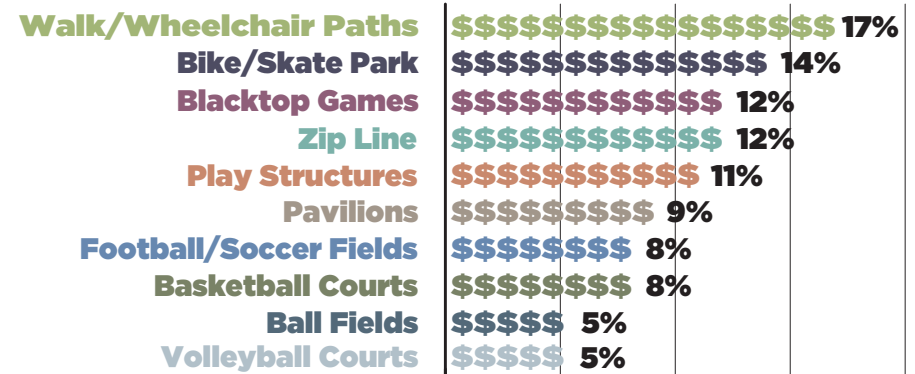
In 2010, 2016, and 2018 Flint conducted Park Inventory Assessments, rating the condition of amenities and the grounds in all City parks. Photographs were also taken and this information was compiled in GIS layers to display the overall condition of individual parks across the park system as a whole. A regularly scheduled inventory assessment provides up-to-date data that informs planning decisions regarding the needs of the park system.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDS: 100,000 PEOPLE

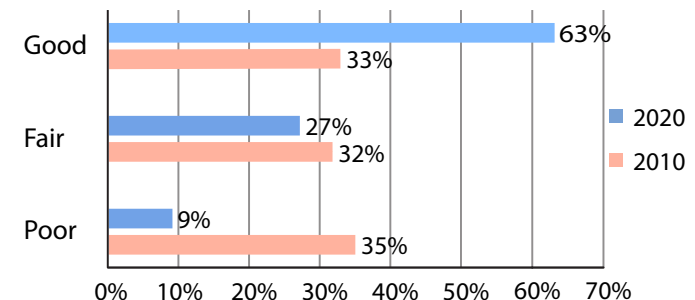


Existing amenities (left) and additional amenities needed (right) in good condition to meet NRPA standards

DOLLAR EXERCISE RESULTS FROM PLANNING WORKSHOPS



PARK CONDITIONS 2010 vs 2020



Flint has seen a marked improvement in the condition of city parks. Since 2010, parks in poor or fair conditions have decreased and the number of parks in good condition has increased 23%



STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

ACTION: Continue drafting individual Community Park Plans with the participation of park adopters, neighborhood groups, and citizens, guaranteeing that park amenities are developed where they fit best and are most desired

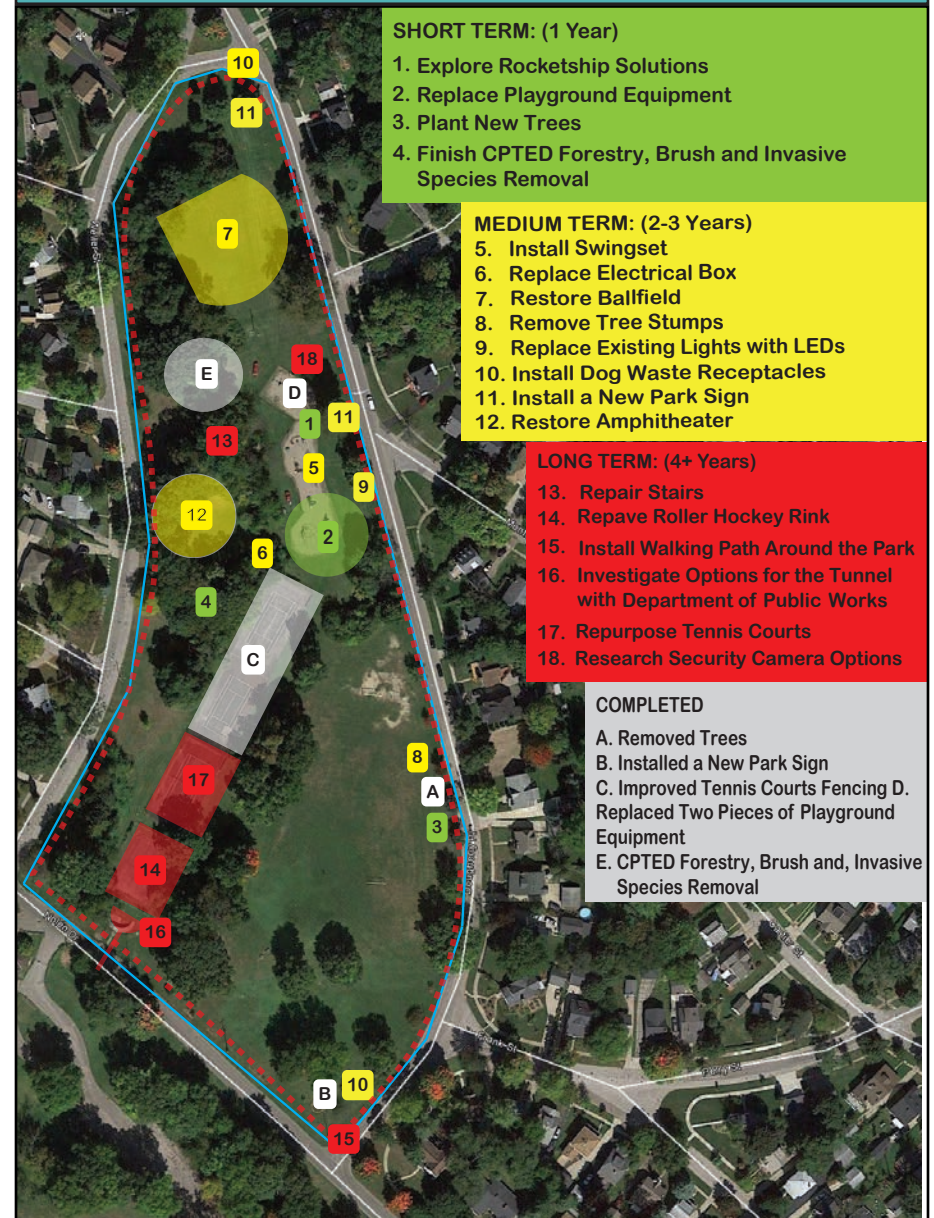
One objective identified in the *Imagine Flint* Master Plan that has been implemented is the creation of individual Community Park Plans. The Department of Planning and Development plans to draft three to five individual Community Park Plans every year, eventually creating one for every City of Flint park. The process relies heavily on public participation and feedback, giving the community a voice to identify what maintenance and capital improvements they want for their neighborhood parks. These plans allow for the community to come together, form partnerships, leverage resources and increase their sense of ownership in parks.

These plans are created following the consideration guidelines detailed in this document with thought also given to the size, geographic features, and conditions of existing amenities in each park. For example, the size of a park or the concentration of children near it may warrant larger or multiple playgrounds or pavilions.

With community-led planning and feedback we can prioritize the most desirable development in the most underserved neighborhoods to receive the greatest impact and the best return on investment.

Site plans that have been completed are in the appendix.

SAMPLE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SITE PLAN: MOTT PARK 2015-2019



* Improvements Based on Availability of Funding.
* Information on Playground Design and Layout Available at City of Flint Planning and Development Office.
* Site Plans Developed by the City of Flint, Keep Genesee County Beautiful, and Mott Park Adopters.





STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

Goal: *Develop partnerships and funding strategies to provide parks and recreation infrastructure that meet the needs of the community and is maintainable by the City and its community partners*

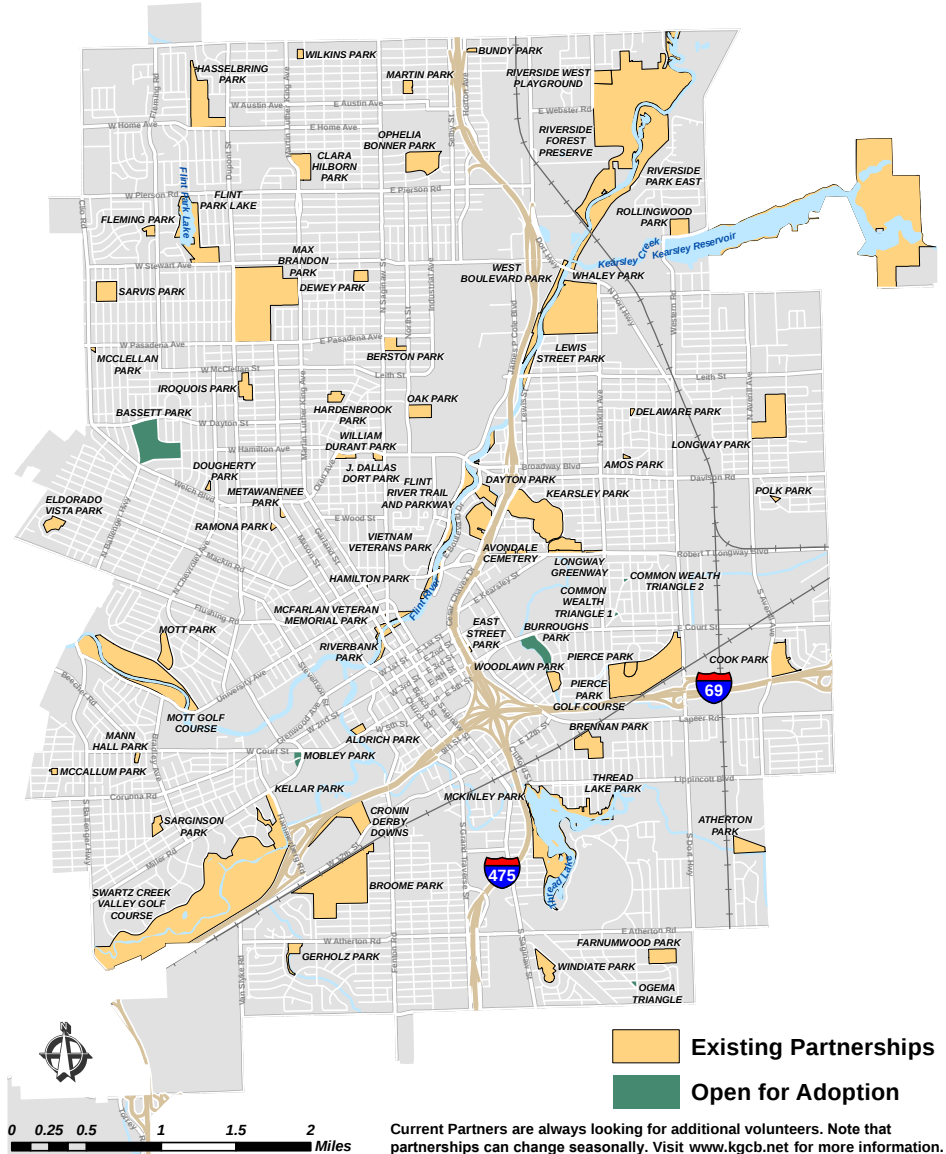
ACTION: Provision to lease, with public support and following the City charter, under-utilized park property and buildings for sustainability and or green infrastructure projects, such as tree farming or solar fields

Despite the very small City staff and budget, improvements and parks planning have taken place thanks to grants and partnerships. During 2018 the City of Flint had at least one partnership in 62 of our 70 parks, or 88%. Partnerships range in size and type from individuals, block clubs, churches, and neighborhood associations to major institutions or non-profits.

Park partnerships through the Adopt-a-Park Program save the City of Flint over \$150,000 in mowing services and \$25,000 in utility costs per year and have added over \$500,000 worth of park improvements!

Continuing to build the capacity of existing partners, while forging new partnerships, and pursuing grant opportunities will help supplement the millage, complete necessary maintenance and capital improvements, and provide exceptional services to Flint residents.

PARK PARTNERSHIP MAP CITY OF FLINT



PARTNER PROFILE



KEEP GENESEE
COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

The Flint Adopt-a-Park Program is administered by Keep Genesee County Beautiful (KGCB), a program of Genesee County Parks, to provide technical support to volunteer groups helping to complete maintenance, programing, natural landscaping projects, and capital improvements in City of Flint Parks. Adopt-a-Park partners commit hours of hard work throughout the year to keep our parks attractive and safe, encouraging residents across the city to enjoy the benefits of park usage and to increase community pride, awareness, and stewardship in Flint Parks.

Although numbers for dollars invested and volunteer hours served exist, the true value of the program is incalculable. Adopt-a-Park partners were able to install numerous playgrounds and amenities, and conduct dozens of clean-ups during a time of need when City staffing was drastically cut and the former Parks and Recreation Department duties were being shifted. KGCB's Adopt-a-Park program now stands as an innovative example nationwide for how local residents can be empowered to reclaim their neighborhood parks, guide public planning, and serve as park stewards.

Below is only a snapshot of some of the improvements completed by KGCB and Park Adopters throughout the entire park system. Flint parks would truly not be the amazing recreation spaces they are today without their dedication and tireless work.

PARK ADOPTER COMPLETED PROJECTS (2011 - 2019)

Amos Park - basketball court improvements
Bassett Park - fencing repairs, safety improvements, new seating, new playground equipment, and improved lighting
Berston Park - basketball court improvements, new playground equipment and more safety surfacing, net barrier installed between ballfield and playground
Brennan Park - basketball court improvements, ball field improvements, new playground equipment, new pavilion and picnic tables, bleachers installed
Broome Park - new playground equipment
Bundy Park - new playground equipment
Clara Hilborn Park - new playground equipment, basketball court resurfaced, new backboards, new fencing
Cook Park - improved seating, new playground equipment, new gate at the end of the parking lot, basketball court improvements, new fencing
Cronin Derby Downs - tree planting, duck habitat and rain garden installation
Delaware Park - seating and landscaping improvements, new picnic tables, new playground equipment
Dewey Park - new playground equipment, basketball court improvements and murals, baseball field improvements, tennis court improvements, new pavilion
Dougherty Park - brush cleared, opening sightlines and preventing dumping; new picnic tables
Durant Park - fencing repairs, ball field improvements, new playground equipment, basketball court improvements, safety improvements
Eldorado Vista Park - new playground equipment
Farnumwood Park - new playground equipment, ball field improvements
Fleming Park - basketball court improvements, new playground, horseshoe pit, ball field cleaned up
Flint Park Lake - new playground equipment

PARTNER PROFILE



KEEP GENESEE
COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

Gerholz Park - tennis court improvements
Hardenbrook Park - volleyball, ball field, and basketball court improvements, fencing repairs, two new pavilions, picnic tables, and grills
Hasselbring Park - new playground equipment, basketball court and ball field improvements, new grill, seating and landscaping improvements
Iroquois Park - playground equipment repainting and safety surface improvements, new picnic tables, basketball court resurfacing and new poles, backboards, and rims
J. Dallas Dort Park - new playground equipment, pavilion, tables and grills, amphitheater, walking path, horseshoe pits, tree planting
Lewis Street Park - rain and pollinator garden installation and expansion, new fishing pier and benches
Longway Park - new playground equipment and improvements, new pavilion, ball field improvements, seating repairs
Mann Hall Park - fencing repairs, new playground equipment, new pavilion, new benches, picnic tables, and grills
Martin Park - basketball court resurfacing, new backboards and rims, new picnic tables
Max Brandon Park - new playground equipment, Genesee County Parks partnership, new wetland overlook, interpretive signage
McCallum Park - basketball court resurfacing, new backboards and rims, new picnic tables
McClellan Park - new picnic tables, new playground equipment
Mott Park - new playground equipment and improvements, seating repairs, disc golf course in recreation area, clearing of brush and downed trees
Oak Park - new picnic tables
Polk Park - new playground equipment
Rollingwood Park - pavilion and basketball court improvements, new fencing, new playground equipment, new picnic tables and grills, seating repairs, new horseshoe pit
Sarginson Park - playground, basketball court, and seating improvements, new ball field, new benches, picnic tables, and grills
Sarvis Park - new playground and basketball court improvements
Vietnam Veterans Park - kayak launch improvements
Whaley Park - new playground equipment, CPTED sight line improvements
Windiate Park - pavilion and playground improvements, new picnic tables, basketball court improved, bleachers installed; mural painted on nearby building
Woodlawn Park - new picnic tables and grills, basketball court and soccer field improvements, new playground equipment, pedestrian bridge repair work



Amos Park Basketball Court Installation, 2018



Whaley Park CPTED Sight Line Improvements, 2018

PARTNER PROFILE



GENESEE COUNTY PARKS

Get away. Right away.

In 2014, the City of Flint entered into a formal partnership with the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission to manage Max Brandon Park, Flint Park Lake, Thread Lake Park, and McKinley Park. In 2016, the City expanded the agreement to include an additional 12 parks and open spaces totaling over 500 total acres.

Furthermore, each year from 2015-2019 Genesee County Parks has installed new, modern, and safe playgrounds at various parks across the City. At this point in time, almost every playground in the City has been completely updated! Most recently, this partnership has been funded by a generous grant through the C. S. Mott Foundation.

Because of this incredible partnership, Flint residents now enjoy parks that are patrolled by deputized County Parks Rangers, are provided free-to-very low cost family programming and activities, are provided increased event services, and receive regular maintenance including weekly mowing! Currently, Genesee County Parks are spearheading the implementation of the Riverfront Restoration Project, including overseeing construction at Chevy Commons, the removal of Hamilton Dam, and trail expansion.





STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

ACTION: Establish a centralized Flint Parks Fund to reduce the overhead and duplication of services across the funding community and maximize return on investment of projects

Creating a central fund would better connect the network of funders, partners, volunteers, and resources to complete comprehensive park projects with a variety of components. Only individual amenities and piecemeal projects are being done with the current nature of assembling partners and funding from a vast array of organizations across the city and even the country. Centralizing funding and creating a unified parks action plan would prevent duplication of services and investment, and could reduce overhead.

ACTION: Explore opportunities for revenue generation through partnerships with independent groups and contractors

Flint recovers 0% of its operating costs through revenue generation while the average recreational agency recaptures 27.3% of their expenditures. Though City programming and services that historically brought in some revenue has ceased in recent years, the City is open to ways to generate revenue and boost the parks budget. For example, Flint has partnered with outside organizations to plant tree farms in parks that will eventually be harvested for a profit. With increased park and river use there is the opportunity to lease out space or buildings on parkland to clubs, independent concession stalls, and for gear rentals, such as kayaks. All opportunities will be reviewed on a case by case basis, with community input where appropriate, to guarantee they are beneficial in the proposed parks.



ACTION: Diligently recruit new partnerships and aggressively seek grants to complete short term and long term capital improvements.

Currently, the City is working on \$2.62 million in grant funded parks and community center projects in addition to the work of different park partners. Flint has completed over \$2.33 million in projects since 2015, not including grant awards for Chevy Commons! Current and recent major projects include, but are not limited to:

Project	Cost	Status
Haskell Center & Berston Center	(\$100,000)	ongoing
McKinley Park	(\$300,000)	ongoing
Chevy Commons & Riverbank Park	(\$14 million+)	complete
City-wide Trail Projects	(\$1.8 million)	complete
Playground Builds (2015-2018)	(\$700,000)	complete
Max Brandon Park	(\$87,500)	complete
Brennan Park Phase I & II	(\$85,500)	complete
Dewey Park / Foss Ave.	(\$47,200)	complete



EQUITY & INCLUSIVE ACCESS

Prioritize geographic and demographic equity and provide residents with free, barrier-free access to safe and attractive parks and natural areas throughout the city

While data-driven prioritization is important, certain partnerships, grants, and special circumstances do come up to present investment for a specific park or park feature. In these cases the City will take advantage of these opportunities.

Goal: *Empower and guide resident and community partners to identify, fund, and complete park projects, and assist in solving problems that a park may be facing*

ACTION: Work with park partners to explore any and all opportunities and hold community meetings to draft individual Community Park Plans, aid in grant writing, and connect with funders to install park amenities

ACTION: Utilize City of Flint AmeriCorps VISTA members to seize opportunities to recruit new Adopt-A-Park Program members and connect them to organizations that can help with funding and capacity building services

5-7 AmeriCorps VISTAs serve with the City of Flint Department of Planning and Development over the course of a year. These AmeriCorps members are involved with numerous projects to implement the goals of the *Imagine Flint* Master Plan and are engaged with the community to build the capacity of not only the City but also our community partners.



Parks are anchors for both neighborhoods and the city at-large, and are natural stimulants to civic life. They serve as active gathering places for neighborhood engagement and interaction, and are often integral to the community's sense of character and identity. The City's commitment to working with all residents within our parks while encouraging improvements and events will promote continued civic involvement in Flint's parks, community centers, and open spaces.

Neighborhood engagement, listening to residents and groups at community meetings, is the City's best way to connect with park users and learn the community's need. Constant contact and putting in the face-time is the best way to keep up with the current realities that our community partners and park users face.

It is vital that Flint prioritizes geographic equity and empower groups, organizations, and volunteers throughout the park system. With the reality of limited parks staff bandwidth and park funding, problems will arise without solutions to immediately address them. Flint is committed to working with partners to connect them to other organizations and resources so that issues can be resolved more promptly than if the City had to work alone. By empowering residents and partners, no neighborhood park will be left behind or ignored.



EQUITY & INCLUSIVE ACCESS

Goal: *Support free, unrestricted access to safe and attractive parks, natural areas, waterways, and open spaces*

ACTION: Manage a reporting system to address issues submitted by park users and keep park data up to date while empowering our park partners to rectify problems together throughout the entire city

ACTION: Incorporate comprehensive criteria for park accessibility and ADA compliance in inventory assessments to identify access and utilization barriers at Flint parks

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier-free accessibility at public facilities. Including criteria in the Inventory Assessment to assess accessibility and a range of barriers in Flint Parks, as well as strategies for overcoming common issues will be beneficial to addressing visitor needs.

As Community Park Plans are being considered and parks and facilities are improved a high priority is placed on upgrades that provide barrier free access. For example, improvements should include proper surfacing for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment with universal access.





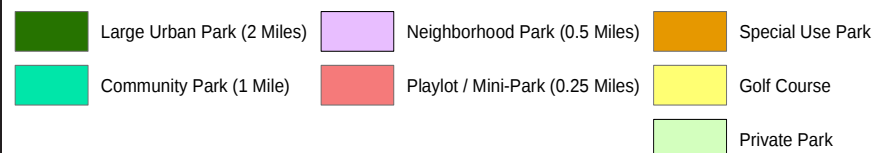
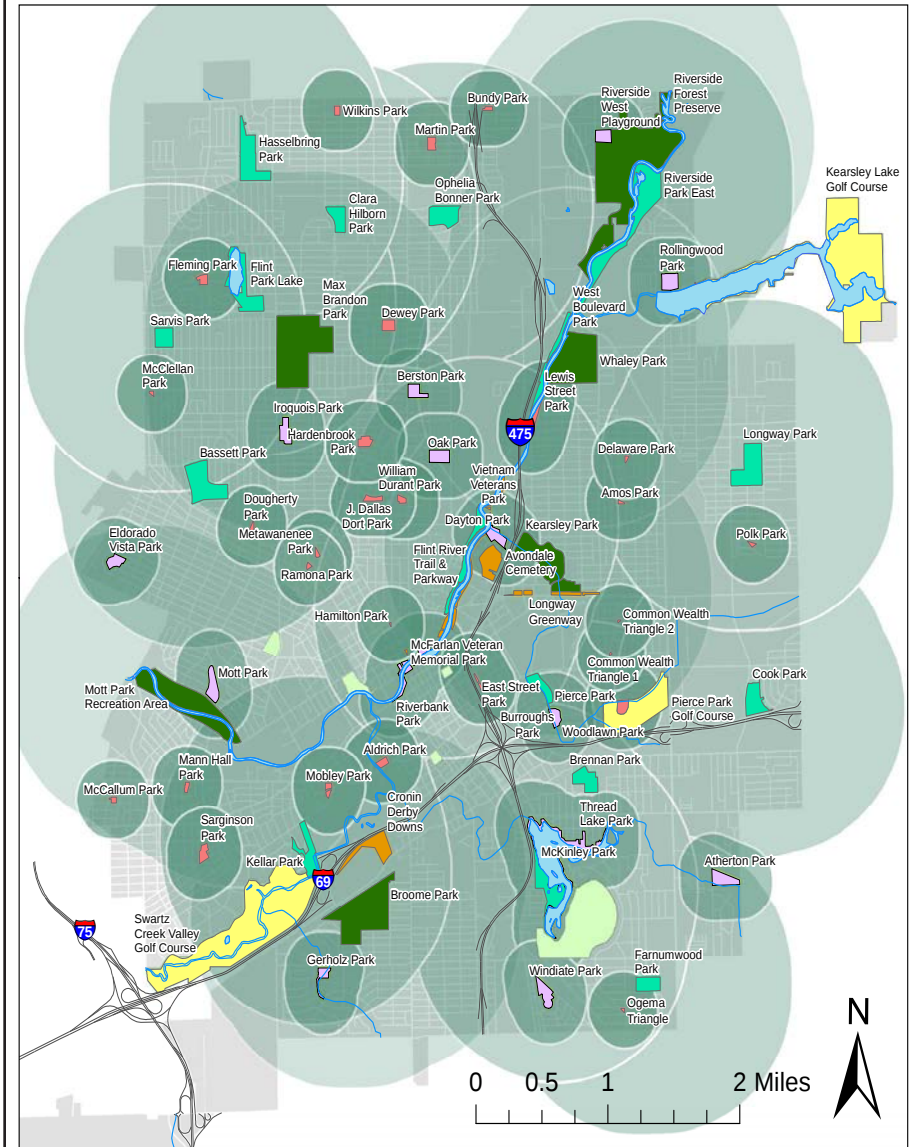
EQUITY & INCLUSIVE ACCESS

ACTION: Engage the Flint community to support the use of parks and recreation facilities across population demographics while promoting diversity and cross-cultural education

Just as it is important that Flint works in every park and that no park is left behind, it is equally important that no population group be left behind. Because of the importance parks serve as gathering space and neighborhood stabilization, it is vital that parks are accessible and inviting to children and their parents, college students and young professionals, and grandparents and aging seniors. Through our engagement efforts we develop park plans that guide investment that meets the needs of the unique neighborhood and its diversity of residents.

Together, the service areas of every park in Flint covers nearly the entire city. This means that every mini-park, neighborhood park, community park, and large urban park can reasonably be reached by residents within their 1/4 to 2 miles service areas. It is vital that parks are accessible, and walkable when possible, so that all residents can take part in the benefits parks provide, such as community gathering space, recreation space for exercise and sports, and a natural setting for respite from city life. Flint is planning to conduct a geographic needs assessment and a more comprehensive accessibility analysis to better map and comprehend each parks assets, possibilities for investment, and to better grade each parks accessibility for all park users.

PARK SERVICE AREAS CITY OF FLINT



GUIDING PRINCIPLE: SAFETY AND SECURITY



SAFETY & SECURITY

Provide safety and security to increase park use, promote partnerships and volunteerism, and foster a sense of community

Goal: *Foster parks as safe and welcoming spaces for gathering, recreation, and enjoyment*

A priority for capital investments is to improve safety and security. In addition to reducing risk of injury and subsequent liability, a safe park improves the park usage, promotes volunteerism, and fosters a sense of community pride.

ACTION: Implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) tactics to better control proper access, clear sight lines, and remove hazardous conditions in parks

CPTED is a multidisciplinary crime prevention approach rooted in the belief that a well designed public realm can lead to a reduction in both the perception and occurrence of crime. Instead of using only traditional policing methods, CPTED aims to preemptively deter criminal activity, increase safety, and reduce fear in potential crime hotspots.

Where appropriate, concepts of CPTED should be applied to the City's parks and open spaces as an initial effort to improve safety and security. City staff should be trained in the appropriate application of CPTED techniques, and local residents should be educated about the benefits of neighborhood maintenance for park safety.

"The ability to interact with nature and safely access recreational opportunities elevates quality of life"
- *Imagine Flint Masterplan*



Pedestrian bridge in Atherton Park before (above) and after (below) CPTED, 2015





SAFETY & SECURITY

ACTION: Prevent unnecessary repair or replacement costs in parks by adding bollards, cables, and gates to prevent dumping and entry of unauthorized vehicles such as four-wheelers and dirt-bikes

ACTION: Replace old amenities that are damaged, no longer meet modern safety standards, or otherwise create safety hazards



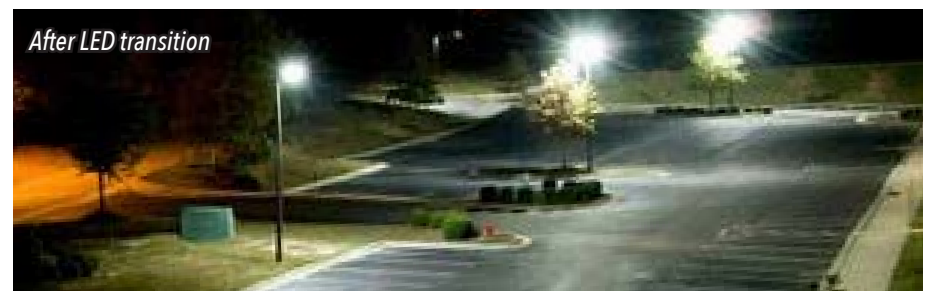
ACTION: Encourage interdepartmental collaboration and explore the use of security cameras in parks by partnering with Flint Police and the 'Project C.A.T.T. EYE' Program

Project C.A.T.T. EYE (Crime Area Target Team) is made up of a group of Flint police officers who target high crime areas in the City of Flint through 24 hour monitoring of the video feeds of cameras installed at local businesses. The project consists of real-time crime fighting and community policing aimed at improving quality of life, neighborhood safety, community revitalization, and economic growth.

ACTION: Transition lighting in and around Flint's parks from costly and inefficient bulbs to solar or LED lighting to increase visibility, meet *Imagine Flint* energy efficiency goals, and greatly reduce utility costs

Lighting in and around Flint's 70 park properties is made up of City owned lights and Consumer's Energy owned and operated lights. Of the Consumer's Energy lights in or adjacent to Flint parks, 29 have Mercury Vapor bulbs and 123 have High Pressure Sodium bulbs. It costs \$700 to convert a High Pressure Sodium bulb to LED and Consumer's Energy is converting Mercury Vapors bulbs free of charge. Therefore, converting all of the Consumers Energy owned lights in or adjacent to parks to LED would cost \$86,100. This investment would save about \$26,000 annually, meaning it would pay for itself in about 3 years.

The City has recently launched a Streetlight Reporting application, that residents can use to report damaged or non-functioning streetlights. The application can be launched through the City of Flint website.





SAFETY & SECURITY

ACTION: Advocate for the demolition of substandard structures on lots adjacent to parks

Blight elimination on lots that border parks opens up possibilities for reuse. Most importantly, removing unsafe and damaged structures that can make parks dangerous and uninviting will reshape public image and encourage recreation use.

This land can be taken on, maintained, and productively utilized by neighbors, churches, or community groups. In certain circumstances, the land could be incorporated into the park, increasing the amount of green space in the City.



Hardenbrook Park and adjacent substandard properties, October 2019 (Flint Property Portal)



Hardenbrook Park and adjacent demolished properties (blue), October 2019. In this map, purple parcels are Land Bank Listed for demolition, but not yet funded (Flint Property Portal)



Hardenbrook Park and adjacent substandard properties, February 2018 (Flint Property Portal)

GUIDING PRINCIPLE: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, SUSTAINABILITY, & RESILIENCE

Implement natural landscaping and green infrastructure in our parks to improve environmental quality, foster neighborhood stewardship, and to limit the City's carbon footprint

Goal: *Prioritize the improvement of the ecological health, access, and recreation opportunities of Flint's natural systems through responsible, resilient planning and natural landscaping projects*

ACTION: Transform underutilized and inactive parkland into passive-use sites by transitioning manicured turfs into native vegetation with pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and native grasses to increase beauty, enhance native systems, and reduce maintenance costs

ACTION: Prioritize sustainable and energy efficient construction and/or improvements at parks and community centers

There are many benefits to developing natural landscaping in part of Flint's park system, the most tangible being a reduction in operating expenses. For every 25 acres transitioned from turf grass to native vegetation, over one million dollars in maintenance costs are saved over ten years. In addition to reduced maintenance, natural landscaping creates a healthier, more resilient environment by increasing local biodiversity and combating destructive invasive species. It also improves permeability and naturally manages stormwater runoff.

Natural landscaping does not mean areas of a park are being forgotten or removed as open space available to the community.

Daylighting long-buried streams and natural landscaping in parks can enhance the way in which residents engage with the environment. Natural systems and native species provide unique opportunities to learn about the region's environmental heritage through informational signage, outdoor classrooms, and interactive gardens. Wildflowers and ornamental shrubs and trees can improve the appearance and visual diversity of the City, creating more fulfilling experiences.

Community engagement with park users and neighbors along with surveying geological features will help guide decisions about which parts of a park are good candidates for natural landscaping, forestry maintenance, and where the city can daylight streams.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, SUSTAINABILITY, & RESILIENCE

ACTION: Give residents and areas of Flint adversely impacted by the consequences of past urban renewal and industrial pollution special consideration for environmental projects as a form of environmental justice

Environmental Justice here uses the US EPA definition of “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Nationally, pollution and the consequences of our built environment disproportionately impact minority populations and those with lower incomes. As a city with a high poverty rate and a “minority-majority” population, we must make sure vulnerable populations in our city are not especially exposed to environmental hazards.

Flint and its residents have been impacted by a legacy of industrial development and projects of harmful urban renewal. Neighborhoods border or host brownfields, sites that previously housed contaminating industrial and commercial developments. The ramifications for these neighborhoods can be decades of groundwater pollution, increased blight, and decreased housing value. These sites affect our built environment with acres of

impervious concrete long after employers have left. Urban renewal projects in the mid-twentieth century have forced our African-American communities to relocate into disconnected corners of the city, sometimes illegally into substandard housing in floodplains.

Our environmental planning in parks is a component of city projects to mitigate the effects of actions and decisions made in our past to now make Flint a stronger, resilient, more equitable city. We aim to implement projects in parks and greenspaces across the city to not only clean the environment around us, but also give residents a neighborhood park that is healthy, safe, and clean to exercise and spend quality time in.

ACTION: Conduct a Forestry Inventory and Action Plan for the City of Flint Park System

The Forestry Division of Flint was eliminated due to budget constraints in 2013. Forestry work is now contracted out to the Genesee Conservation District or bid out to other contractors as necessary. Just as a part of the park system’s long-term maintenance plan looks at which areas of a park will be manicured or covered with native plants, a component must be a long-term look at the wooded areas of our parks. A Tree Inventory and Action Plan would map our wooded areas and determine which trees should be part of the manicured turf, which trees are within important sight-lines and near property lines and therefore appropriate for CPTED and preventive forestry work, and which areas are most suitable to be part of a more natural system, which is important for wildlife habitat.



Chevy Commons, 2016



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, SUSTAINABILITY, & RESILIENCE

ACTION: Seek funding and partnerships to develop specific projects for the restoration and enhancement of natural areas to improve the health of the city's ecosystem as it relates to open spaces and parks

ACTION: Develop interpretive, place-based education materials to engage diverse audiences by demonstrating the relevance of parks and natural systems on civic and daily life

The City engages diverse audiences and stakeholders to share their accounts of the history and relevance of parks and natural processes to their lives, thus activating parks through exploration of their contemporary and historical significance. The National Parks Service makes recommendations on developing interpretive signage and programming that engages audiences, encourages shared stewardship, and creates opportunities for lifelong learning. Such an approach may facilitate audience interaction with one another and with resources that parks provide.

When partnering with community and conservation groups to complete green infrastructure projects there is an opportunity to bring in more community members to help do the work and learn in a hands-on way. Installing signage that details the natural processes and why the project is so important to the ecology of Flint and beyond provides unique opportunities to display the region's environmental heritage and stewardship.



Lewis Street Eco-Park Rain Garden Expansion, 2017

PARTNER PROFILE



GENESEE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Genesee Conservation District (GCD) is a division of state government that the City of Flint partners with. It is instrumental to building capacity and implementing environmental features, open space, and parks goals of the *Imagine Flint* Master Plan.

GCD is one of nearly 3,000 conservation districts in the United States and is a locally controlled resource management agency that provides technical assistance at the local level, assisting people in implementing ecologically-friendly practices on their land, in their homes, and in their daily lives. In Flint, the Genesee Conservation District is contracted to remove hazardous trees when needed and has been active in providing technical support during our numerous tree planting and natural landscaping projects throughout the city. In 2017 alone GCD was on-site helping at Cronin Derby Down Park with Southwestern Academy students, and at Atherton Park and Lewis Street Park, among many others.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE: FLINT RIVER SYSTEM REVITALIZATION &

The Flint River, 2016
credit: Flint River Watershed Coalition



FLINT RIVER SYSTEM

Use placemaking and natural landscaping to transform the river, creeks, lakes, and riverfront into clean and appealing recreation and entertainment destinations

Goal: *Protect, enhance, and promote the Flint River and its watershed, including lakes, and tributary creeks and streams, as appealing and valuable community assets*

The Flint River is the most prominent natural feature in the City of Flint, and has just received its designation as a National Water Trail by the National Parks Service. At 142 miles in length it forms a drainage network that spans approximately 1,332 square miles. The river is linked to several tributary waterways: Gilkey Creek, Swartz Creek, Thread Creek, Kearsley Creek, Brent Run Creek, Carman Creek, and the Robinson Drain. The creeks expand the river's broad floodplain, creating a series of greenbelt fingers that have recreational and ecological benefits. Blue/green corridors link water with green infrastructure such as parks, nature preserves, woods, and wetlands. The purpose of creating these corridors is to restore urban waterways, provide recreational space, and reduce the risk of flooding.

Michigan State University, in partnership with the Flint River Watershed Coalition, created plans in 2014 for both Thread Lake and Flint Park Lake, while an assessment report was created for Kearsley Reservoir. These documents detail the current conditions of that time, existing improvement efforts, potential future opportunities, and goals and action steps to improve and realize recreation opportunities for Flint's lakes.



Thread Lake, 2012



FLINT RIVER SYSTEM REVITALIZATION

ACTION: Support partnerships that increase recreational opportunities, family programming, environmental education, and events along the Flint River and the City's lakes and creeks

ACTION: Increase public access to waterfronts while preserving and enhancing views of the natural area by developing fishing piers, kayaking and canoe launches, overlooks, and trail connections

Flint and its community partners, such as the Flint River Corridor Alliance and the Flint River Watershed Coalition, help implement goals of the *Imagine Flint* Master Plan that relate to the Flint River system and build on the transformational projects being completed within the Flint River watershed to create appealing recreational destinations for residents and visitors alike. By doing so, the City can increase appreciation for the natural environment and facilitate exercise and active lifestyles.

ACTION: Install green infrastructure in parks away from bodies of water to improve groundwater quality, mitigate the risk of flooding, and naturally treat storm and rain-water

ACTION: Pursue daylighting projects to restore existing streams and their natural systems

ACTION: Support the Flint Riverfront Restoration Project and expand its efforts throughout the city to add value to all residents



Gilkey Creek, 1971



Flint River Flotilla, 2015

LIST OF GOALS

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT	
GOAL	ACTION
<i>Use a data-driven approach to prioritize parks investment to Flint's most vulnerable neighborhoods</i>	Consider parks with the largest youth populations within 1/4 mile, parks that are adjacent to an active community center or school, and parks in low-moderate income areas affected by blight and crime
<i>Equitably distribute capital improvements and amenities using the National Recreation and Park Association 'standards per capita' as a reference while planning with city residents</i>	Maintain a Parks Inventory Assessment, tracking the condition of every amenity, park, and recreation facility to provide a city-wide analysis
	Continue drafting individual Community Park Plans with the participation of neighborhood groups and citizens, guaranteeing that park amenities are developed where they fit best and are most desired.
<i>Develop partnerships and funding strategies to provide parks and recreation infrastructure that meet the needs of the community and is maintainable by the City and its community partners</i>	Establish a centralized Flint Parks Fund to reduce the overhead and duplication of services across the funding community and maximize return on investment
	Diligently recruit new partnerships, aggressively seek grants, and leverage resources to complete short term and long term capital improvements
	Explore opportunities for revenue generation through partnerships with independent groups and contractors
	Provision to lease, with public support and following the City charter, under-utilized park property and buildings for sustainability and/or green infrastructure projects, such as tree farming or solar fields

EQUITY & INCLUSIVE ACCESS	
GOAL	ACTION
<i>Empower and guide resident and community partners to identify, fund, and complete park projects, and assist in solving problems that a park may be facing</i>	Work with park partners to explore any and all opportunities and hold community meetings to draft 5-Year Community Park Plans, aid in grant writing, and connect with funders to install park amenities
	Utilize City of Flint AmeriCorps VISTA members to seize opportunities to bring new members into the Adopt-a-Park Program and connect them to organizations that can help with funding and capacity building services
<i>Support free, unrestricted access to safe and attractive parks, natural areas, waterways, and open spaces</i>	Manage a reporting system to address issues submitted by park users and keep park data up to date while empowering our park partners to rectify problems together throughout the entire city
	Incorporate comprehensive criteria for park accessibility and ADA compliance in inventory assessments to identify access and utilization barriers in Flint Parks
	Engage the Flint community to support the use of park and recreation facilities across population demographics while promoting diversity and cross-cultural education

SAFETY AND SECURITY	
GOAL	ACTION
<i>Foster parks as safe and welcoming spaces for gathering, recreation, and enjoyment</i>	Implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) tactics to better control proper access, clear sight lines, and remove hazardous conditions in parks
	Prevent unnecessary repair or replacement costs in parks by adding bollards, cables, and gates to prevent dumping and unauthorized vehicles such as four-wheelers and dirt bikes
	Replace old amenities that are damaged or that no longer meet modern safety standards and create safety hazards
	Encourage interdepartmental collaboration and explore the use of security cameras in parks by partnering with the Flint Police and the 'Project C.A.T.T. EYE' Program
	Transition lighting in and around Flint's parks from costly and inefficient bulbs to solar or LED lighting to increase visibility, meet <i>Imagine Flint</i> energy efficiency goals, and greatly reduce utility costs
	Advocate for the demolition of sub-standard structures on lots adjacent to parks

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, SUSTAINABILITY, & RESILIENCE

GOAL	ACTION
<i>Prioritize the improvement of the ecological health, access, and recreation opportunities of Flint's natural systems through responsible, resilient planning and natural landscaping projects</i>	Give residents and areas of the city adversely impacted by consequences of past urban renewal and industrial pollution, special consideration for environmental projects as a form of environmental justice
	Transform underutilized and inactive parkland into passive-use sites by transitioning manicured turfs into native vegetation with pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and native grasses to increase beauty, enhance native systems, and reduce maintenance costs
	Prioritize sustainable and energy-efficient construction and/or improvements at parks and community centers
	Conduct a Tree Inventory and Action Plan for the City of Flint Park System
	Seek funding and partnerships to develop specific projects for the restoration and enhancement of natural areas to improve the health of the City's ecosystem as it relates to open space and parks
	Develop interpretive, place-based education materials to engage diverse audiences by demonstrating the relevance of parks and natural systems on civic and daily life

FLINT RIVER SYSTEM REVITALIZATION AND ACCESS	
GOAL	ACTION
<i>Protect, enhance, and promote the Flint River and its watershed, including lakes, and tributary creeks and streams, as appealing and valuable community assets</i>	Support partnerships that increase recreational opportunities, family programming, environmental education, and events along the Flint River and the City's lakes and creeks
	Support the Flint Riverfront Restoration Project and expand its efforts throughout the city to add value to all residents
	Increase public access to waterfronts while preserving and enhancing views of the natural area by developing fishing piers, kayaking and canoe launches, overlooks, and trail connections
	Install green infrastructure in parks away from bodies of water to improve groundwater quality, mitigate the risk of flooding, and naturally treat storm/rain-water
	Pursue 'daylighting' projects to unbury existing streams and restore natural systems
<i>Prioritize land and water trail investment that connect neighborhoods to parks, recreation facilities, the Flint River Trail, and other regional trails</i>	Support the completion of trails projects such as the Grand Traverse Greenway and the Genesee Valley Trail extension as well as pursue new trails
	Create wayfinding signage to showcase trail entrances and demonstrate the connections between green spaces and different parts of the city
	Work with the State of Michigan, Genesee County, and adjacent municipalities to connect the Flint River trail system to neighboring communities

ACTION PLAN

Providing even the most basic of park services in the face of a steadily declining population and park millage drastically limits the amount of projects and improvements the City of Flint can take on, relative to its need. It is prudent that Flint not detail plans for specific projects years into the future given the changing levels in funding and the challenge of assembling partners and volunteers.

However, when opportunity and funding arises, drafting individual Community Park Plans at individual parks with park adopters and neighborhood stakeholders has been the best way to identify specific projects wanted by the community. This meets the goals and objectives of the *Imagine Flint* Master Plan and this Park System Plan. The planning process relies heavily on public input and there are numerous opportunities to gather feedback and make

revisions to guarantee the community's vision is being created.

To use Mott Park as an example, in 2016 the community identified a variety of projects to improve the park:

Short Term; 1-2 Years

- * Install Solar/LED lighting
- * Restore ballfield
- * Repair tunnel and stairs
- * Install dog waste receptacles

Medium Term; 3-5 Years

- * Improve fence line around tennis courts
- * Remove growth around tennis court
- * Remove tree stumps
- * Install new park sign
- * Replace box for meters
- * Replace hazardous playground equipment

Long Term; 5+ Years

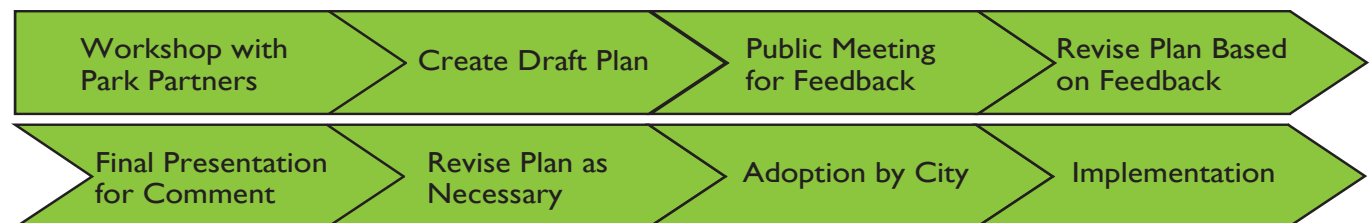
- * Repave Roller Hockey Rink
- * Install walking path
- * Install camera with signs
- * Update amphitheater

The next steps would be to then seek new partners and funders to support specific improvements. The City of Flint can continue to find in-kind ways to leverage support such as provide letters of support and assist with grant initiatives.

This process and the partnerships that form are great examples of how the City and members of the community can come together to cultivate park stewardship and act on the guiding principles of Strategic Investment, Access and Equity, Safety and Security, Environmental Sustainability, and Flint River System Revitalization and Access.

“When you really build for what the kids want, the space becomes more a part of the community.”

- Jamie Gaskin



With strategic planning and community partnerships the City of Flint has completed projects within the City's Capital Improvement Plan and individual Community Park Plans that relate to all five guiding principles. These demonstrate the City's trajectory and commitment to the goals stated in the 2013 *Imagine Flint* Master Plan and this 2020 Parks Plan.

The following pages list major completed and ongoing projects undertaken by the City of Flint with community partners during the years that the 2013-2017 Parks and Recreation Plan was in effect with more detail on our demonstration projects.

Finished Projects	Completion	Guiding Principles				
Professional Playground Installation (3 - Flint Park Lake, Max Brandon Park, Longway Park)	2015					
Partner and Community Playground Builds (13 - Brennan Park, Berston Park, Mott Park, Sarginson Park, Hasselbring Park, Broome Park, Sarvis Park, Clara Hilborn Park, Cook Park, Dewey Park, Eldorado Vista Park, Farnumwood Park, Whaley Park)	2016 - Ongoing					
Annual Tree City USA and Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebrations (Longway Park, Cronin Derby Down Park, Atherton Park)	2015 - Ongoing					
Ball Field Improvements (Kearsley Park, Hasselbring Park, Brennan Park, Longway Park, Farnumwood Park, Hardenbrook Park)	2015 - 2018					
Chevy Commons Phase I - IV (capping of existing surface, addition of new soil, new pedestrian paths, tree and vegetation planting)	2015 - 2018					
Genesee Valley Trail Completion & Extension	2015 & 2018					
Lewis Street Park Rain Garden and Eco-Park (expand rain garden, rebuild fishing piers, installing environmental education)	2015 & 2017					
Atherton Park and Whaley Park Improvements (CPTED projects, clearing sightlines, removing hazardous trees)	2016 & 2018					
Max Brandon Eco-Park (removing invasive species and hazardous trees, expanding wetland, construction of boardwalk overlook, installing education signage)	2016					
Pavilion Builds (Foss Neighborhood, Dort Park, Longway Park, Dewey Park, Brennan Park)	2016					
Riverbank Park Improvements (Upgrades to ADA accessibility to entire park, new railings, landscaping enhancements and kayak access to river.)	2016					
Basketball court resurfacing and improvements (Flemming Park, Brennan Park, Dewey Park, Cook Park, Amos Park, Sarginson Park)	2017 & 2018					
Consumers Energy - River Remediation	2017					
Disc golf course build (Mott Park Recreation Area)	2017					
Stevens Pedestrian Bridge Replacement	2017					
Sarginson Park Improvements Phase I-III	2018					
Mott Park Recreation Area Paddler's Landing	2019					
Flint Riverfront Restoration Project Phase I-II	2019					

Ongoing and Potential Projects	Guiding Principles				
Additional Conservation and Floodplain Protection - <i>ongoing</i>					
Annual Arbor Day Celebration Tree Plantings - <i>ongoing</i>					
Brennan Park Improvements Phase III - <i>underway</i>					
Chevy Commons Phase V - <i>underway</i>					
Cook Park & Clara Hilborn Park Basketball Court Improvements - <i>underway</i>					
Comprehensive Access Analysis - <i>potential</i>					
Daylighting Brent Run Creek - <i>potential</i>					
Eldorado Vista Park Improvements - <i>underway</i>					
Flint Kids Play Community Builds - <i>ongoing</i>					
Flint Riverfront Restoration Project Phase III-IV - <i>underway</i>					
Flint Skate Park Expansion - <i>underway</i>					
Geographic Needs Assessment - <i>potential</i>					
Grand Traverse Greenway - <i>underway</i>					
Longway Park Improvements Phase IV - <i>underway</i>					
Placemaking Redevelopment Projects - <i>potential</i>					
Playground Improvements (Delaware Park, Farnumwood Park, Polk Park, Fleming Park, McKinley Park, McClellan Park) - <i>underway</i>					
Thread Creek Wetland Conservation - <i>potential</i>					
Utah Dam Removal - <i>potential</i>					

* List updated November 2019. For an up-to-date list please visit [ImagineFlint.com/Parks.aspx](https://www.imagineflint.com/Parks.aspx)

PROJECT PROFILE: FLINT RIVERFRONT RESTORATION

The Flint Riverfront Restoration Plan is a multi-organization project between the City of Flint, Genesee County Parks, and other stakeholders. This plan provides a vision to transform a neglected resource in the Flint River into a healthy and vibrant community asset. Projects of the plan call for the rejuvenation of the river and riverfront through the creation of water-based recreational opportunities, park improvements, underutilized property redevelopment, enhanced community connectivity, ecosystem restoration, and improved stormwater/flood control.

Some of the projects being undertaken are the removal of the Hamilton and Fabri Dams, restoration of the river banks, removal of contaminated sediment behind the dam, the naturalization and update of sections of Riverbank Park and river banks, cap sections of the river bottom, creation of improved fish passages, allow for water recreation through downtown Flint, and improvement of the Stevens Pedestrian Bridge.

It is worth noting that when discussing the Flint River Restoration that the City of Flint is not only focusing on major projects being completed in the Downtown area, but along the entire run of the Flint River, from Carpenter St. at the northern border to Ballenger Hwy. at the southwest corner of the City. These improvement projects will be to the benefit of the entire City.



Removal of the Hamilton Dam, 2018. Photo credit: Cristina Wright

PROJECT PROFILE: CHEVY COMMONS

Currently in its 4th phase, Chevy Commons is a multi-million dollar partnership project to turn the former “Chevy in- the-Hole” automotive factory from a polluted brownfield into a 60 acre natural area.

Chevy Commons features winding walking paths through native grassland prairies, wetlands, and wooded areas along the Flint River. Just south of downtown Chevy Commons borders the Flint River and Kettering University and is linked to the rest of Flint and neighboring municipalities through the Flint River Trail, the Genesee Valley Trail, and soon, the Grand Traverse Greenway.

As of December 2019, this project has seen over 50 acres of brownfield capped with new soil, over 2 miles of pedestrian paths installed, and over 1,000 trees planted.



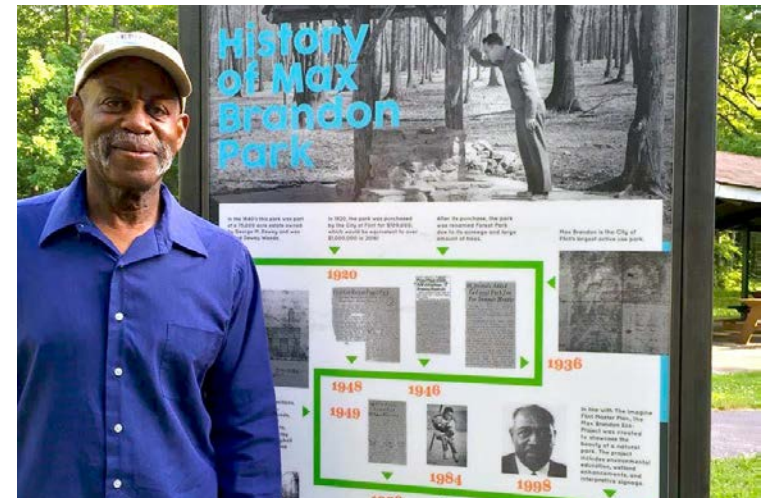
“Chevy In The Hole” circa 1930



Chevy Commons, 2016
Photo credit: Kris Johns

PROJECT PROFILE: MAX BRANDON ECO-PARK

Completed in the Spring of 2016 was a \$137,500 expansion and enhancement of the wetland area to naturally manage rainwater, provide wildlife habitat, install bicycle racks, and clear brush in accordance with CPTED guidelines. This project has also provided passive and active environmental education through in-class curriculum and interpretive signage. The Max Brandon Eco-Park project has also proved replicable. The City has taken this demonstration natural project and already applied it to Lewis Street Park.



COMMUNITY BUILDS & AMENITIES

PARTNER & COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND BUILDS

Since 2015, the City of Flint as worked with community partners and volunteers to install new playgrounds all over the city. Flint has used strategic planning to place playgrounds in parks with the most children nearby. Not only do these modern playgrounds replace outdated play equipment that no longer meet safety standards, but they are based on designs that have been created by the kids in Flint!

Volunteers have contributed over \$200,000 in donated labor to install over \$700,000 in new playground equipment across 16 parks with ***SIX new community playgrounds built in 2018 alone!***



AMENITY PROJECTS

While the Department of Planning and Development creates individual Community Park Plans with community partners every year, we are also committed to implementing the community's vision for their neighborhood park. The process relies heavily on public participation and feedback, giving the community the opportunity to identify what maintenance and capital improvements they deem necessary. These plans allow for the community to come together, form partnerships, leverage resources, and increase their sense of ownership in parks.

Recent projects include pavilion builds, basketball court improvements, Flint's first and only disc golf course, and walk/bike trails across a variety of park types throughout the city.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

CRONIN DERBY DOWNS DUCK HABITAT

Students at Southwestern Classical Academy teamed up with University of Michigan-Flint Outreach and the Genesee Conservation District to plant trees and install a rain garden/duck habitat at Cronin Derby Downs in 2016-17. The new rain garden will help alleviate flooding in the area and serve as a natural habitat for the ducks that have lived around the school grounds for decades. This place-based project was student-led and tied to in-class curriculum through active environmental education.



Cronin Derby Downs, 2017

LEWIS STREET ECO-PARK

Completed in the summer of 2017, this project expanded a rain garden and bioswale done by the Master Plan Task Force and their partners, to increase the amount of rainwater managed naturally and prevent stormwater runoff into the adjacent Flint River. The project also provided CPTED tree and brush removal, interpretive signage on rain gardens and the Flint River Watershed, repaired fishing docks, and installed new bicycle amenities along the Flint River Trail. This project replicated components of the Max Brandon Eco-Park and will also serve as a template for future Eco-Park projects.



New fishing dock at Lewis Street Eco-Park, 2017

A total of 3,200 trees, shrubs, and flowers were planted inside Flint parks in 2017 alone!

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PRO-

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Community input meetings were held during November 2017 and May 2018 to discuss the 2020 Parks Plan, one meeting for the youth of Flint and four for the general public. Because the plan update is derived from the 2013 *Imagine Flint Master Plan for a Sustainable Flint*, guiding principles were established while many potential goals were derived from the master plan and past parks and recreation master plans.

City of Flint Planning staff also attended numerous community meetings and events to conduct “dollar exercises” to gauge which projects and amenities were most desired by community members who did not get to attend the workshops.

YOUTH WORKSHOP

At the youth meeting, children were broken up into groups and had 20 minutes to discuss why or why they did not use Flint parks and to list the activities they liked doing, what they wished they could do, and

some ideas they had seen and would like to see in Flint. This list was then given to a second table for them to discuss and whittle down to their favorite three ideas. These “top three” lists were ultimately compiled all together as a master list and then every child voted for their top choices in a “dollar exercise”, where each student was given ten “J. Dallas Dort Dollars” to vote on amenity options as they saw fit. The students’ votes were recorded and the results were compared to what park amenities Flint has historically installed. This showed the City if, 1 - recreation interests are changing and 2 - what recreation opportunities are

most important to Flint’s youth. “Youth” is one of the guiding principles of the *Imagine Flint Master Plan*.

The top three amenities the kids chose were zip-lines, basketball courts, and skate parks. Currently, Flint has no zip-lines and only one skate park so there is a new push to explore opportunities to install these new ideas.



Youth workshop at Holmes STEM Academy, 2017

COMMUNITY INPUT OUTREACH

City staff invited residents to the general public workshops by posting on the *Imagine Flint* and the Flint Parks and Recreation Facebook pages, distributing flyers at City buildings and the Flint Farmers Market, encouraging city planning commission members to attend, and personally inviting key stakeholders. All events were open to the public and held at the Berston Field House and the Brennan Senior Center to discuss possible goals, the general public's concerns, and the current realities facing Flint's parks.

GENERAL PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The general public meetings had two parts. First, drafts of the five guiding principles of the Parks Plan, each with two or three possible goals and/or strategies, were listed on sheets of poster board. This allowed every community member a chance to add their own thoughts, concerns, and possible gaps concerning the five guiding principles. Planning Division AmeriCorps VISTAs were on hand to discuss questions and talking points. The second part entailed "dollar exercises" where each participant was given "J. Dallas Dort Dollars"

representing the Parks Millage and tasked with prioritizing their tax dollars for certain parks improvement projects. A second dollar exercise was also conducted to choose among 10 specific amenity possibilities that aligned with amenities that came directly from the youth meetings.

The first set of workshops in November 2017 were attended by 52 individuals while 18 attended in May 2018.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

In total, 70 individuals participated in the general public meetings, 25 students in the youth workshops, over 100 in the dollar exercises, and 5 filled out the online survey during the public input phase of this plan. Attendees included community residents of all ages, park adopters, and city staff. A summary of the input from the community meetings is included in the appendix.



INCORPORATION INTO PLAN

The combined feedback was reviewed by the City of Flint Planning and Zoning Division staff and used to update the goals, action items and funding priorities that are included in this Parks Plan. The first draft of the plan was advertised and posted for public review throughout the summer of 2018 on www.ImagineFlint.com. The final draft of the plan was posted in February 2019 for public viewing at the Planning Division office, the City of Flint Municipal Center, the public library, Hasselbring, Brennan, and Berston Community Centers, and on the City website.

The draft plan was presented at a public hearing on January 25, 2021 and recommended for adoption and approved by City Council on January 25, 2021. Copies of the public hearing notice, public comments, and resolutions are included in the appendix.



Holmes STEM Academy Students, 2017



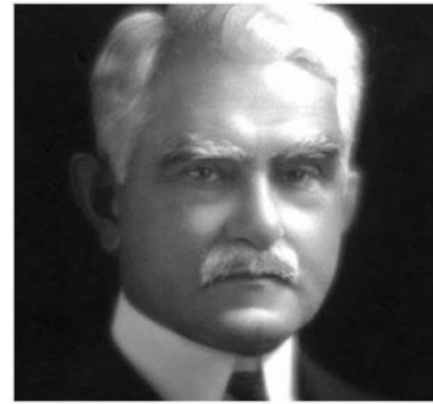
Community Workshop, Brennan Senior Center, 2017



In October 2013, the City of Flint adopted its first master plan since 1960. The *Imagine Flint Master Plan for a Sustainable Flint* was a highly participatory and community-led effort that laid the groundwork for the city to reinvent itself by focusing on social equity, sustainability, adapting to change and reshaping the economy, improving residents' quality of life, providing for Flint's youth and dedicated civic life. A significant portion of the *Imagine Flint* plan focuses on the City's comprehensive public park system.

PARK SYSTEM HISTORY

Flint has a traditionally rich parks system that values equity and access. The Flint parks system was laid out by John Nolen in the 1920 City of Flint Plan and included small parks and play lots within a five to eight-minute walk (1/4 mile) of each residential area, as well as large city parks connected by a series of park circuit drives to create continuous pleasant boulevards throughout the city. This design reflected a



J. Dallas Dort, c. 1920

prevailing view of parks in this era as necessary places for recreation, inspiration, and escape from city life.

J. Dallas Dort, a carriage maker and auto pioneer, was instrumental in developing the parks system by creating a parks board, providing financial support, and donating land for parks. Due to Dort's leadership, the City of Flint adopted an ordinance to name the parks system "J. Dallas Dort Memorial Park System."

Understanding that Flint residents and community members value their park land, the City's master plan places a high priority on both community partnerships and strategic investment to improve the conditions of the

properties located in Flint.

Because no general fund dollars are currently available and a declining parks millage is the sole dedicated source of funding for parks and recreation, Flint utilizes committed community volunteers and a wide array of partnerships to plan and complete improvement projects. These partners help shape the near-future plans of parks and recreation to guarantee the City is using funds wisely and cultivate these spaces with an emphasis on community input and sound ecological practices. This plan focuses on the 70 recreational facilities and 56 non-recreational green spaces within the City of Flint which total 1,881 acres.



People Iceskating in Forest Park, 1952

RESTRUCTURING

Under the Charter of 1975, the City created the Flint Department of Parks and Recreation, which replaced the Flint Recreation and Park Board, to administer the responsibilities of the City for parks and recreation. Since the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan of 2013-2017, the former Parks and Recreation Department has ceased to exist and all of its functions have been shifted to the City of Flint Department of Planning and Development.

FORMER DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTION

Of the former Parks and Recreation Department, the Forestry Division was eliminated in FY 2013, its functions being contracted out to the Genesee Conservation District as needed.

The formal City Golf Division was eliminated in FY 2012 due to budget constraints, with operations being transferred over to a private entity. Flint Golf, LLC maintains and operates the 27-hole Swartz Creek and the 18-hole Kearsley Lake golf

courses. The Mott Park Public Golf Course has been adopted by community members and transformed into the Mott Park Recreation Area as a multi-use city park now hosting annual events, a sizable pedestrian path, Flint's first and only disc golf course, and as of 2019, Paddler's Landing. The City is currently exploring ways to transform the former Pierce Park Golf Course into a multi-use recreation area as well while leasing the former clubhouse.

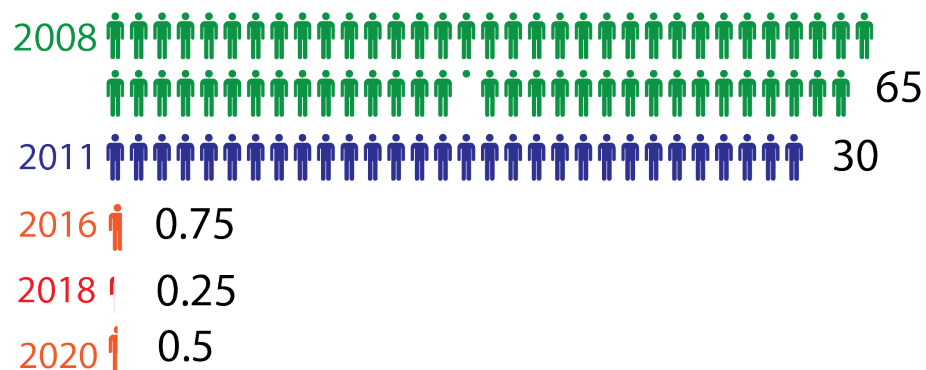
The Senior Centers Division has also been eliminated. The City of Flint currently has three community centers and two senior centers operated by either the Department of Planning and Development or the Department of Public Works.

CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Currently the day-to-day functions, grant writing, project management, and funding decisions are carried out by a combination of part-time hours spent by Planning and Development employees. While all of these individuals are full-time government employees,

parks and recreation administration represents only a portion of their responsibilities with the City. Flint does not currently have any staff members whose sole responsibility is the administration of parks and recreation.

Flint Parks Staff



Flint now classifies its facilities according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) model. This allows for standardized comparisons to the MDNR, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and other organizations that use this system when discussing recommendations based on their classifications. MDNR uses a hierarchy of park classifications, determined by acreage, to create a structure for assessing facilities and services.

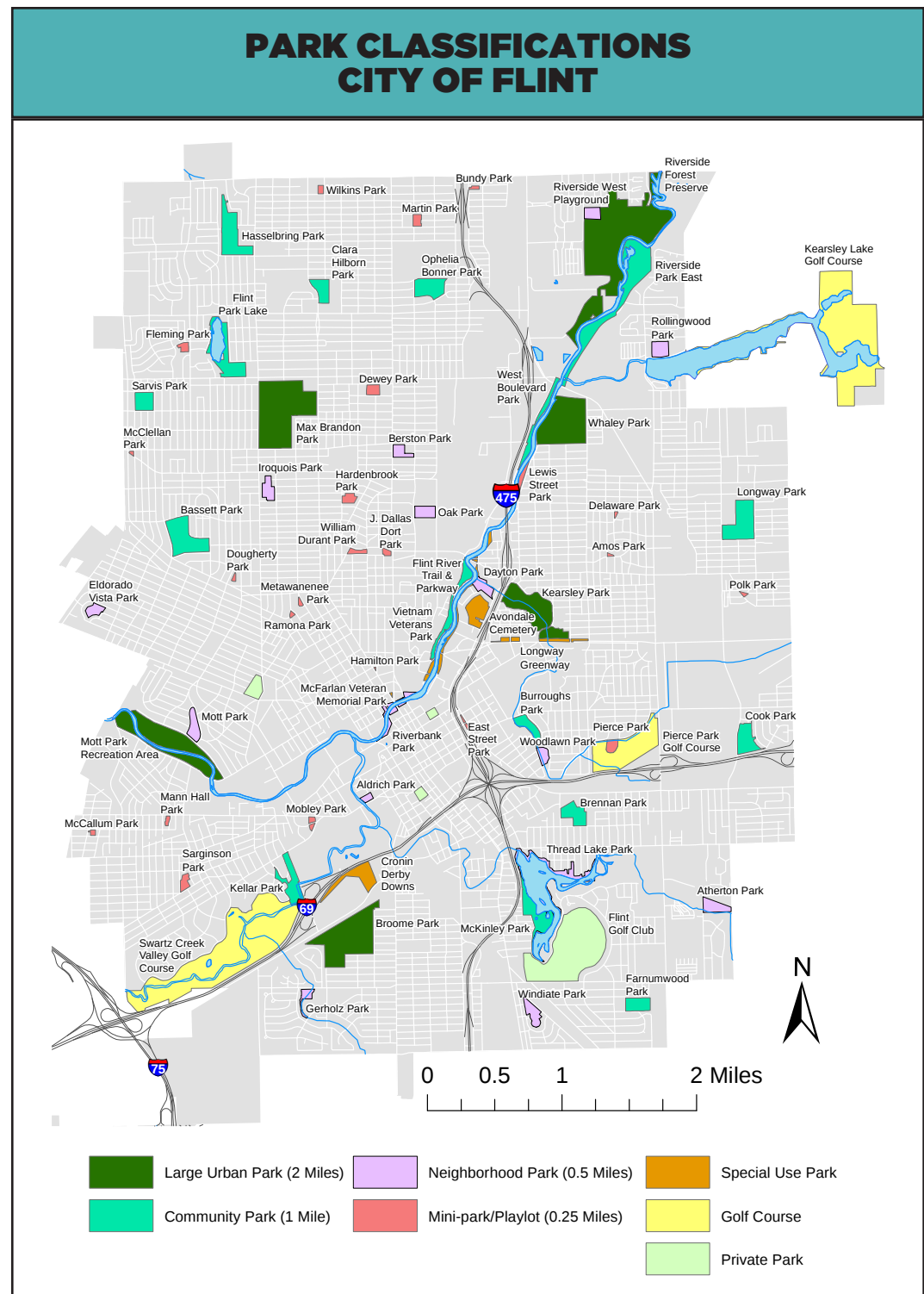
More than 50 acres; Service area of 2 miles

10 to 50 acres; Service area of 1 mile

5 to 10 acres; Service area of 0.5 miles

Service area of 0.25 miles

Single interest activities



INVENTORY ASSESSMENT

A detailed Inventory Assessment of the amenities within the park system was conducted in 2016 as an update to the one completed in 2010. 70 parks and trails were assessed using a detailed conditions and inventory assessment that rated the parks' condition, amenities, and accessibility. Additionally, digital photographs were taken, documenting the parks to create a visual reference for the sites.

PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARKS

There are four private parks that are publicly accessible in the city: Flint Memorial Park, Ballenger Park, Wilson Park, and Sit-Downers Memorial Park.

"A park is a place that a mother who doesn't have much money can take her children." - *Flint resident and mother Barbara Griffith-Wilson*

COMMUNITY CENTERS

The City of Flint has two active community centers, Berston and Haskell, and a third, the McKinley Center, is being restored due to a fire in 2016 that destroyed the observation deck that overlooked Thread Lake and left the community center damaged. The two senior centers, Brennan and Hasselbring, no longer have City staff operating these facilities, but the City is responsible for capital repairs and in some cases, utilities.

All active buildings are well utilized, with programming at all of the centers provided by various non-profit partners. Some are utilized to the point that they physically cannot accommodate more users without capital investments, an indication of the need for more centers and partners to help with programming, especially for youth. Utilization of senior and community centers can be a key component in implementation of *Imagine Flint* Master Plan objectives and there are opportunities to build off of previous investment through adaptive reuse of Flint Community School facilities.

Hardenbrook Park, 2017



Hasselbring Park Senior Center, 2016

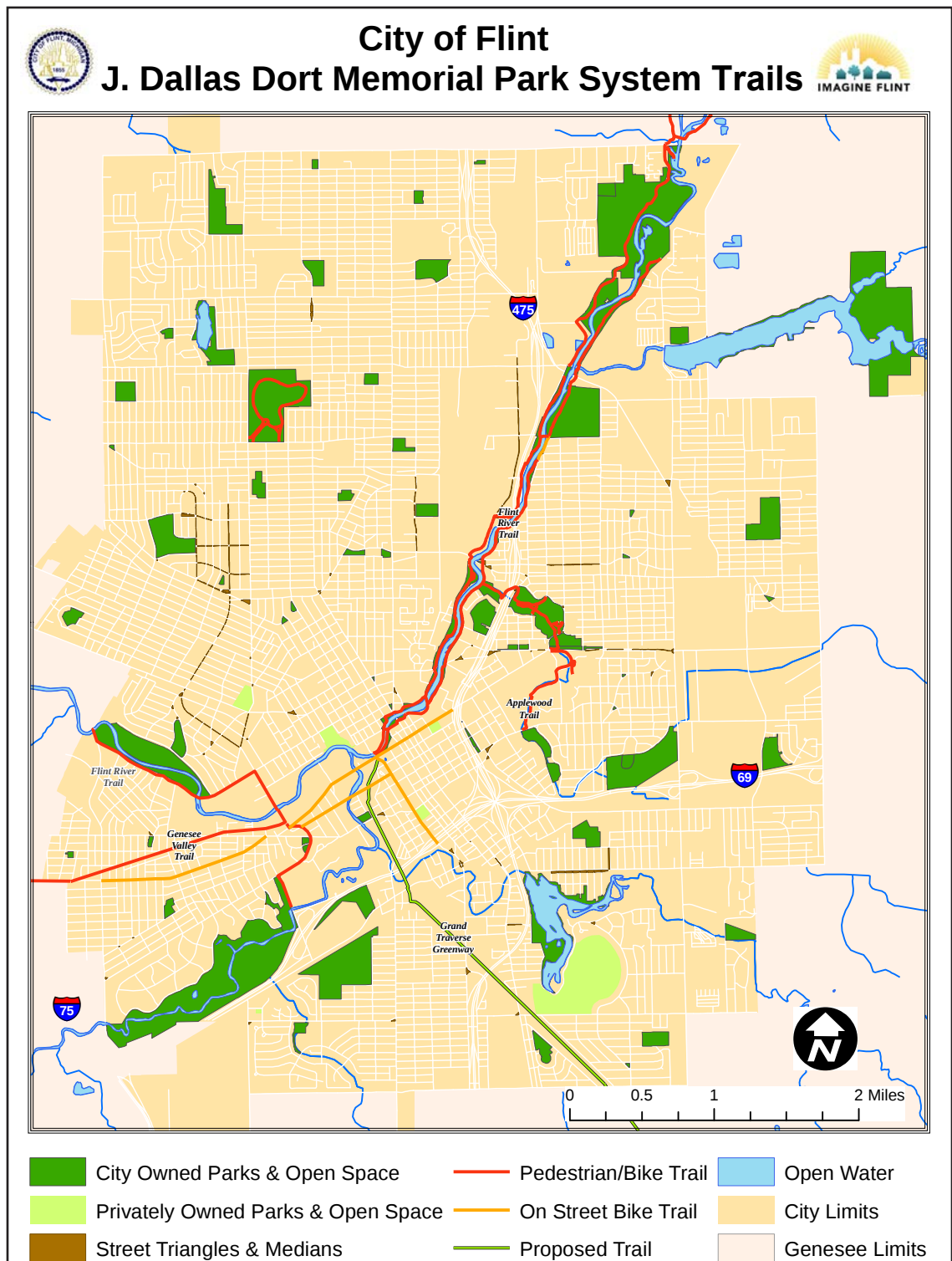
TRAILS

The Flint River Trail is a collection of trail segments running along and near the Flint River for nearly 24 miles. Much of the trail is on both east and west banks of the river, extending from the University of Michigan-Flint campus downtown to Bluebell Beach at Mott Lake north of the city, and reaching even further north to Genesee Charter Township via East Coldwater Road.

The Applewood segment of the Flint River Trail runs through Dayton Park and Kearsley Park south to Burroughs Park near I-69. Another Flint River Trail segment runs through Chevy Commons and Kettering University and along Mott Park Recreation Area to the western border with Flint Charter Township. The Flint River Trail is part of the state's Iron Belle Trail that will connect Belle Isle Park in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula when completed.

The Genesee Valley Trail connects to the Flint River Trail at Chevy Commons and runs west for 4.5 miles along the old CN railroad line, past Genesee Valley Mall and eventually to the Flint Township Nature Park.

The Grand Traverse Greenway is a proposed 3 mile trail following a former CSX railroad from beyond Flint's southern border to downtown. The Grand Traverse Greenway will serve as a key portion of the Michigan Iron Belle Trail and will connect with both existing pedestrian/bike trails in Flint.





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES GRANT HISTORY

The following information is based on files provided by MDNR staff, showing grant assisted projects that have been open in the last 25 years. The full recreation grant history can be found in the appendix.

PROJECT	PROJECT INFORMATION	PROJECT YEAR START	GRANT AMOUNT
5 NEW PLAYGROUNDS	Develop 5 new playgrounds at: Sarvis, Hardenbrook, Iroquois, Durant, Brennan.	1992	\$225,000
FLINT PARK LAKE DEVELOPMENT	New park, boat ramp, fishing pier, picnic & parking area, playground, basketball court, softball field	1993	\$127,900
KEARSLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT	Playground equipment, improvements to pedestrian link with Dayton park, ball field, pedestrian bridge, parking improvements	1999	\$700,592
FLINT PARK LAKE DEVELOPMENT	Construction of a boat ramp with adjacent fishing pier, parking lot, paved walking path, and picnic area	2000	\$151,787
GRAND TRAVERSE GREENWAY PROPERTY ACQUISITION	Acquisition of an abandoned rail corridor for the development of a 3-mile regional trail extension connecting Riverbank park to the Flint River Trail.	2008	\$525,000
RIVERBANK PARK DEVELOPMENT	Development to include upgrading to ADA standards, barrier-free access to amphitheater stage and entire park, new railings, landscaping enhancements and kayak access to river	2012	\$300,000
MCKINLEY PARK IMPROVEMENTS	Development project at McKinley Park for waterfront access improvements on Thread Lake and a new playground. Waterfront improvements include a fishing deck, kayak launch, overlook, access paths, exercise stations and a pavilion. The application was initiated by a local business looking to revitalize the neighborhood and surrounding area.	2013	\$225,000

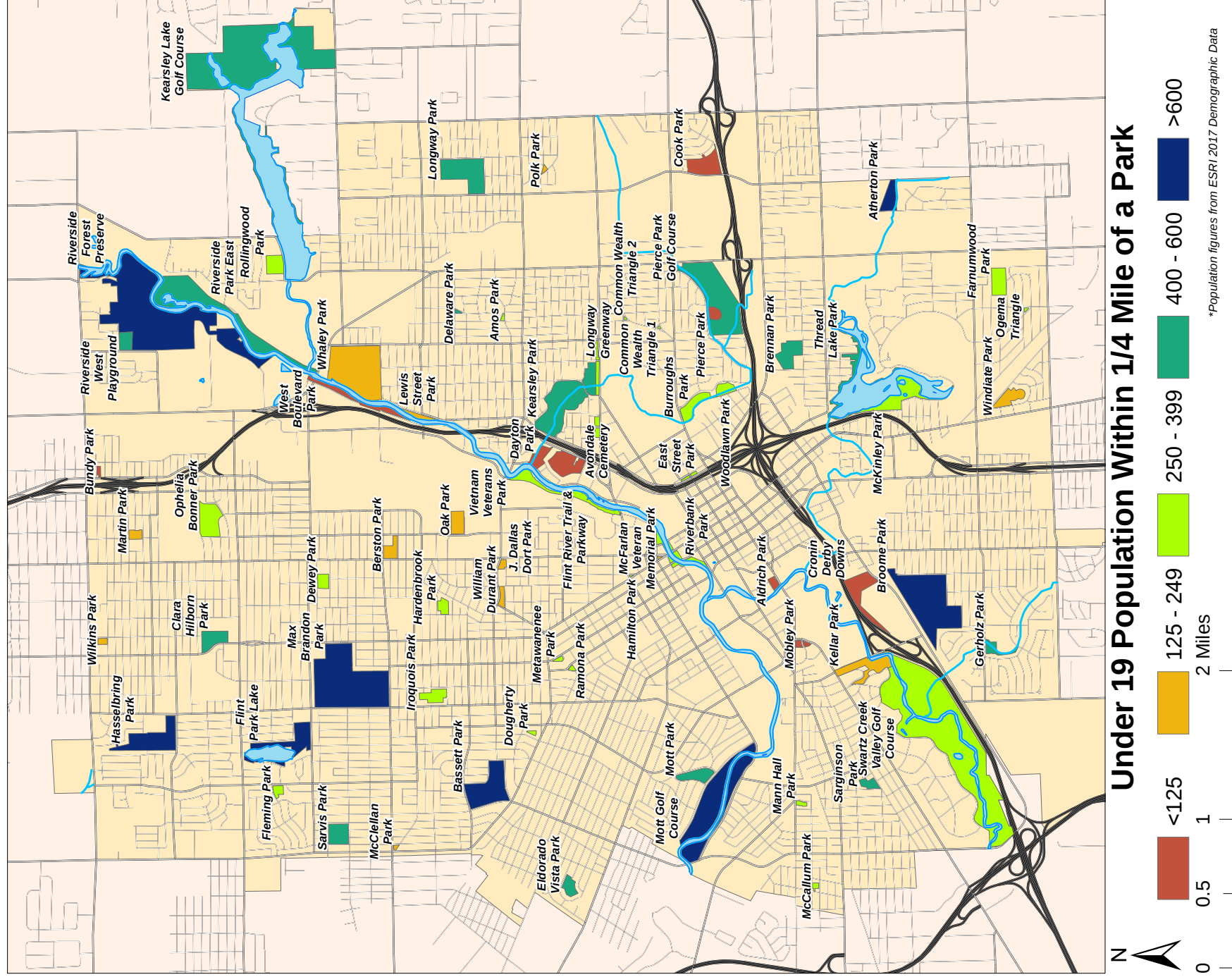
GOING FORWARD

As Flint continues to face its challenges head-on we are committed to providing parks and open space that are safe, ecologically healthy, and fun for our community! We could not do park clean-ups, community events, playground builds, and so much more without your support and hard work. We sincerely thank every volunteer, community partner, and funder that make this work possible! We believe our park system is an incredible asset to Flint and we are excited to continue our work with you to improve parks, community centers, and open space throughout the city and to work toward implementing the goals laid out in the ***Imagine Flint*** Master Plan.



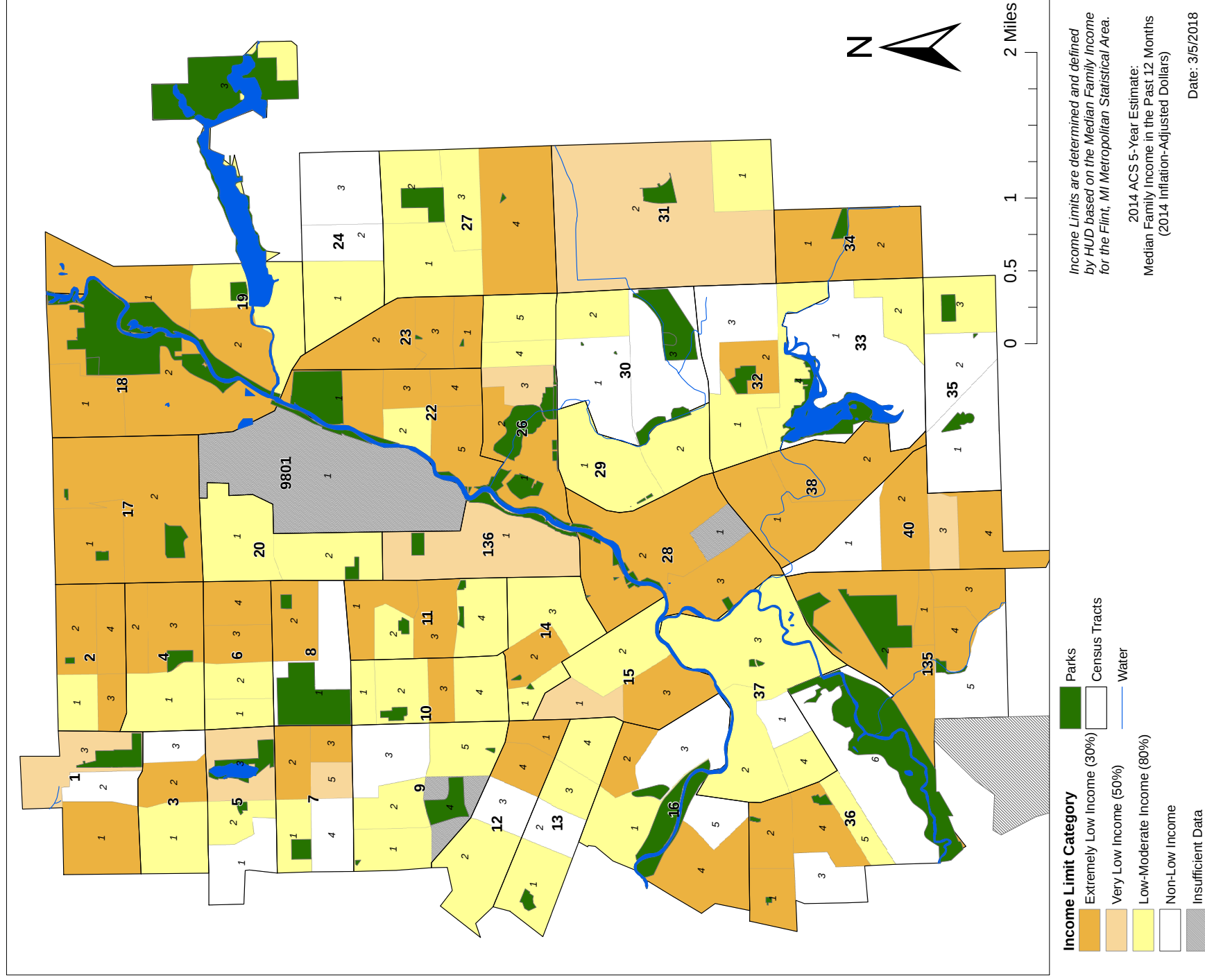


Youth Population Around Parks





Census Tracts and Block Groups with Extremely Low, Very Low, and Low Income

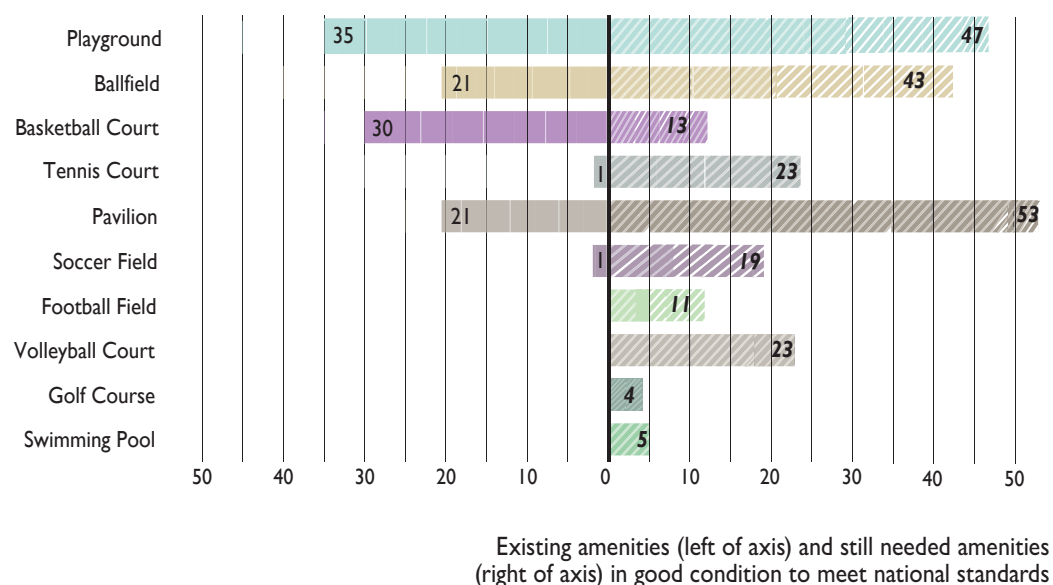


APPENDIX C: Capital Improvement Needs

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDS (for a population of 100,000)

Amenity in Good Condition	Cost per	Amount Needed	Total Cost
basketball (min: resurface / line court, replace backboard, post, rim, net, add benches)	\$ 15,000	47	\$ 705,000
tennis court (min: resurface, add posts & nets, repair fencing)	\$ 14,000	23	\$ 322,000
football (level / line field, permanent goals with bleachers)	\$ 3,000	11	\$ 33,000
soccer (level / line field, permanent goals with bleachers)	\$ 3,000	19	\$ 57,000
ballfield (little league sized with backstop, bases, bleachers, diamond dust in-field)	\$ 35,000	43	\$ 735,000
pavilion (20 x 20 metal with cement pad, tables, grill)	\$ 35,000	53	\$ 1,505,000
playground (medium sized with professional install & safety surface)	\$ 75,000	47	\$ 3,525,000
sand volleyball (permanent nets with corner posts, sand playing surface)	\$ 3,000	23	\$ 69,000
swing set with seats (2 regular swings, 1 toddler seat with professional install & safety surface)	\$ 10,000	30	\$ 300,000
18-hole golf	multi-million	4	-
aquatic facility (swimming pool)	multi-million	5	-
Total			\$7,251,000

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDS (for 100,000)



SMALL AMENITY NEEDS

Small Amenity	Cost per	Amount Needed	Total Cost
park sign	\$ 3,000	70	\$ 210,000
garbage can (in ground)	\$ 579	210	\$ 121,590
bench with back	\$ 500	35	\$ 17,500
bench	\$ 289	35	\$ 10,115
bike rack	\$ 312	70	\$ 21,840
grills	\$ 544	50	\$ 27,200
picnic tables	\$ 1,092	100	\$ 109,200
convert light to LED (mercury vapor)	\$ 2,500	29	\$ 72,500
convert light to LED (high-pressure sodium)	\$ 300	123	\$ 36,900
park rules sign	\$ 200	140	\$ 28,000
gates	\$ 5,000	22	\$ 110,000
bike trail signs	\$ 250	150	\$ 37,500
Total			\$ 816,345

APPENDIX D: Public Input Materials

2019 - 2023 Flint Parks and Recreation Plan – Public Meeting Comment Cards

I am very interested in how we can make the parks more accessible for the senior population. I work for the Valley Area Agency on Aging and am working on a project for aging in place.

I understand the plan and the reasoning behind it & I think the most needed thing to me is places for teenagers to hang out with adult supervision and/or security cameras - like the community schools used to be

Change the map nomenclature from Mott Golf Course to Mott Park Recreation Area

Interested in more information

I suggest to split the activities up within the parks evenly if activities are implemented
Safety in all parks; especially lighting

Please update the charts to indicate MOTT PARK RECREATION AREA rather than MOTT PARK GOLF COURSE. Thanks!

This process was engaging, interesting, and fun - we were able to move around, talk to each other, ask questions, and get information on neighborhoods

I am with Flint Autoworld, we have Cook Park. Would like to add a skate park, disc golf, line football field, track around football field. Please guide us towards accomplishing [these] goals and more, as well as let us know what we can do to assist you guys.

How or when can a home owner plant trees in the citizen's parks? Permits, license, volunteers?
I look forward to the Flint River as a park - kayaking + canoeing

For the parks that can accommodate large crowds, entertainment like a carnival would be greatly appreciated. They have pony rides, bumper cars, small merry-go-rounds, and other rides that they could bring to the parks

For CPTED items, will there be trainings for neighborhood groups to make sure everyone is on the same page as to what to do? Will these be done through Kettering?

I would really like to discuss Chevy in the Hole. As a board member of Flint Public Art Project I have been involved in the Free City Festival held annually in that space. I would like to see that space activated in a particular way- with its centerpiece being the preservation of the mural/graffiti wall. I envision a festival park and outdoor museum honoring and remembering Chevy in the Hole. The space could be used for a series of annual festivals. Please call me or email me to discuss. Thanks!

APPENDIX D: Public Input Materials

2019 - 2023 Flint Parks and Recreation Plan – Public Meeting Comment Cards

We need a water slide that (leads) goes into the river. Not just for the kids. Adults want to have fun too.

Brennan Park: When will the walking trail be instituted? Senior parking: metal basketball nets, surface volleyball court.

Mann Hall Park Security is a problem- adult people who drink/hang out in the park pavilion for hours at a stretch

Fences – only for street safety --- open & welcoming to community – skip the barriers.

Link ideas & people – kids at southwestern as resources from their (illegible)

(illegible) button street stops (illegible) Max Brandon

We have many paths – data and education & coaching as community groups manage vacant land – a guide toward consistency & clear site lines, etc

APPENDIX E: 2015 Playground Builds

7 NEW PLAYGROUNDS
IN 12 MONTHS

FLINT PARK LAKE



MAX BRANDON PARK



LONGWAY PARK



MOTT PARK



STAY CONNECTED!
@COParksRec
#SupportFlintParks

SARGINSON PARK



BRENNAN PARK



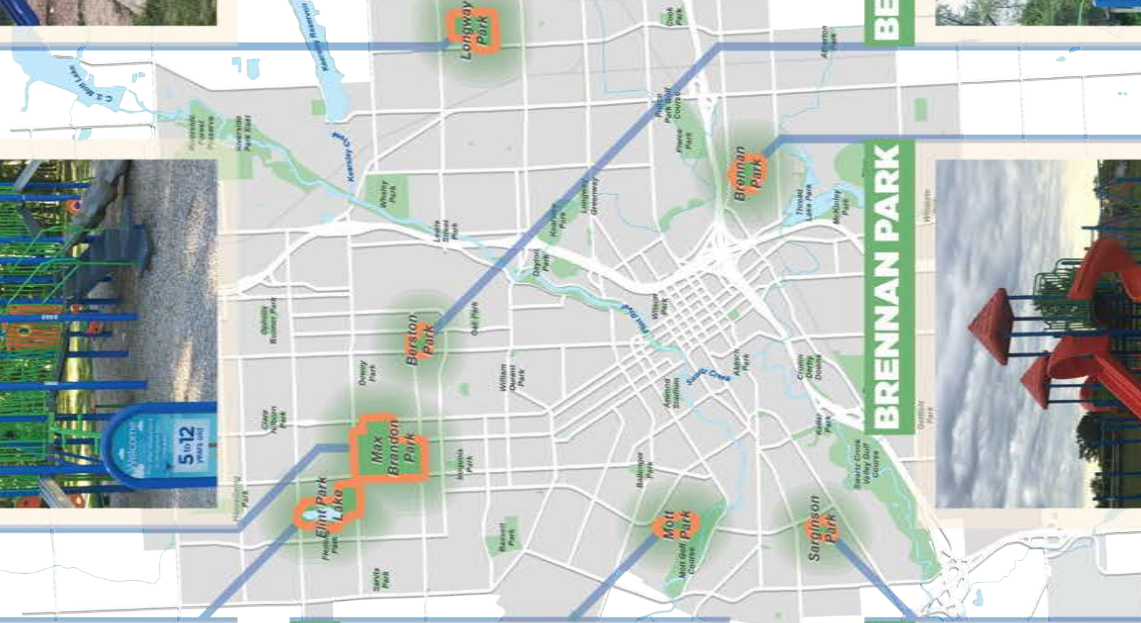
BERSTON PARK



\$400,000+
INVESTED FROM GRANTS
3,000+ HOURS
OF VOLUNTEERS' TIME

THANK YOU

TO ALL OF OUR
PARTNERS, &
FUNDERS, &
VOLUNTEERS



2016 - 2017 PARKS IMPROVEMENTS & INVESTMENTS

APPENDIX F: 2016-2017 Improvements

COMMUNITY-BUILT PLAYGROUNDS



HASSELBROOK PARK

BROOME PARK



SARVIS PARK



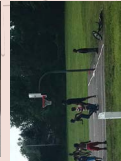
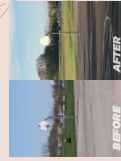
DISC GOLF COURSE



MOTT PARK GOLF COURSE



BASKETBALL COURT RESURFACING & IMPROVEMENTS



FLEMING PARK



DEWEY PARK

BRENNAN PARK

COOK PARK



THANK YOU!

TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS, FUNDERS, & VOLUNTEERS...

\$632,000 INVESTED

3,500+ HOURS OF VOLUNTEER'S TIME

3,200 TREES, SHRUBS, & FLOWERS PLANTED IN THE PAST YEAR!

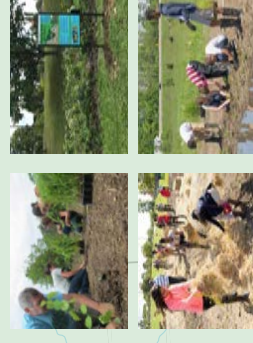
PARTNER-LED IMPROVEMENTS:

\$230,000 INVESTED

CITY-LED IMPROVEMENTS:

\$402,000 INVESTED

NATURALIZATION & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



LEWIS STREET ECO-PARK



CRONIN DERBY DOWNS



ATHERTON PARK

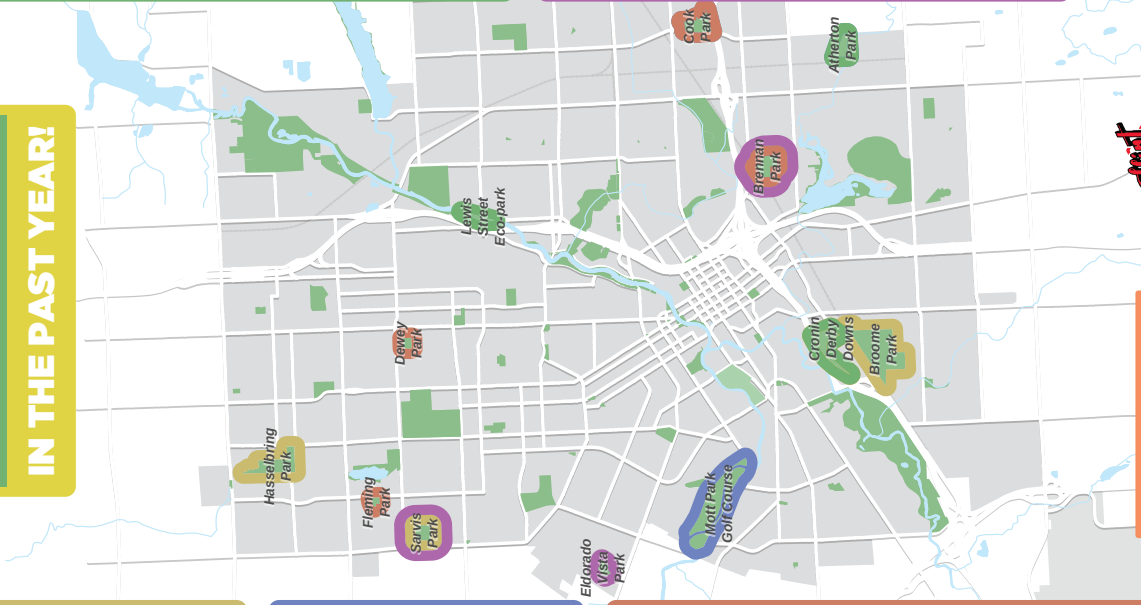
5-YEAR COMMUNITY PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANS



BRENNAN PARK

SARVIS PARK

ELDORADO VISTA PARK



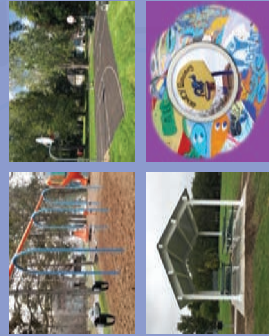
APPENDIX G: 2018 Improvements

2018 OPEN SPACE & PARKS IMPROVEMENTS & INVESTMENTS

FLINT KIDS PLAY PROJECT COMMUNITY BUILT PLAYGROUNDS



ADOPT-A-PARK & PARTNER AMENITIES



BASKETBALL COURTS:

AMOS PARK

SARGINSON PARK



MURALS & TENNIS COURT:

DEWEY PARK



SWINGS:

MOTT PARK

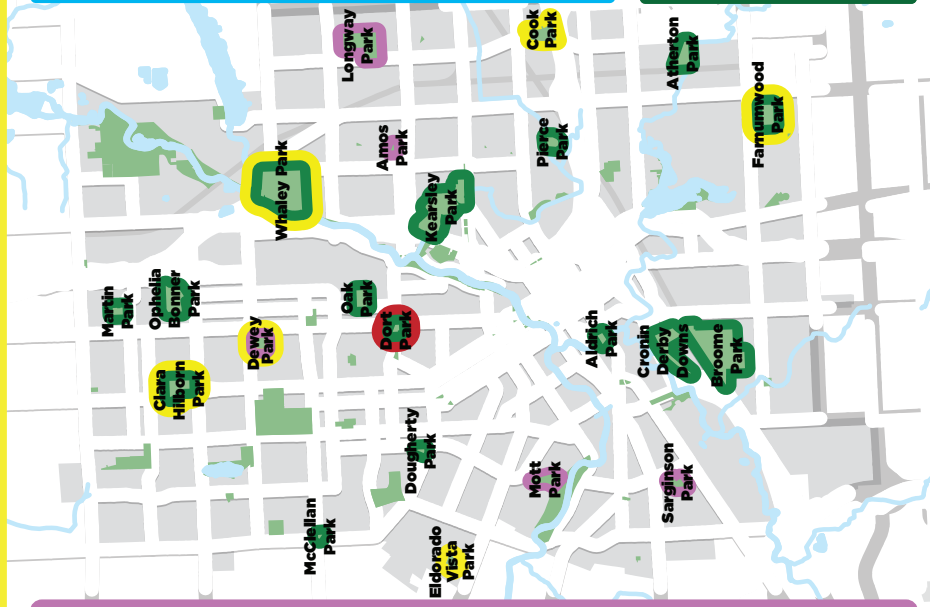
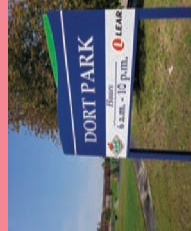
SARGINSON PARK

PAVILION:

LONGWAY PARK



DORT PARK RENOVATION



THANK YOU!

**TO OUR ALL OF OUR 2018
PROJECT PARTNERS
& VOLUNTEERS...**

\$1,300,000 INVESTED

600+ TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



15 PARKS NEWLY ADOPTED



THANK YOU ADOPTERS!



APPENDIX H: 2019 Improvements

2019 PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND INVESTMENTS

BASSETT PARK



WINDIATE PARK

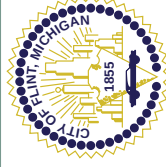


OTHER NEW PLAYGROUNDS

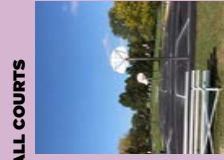
BUNDY PARK
DELAWARE PARK
FLEMING PARK
MCCELLELLAN PARK
POLK PARK



#FLINTKIDSPRAY
PROJECT
COMMUNITY
PLAYGROUND
BUILDS



ADOPT-A-PARK & PARTNER AMENITIES



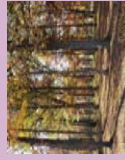
BERSTON PARK
WINDIATE PARK
MARTIN PARK
MCALLUM PARK
IROQUOIS PARK
COOK PARK
HASSELBERG PARK
CLARA HILBORN PARK
SARVIS PARK

MURALS



WINDIATE PARK
CLARA HILBORN PARK
COOK PARK

SIGHT LINE CLEARING



DOUGHERTY PARK
MOTT PARK
BASSETT PARK

HORSESHOE PITS

ROLLINGWOOD PARK
FLEMING PARK

PICNIC TABLES

DELAWARE PARK
MCALLUM PARK
MCCLELLAN PARK
DOUGHERTY PARK
OAK PARK
MARTIN PARK
IROQUOIS PARK
WINDIATE PARK



THANK YOU!

TO ALL OF OUR
PARTNERS, FUNDERS,
& VOLUNTEERS...

\$365,000+ INVESTED

**14,389 HOURS OF
VOLUNTEER'S TIME**

IN 2019!

67 PARKS ADOPTED



THANK YOU, NEW AND
RETURNING
ADOPTERS!

PADDLER'S LANDING IN MOTT PARK RECREATION AREA

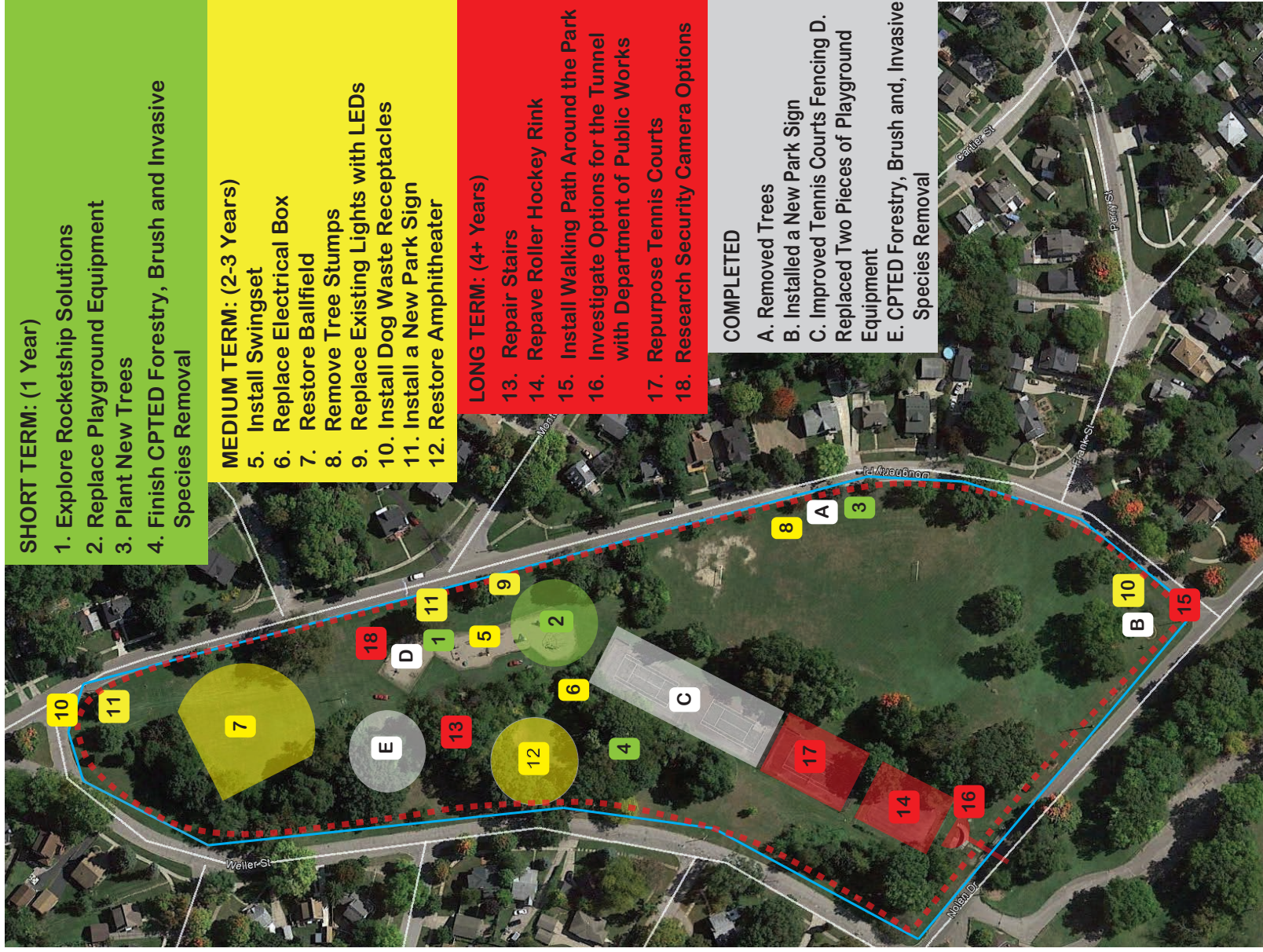


BRENNAN PARK RENOVATIONS BEFORE AFTER



APPENDIX I: Final Site Plans

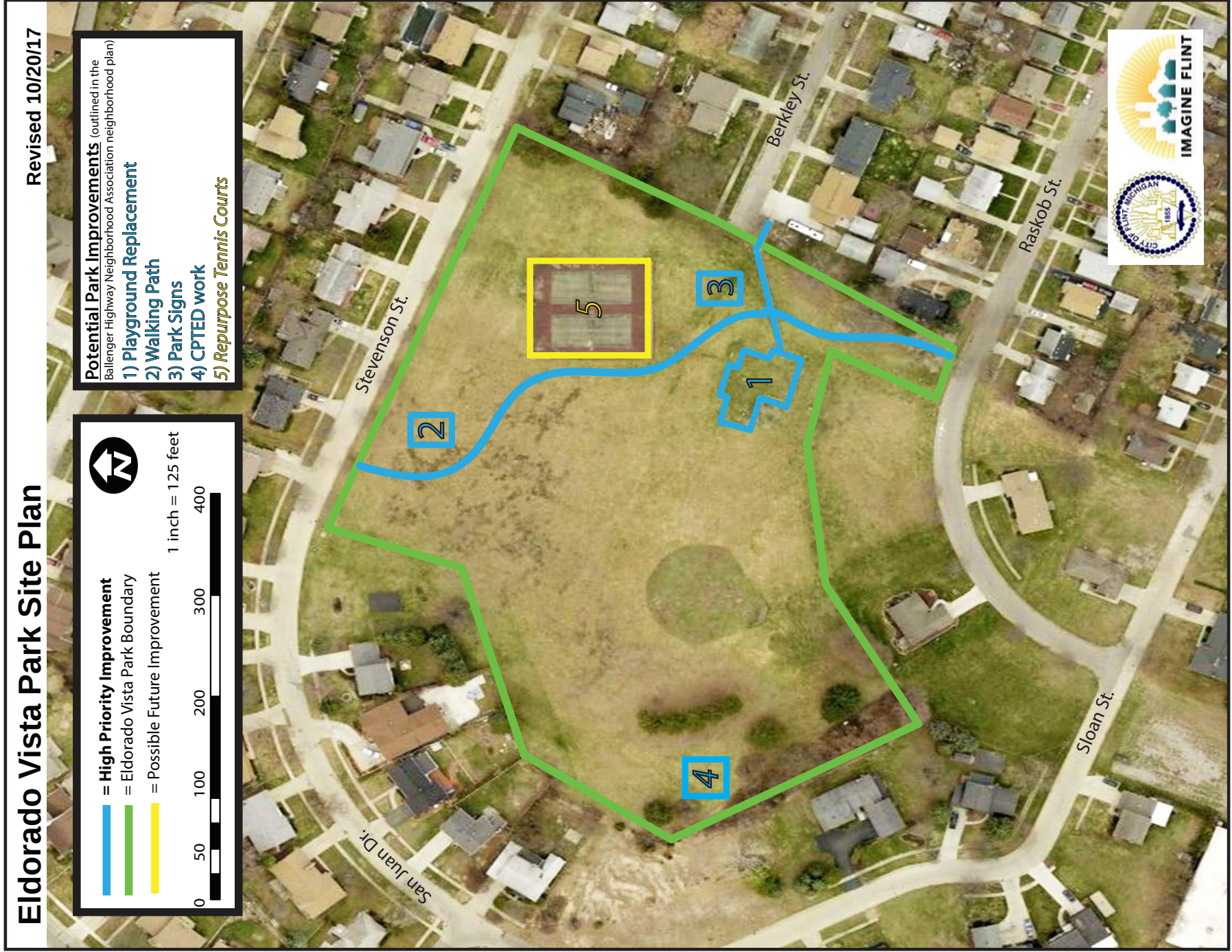
MOTT PARK- FINAL SITE PLAN 2015-2019



* Improvements Based on Availability of Funding.
 * Information on Playground Design and Layout Available at City of Flint Planning and Development Office.
 * Site Plans Developed by the City of Flint, Keep Genesee County Beautiful, and Mott Park Adopters.



APPENDIX I: Final Site Plans



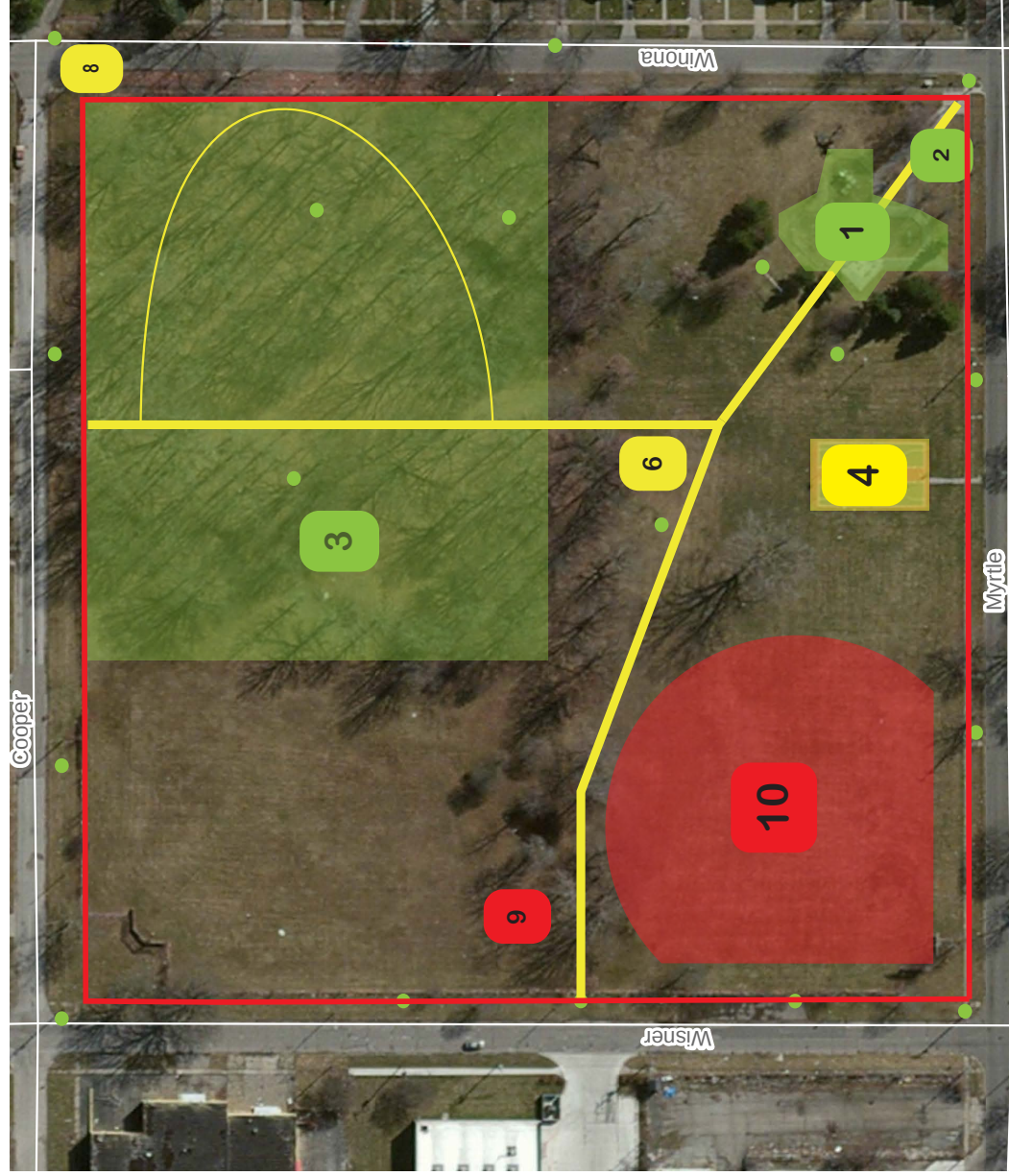
APPENDIX I: Final Site Plans



Revised Sarvis Park Site Plan Flint, MI



KEEP GENESEE
COUNTY BEAUTIFUL
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE



Completed Improvements

- Replaced tire swing in playground
- New trash cans
- New basketball nets
- Replaced swing seats and chains.
- Installed new basketball backboards and rims

Medium Term (2-3 years)

- Resurface basketball court
- Cut and grind stumps on fence line
- Address low areas of the park & areas with standing water (using rain gardens where appropriate)
- Install a walking track through the park

Short Term (1 year)

- Remove and replace existing playground equipment
- New park sign
- Remove fallen trees and inspect others
- Repair lights and replace with LED

Long Term (4+ years)

- Remove & replace fencing around the park (chain-link alongside Wisner St. to catch trash)
- New Pavillion/Stage
- Restore baseball diamond and add benches, bleachers, and backstop
- Explore the possibility of installing security cameras

APPENDIX J: MDNR Recreation Grant History

The following information is based on files provided by MDNR staff, showing grant assisted projects for City of Flint Parks.

PROJECT	PROJECT INFORMATION	PROJECT YEAR START	GRANT AMOUNT
THREAD LAKE PARK	Construction of an exercise trail, picnic tables, grills, 4 fishing piers, boat ramp with road access, pedestrian bridge, and parking lots	1977	\$58,045.28
MAX BRANDON PARK	Construction of 2 picnic shelters, 2 play shelters, 2 parking areas, picnic tables, grills, landscaping, and a playground	1980	\$59,861.39
5 NEW PLAYGROUNDS	Develop 5 new playgrounds at: Sarvis, Hardenbrook, Iroquois, Durant, Brennan.	1992	\$225,000
FLINT PARK LAKE DEVELOPMENT	New park, boat ramp, fishing pier, picnic & parking area, playground, basketball court, softball field	1993	\$127,900
KEARSLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT	Playground equipment, improvements to pedestrian link with Dayton park, ball field, pedestrian bridge, parking improvements	1999	\$700,592
FLINT PARK LAKE DEVELOPMENT	Construction of a boat ramp with adjacent fishing pier, parking lot, paved walking path, and picnic area	2000	\$151,787
GRAND TRAVERSE GREENWAY PROPERTY ACQUISITION	Acquisition of an abandoned rail corridor for the development of a 3-mile regional trail extension connecting Riverbank park to the Flint River Trail	2008	\$525,000
RIVERBANK PARK DEVELOPMENT	Development to include upgrading to ADA standards, barrier-free access to amphitheater stage and entire park, new railings, landscaping enhancements and kayak access to river	2012	\$300,000
MCKINLEY PARK IMPROVEMENTS	Development project at McKinley Park for waterfront access improvements on Thread Lake and a new playground. Waterfront improvements include a fishing deck, kayak launch, overlook, access paths, exercise stations and a pavilion. The application was initiated by a local business looking to revitalize the neighborhood and surrounding area.	2013	\$225,000

APPENDIX K: Public Hearing and Approval



RESOLUTION NO.: 200518

PRESENTED: DEC 21 2020

ADOPTED: DEC 21 2020

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO PROVIDE FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PARKS MASTER PLAN

BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

WHEREAS, The City of Flint Master Plan has set goals to provide and maintain a balanced and equitable system of parks and recreation for all citizens of the City of Flint; and

WHEREAS, The City of Flint is dedicated to providing affordable, quality recreational facilities and programs to all citizens of the City of Flint; and

WHEREAS, The City of Flint has engaged the community many times through a series of community meetings, planning meetings, and visioning sessions through 2018-2019, and as a result of this community input has drafted an update to the City of Flint's 2013-2017 Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, The City of Flint desires to provide due notice to all persons interested as to the time and place of a hearing to provide public comments on the Draft Parks Master Plan; so

IT IS RESOLVED that a public hearing to provide for comments on the Draft Parks Master Plan shall be held on the 25th day of January, 2021 at 5:30pm in the City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, Flint City Hall, 1101 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI (or by electronic public meeting).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall cause notice of such hearing to be published in an official paper of general circulation not less than fifteen (15) days prior to said hearing.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Angela Wheeler
Angela Wheeler
Chief Legal Officer

ADMINISTRATION:

Clyde Edwards
Clyde Edwards
City Administrator

CITY COUNCIL:

Kate Fields
Kate Fields
City Council President

APPENDIX K: Public Hearing and Approval

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE PARKS MASTER PLAN – JANUARY 25, 2021

Comments:

Chris Delmorone, Resident of Flint, phone-in comment: “In regards to the parks system in Flint, I think there are a few things I’d like Council to consider on this. One is, the landscape of Flint Michigan has changed over the years. General Motors is basically not operating over there on Industrial Avenue and that, and you can go to many other locations where General Motors, Dupont, uh – there’s a whole list of businesses that have left so that might be an opportunity for say, more parks, more greenspaces. Also, I would like council to consider what are known as pocket parks; parks that can be placed in the City, maybe as an entryway or accessway to the City so as you’re coming in from the north side, from say Mount Morris Township that way into Flint, or from the south, Grand Blanc or Burton, there might be an opportunity there for the city to acquire some properties which signs could be put up to say “Welcome to Flint”, “Thank you for your stay”, “Thank you for visiting Flint”, just different things like that. To not create greenspace, as it’s already there, but let me say to develop greenspace into these pocket parks. Many communities have them, there’s one up in Bay City, they have one adjacent to a hotel/motel up there, uh, just as you cross the river. And I think it’s an opportunity for Flint to take a look at the entire community, the entire landscape, as to where areas are that we can now develop more parks and not solely work on the parks that we have currently. Thank you.”

APPENDIX K: Public Hearing and Approval



RESOLUTION NO.: 200518.1

PRESENTED: JAN 25 2021

ADOPTED: JAN 25 2021

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF THE 5-YEAR UPDATE TO THE PARKS MASTER PLAN

BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

WHEREAS, The City of Flint Master Plan has set goals to provide and maintain a balanced and equitable system of parks and recreation for all citizens of the City of Flint; and

WHEREAS, The City of Flint is dedicated to providing affordable, quality recreational facilities and programs to all citizens of the City of Flint; and

WHEREAS, The City of Flint has engaged the community many times through a series of community meetings, planning meetings, and visioning sessions through 2018-2019, and as a result of this community input has drafted an update to the City of Flint's 2013-2017 Parks and Recreation Plan; so

IT IS RESOLVED that appropriate City officials are authorized to do all things necessary to adopt the 5-Year Update to the Parks Master Plan.

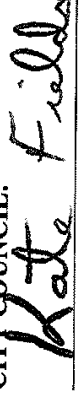
APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Angela Wheeler
Chief Legal Officer

ADMINISTRATION:


Clyde Edwards
City Administrator

CITY COUNCIL:


Kate Fields
City Council President

APPENDIX K: Public Hearing and Approval



CITY OF FLINT

(If yes, please indicate how many years for the contract)

WHEN APPLICABLE, IF MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, PLEASE ESTIMATE TOTAL AMOUNT FOR EACH BUDGET YEAR: (This will depend on the term of the bid proposal)

BUDGET YEAR 1

BUDGET YEAR 2

BUDGET YEAR 3

OTHER IMPLICATIONS (i.e., collective bargaining):

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: (PLEASE SELECT): ☒ **APPROVED** ☐ **NOT APPROVED**

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE: *Regina L. Williams* Director Dept of Planning and Development

(PLEASE TYPE NAME, TITLE)



Max Brandon Park Wetland Planting, 2016

**70 recreational facilities & 56 non-recreational facilities
(1,881 total acres)***



Mann Hall Park

**MINI PARKS /
PLAYLOTS
(≤5 ACRES):**
27 facilities
(47.9 acres)



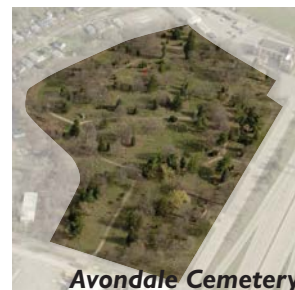
Bassett Park

**COMMUNITY
PARKS
(10-50 ACRES):**
16 facilities
(326.3 acres)



Flint River Trail

**SPECIAL USE
PARKS & TRAILS
(SINGLE-
INTEREST
ACTIVITY)**
4 facilities
(41.3 acres)



Avondale Cemetery

CEMETERIES:
2 facilities
(85.4 acres)



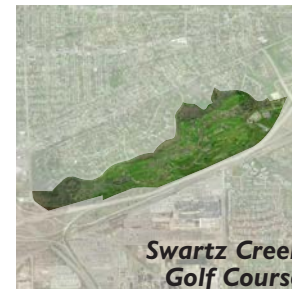
Berston Park

**NEIGHBORHOOD
PARKS
(5-10 ACRES):**
14 facilities
(114.0 acres)



Kearsley Park

**LARGE URBAN
PARKS
(≥50 ACRES):**
5 facilities
(499.5 acres)



Swartz Creek
Golf Course

**HISTORIC GOLF
COURSES:**
4 facilities
(469.1 acres)



North Chevrolet
Avenue Median

**TRAFFIC
TRIANGLES &
MEDIANS:**
52 facilities
(61.9 acres)

Park classifications based on MDNR Classification System for local and regional recreation
* Some acres are water