Presenting a Vision for Thread Lake
SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- International Academy of Flint
- Flint River Watershed Coalition
- South Saginaw Business and Resident Association
- South Side Neighborhood Association
- Circle Drive Neighborhood Association
- Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy
- City of Flint Planning Department
- Elizabeth Jordan – Planning Commission Ward 9
- Denise Smith-Allen – Planning Commission Ward 7
THIS PROJECT INVOLVES

- THREE LAKES: THREAD LAKE, FLINT PARK LAKE, & KEARSLEY RESERVOIR
- EFFORTS TO REDISCOVER THE LAKES & IMPROVE WATER QUALITY
- IMAGINING A DIFFERENT FUTURE FOR THE LAKES
- ENGAGING NEIGHBORHOODS SURROUNDING THE LAKES
3 LAKES IN FLINT

ALL UNTAPPED RESOURCES!

FULL of OPPORTUNITIES!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS...

TONIGHT we will present a vision for Thread Lake.

This vision was created after receiving feedback from the community!

YOU HELPED CREATE THIS VISION!
HOW WAS THIS VISION CREATED?
PROJECT TIMELINE

• Interviewed local neighborhood leaders
• Attended Southside Neighborhood Picnic
  – Brennan Community Center, August 17th, 2013
• Hosted Thread Lake Ice Cream Social
  – Vista Center, September 7th, 2013
• Hosted Thread Lake Visioning Session
  – International Academy, October 8th, 2013
• Collaborate with other efforts
• Hosted Follow-Up Presentation for Thread Lake Vision Document (TODAY)
• Presenting the Vision (TODAY)
THREAD LAKE Study Area
The 3 neighborhoods surrounding Thread Lake are actively engaged in their community, and feature representative organizations that helped rally public support and input to make this Vision document possible.
Imagine Flint Master Plan

South Saginaw Corridor

The City’s new Master Plan has defined the S. Saginaw Corridor as a potential sub-area focus.

Local stakeholder groups such as the South Saginaw Task Force strive to coordinate efforts to make improvements to the sub-area.

The corridor will be the subject of a more intensive future subarea study.
Progress Since We Started ...

- December 2013 – Michigan National Resources Trust Fund awarded the South Saginaw Task Force with a $225,000 grant for improvements to McKinley Park & Vista Center
Progress Since We Started ...

- PlacePlan for CSX Multi-Use Trail – Michigan State University faculty and students will produce a plan for a CSX Multi-Use Rail Trail
- The 3-mile segment will connect South Saginaw Street north of Atherton Road to the Flint River Trail
Progress Since We Started ...

• August 2013 – Genesee Count Land Bank received $20 million from the federal government for blight removal
• Many of these properties are in the neighborhoods surrounding Thread Lake
This vision builds on the positive momentum in your neighborhoods!

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!
Vision Summary

• 33 Goals prioritized chronologically
  – Short Term: 1-2 years (13 goals)
  – Short Term: 3-5 years (10 goals)
  – Long Term: 6-10 years (7 goals)
  – Long Term: 11-15 years (3 goals)

• Three key topics:
  1) Recreational Improvements
  2) Neighborhood Stabilization and Targeted Redevelopment
  3) Improved Water Quality
Vision Goals & Objectives are centered around 3 principal concerns:

1) Recreational Improvements
2) Neighborhood Stabilization & Targeted Redevelopment
3) Improved Water Quality
A Vision for Thread Lake - Recreational Improvements

A proposed bicycle and walking path around Thread Lake, which would also connect with the proposed CSX Rail Trail to the southwest of the Lake and then to the Flint River Trail.
A Vision for Thread Lake-Recreational Improvements

This proposed trail plan could enhance connectivity of Thread Lake, the Flint Golf Club, and nearby public parks, while also providing greater linkage to the City.
Other Recreational Goals:

Short-Term: 1-2 Years
• Restore full recreational functions to McKinley Park and Thread Lake Park; including continued maintenance of the grounds and facilities with assistance of state, county, and private resources.

Short-Term: 3-5 Years
• Complete paving of Flint River Trail, and build and pave the trail that encircles Thread Lake.

Long-Term: 6-15 Years
• Make additional recreational improvements to the parks around the Lake and expand trail connections to the Lake.
• Improve the Vista Center building in McKinley Park and enhance the quality and appearance of the building.
Thread Lake can offer vast recreational opportunities year-round...

... whether in the summertime or winter!
A boulevard (ending in a cul-de-sac) on Winans Ave. at Lippincott Blvd. could serve as a northern gateway to Thread Lake Park.
Madison Ave. off of S. Saginaw St. could serve as a gateway to McKinley Park, and access point to the western side of Thread Lake.
Other Neighborhood Stabilization & Targeted Redevelopment Goals:

Short-Term: 1-2 Years

• Hold a major kickoff event to celebrate park improvements that attracts thousands to the restored parks and enlists support and assistance for all the actions that follow.

• Demolish target abandoned buildings and reseed those lots.

• Establish mechanism to regularly mow vacant lots in all neighborhoods.

• Neighborhood safety improved by stakeholder design of new neighborhood watch system.

• Restore fencing on I-475 pedestrian overpass

• Begin aggressive paint-it/fix-it program for targeted houses and businesses in all three neighborhoods.

• Provide incentives to homeowners to invest more in exterior home improvements.

• Implement simplest Complete Streets improvements to South Saginaw, including shifting to a three lane configuration.
Other Neighborhood Stabilization & Targeted Redevelopment Goals:

Short-Term: 3-5 Years

• Improve wayfinding to key assets along South Saginaw and around Thread Lake.
• City initiates neighborhood stabilization program with aggressive code enforcement.
• The Genesee County Land Bank and Thread Lake neighborhoods team in planning and development of more infill housing on vacant lots in neighborhoods around Thread Lake.
• Neighborhoods work with outside stakeholders on plan for new passive solar homes to be built on vacant lots, perhaps along the new boulevard entrances to McKinley Park and Thread Lake Park.
• New mixed-use development (3-4 stories of residences above commercial) is built on South Saginaw corridor especially between I-475 and Atherton.
Other Neighborhood Stabilization & Targeted Redevelopment Goals:

Long Term: 6-10 Years

- Continue neighborhood stabilization and home improvements
- Continue urban residential infill projects
- Continue increasing residential density along South Saginaw and improving the quality of commercial establishments
- Hold a giant 10 year celebration

Long Term: 11-15 Years

- Continue urban infill and densification along South Saginaw Street
- Complete commercial redevelopment along South Saginaw Street
- Install Bus Rapid Transit along South Saginaw Street and further enhance landscaping, lighting, and aesthetic improvement along the corridor
A Vision for Thread Lake-
Improving Water Quality

- Thread Lake is not isolated from the larger watershed
- Water quality is determined by run-off from nearby properties, properties surrounding Thread Creek, and by drainage from nearby farmland.
Periphery Improvements of Water Quality

• Develop best management practices for stormwater runoff on Thread Creek and around Thread Lake to stabilize and maintain current water quality.

• Begin preparation and distribution of educational materials on protecting water quality to stakeholders and households, and assist schools with curriculum development on water quality protection and monitoring
Two Options for Improving Water Quality

1) Drain and Dredge Thread Lake

2) Determine annual schedule for aquatic weed harvesting or use of aquatic herbicides
Thread Lake and the surrounding neighborhoods are full of OPPORTUNITIES
PLANNING & ZONING CENTER AT MSU

NEXT STEPS

• Make revisions to Vision document based on your input and stakeholder feedback

• Share final draft with you and the City of Flint Planning Department

• Thread Lake Community begins strategic planning for possible implementation of short term Vision goals and objectives
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Project Website
www.landpolicy.msu.edu/Flint&Shiawassee
THANKS FOR COMING!

With YOUR help the future can be very different from the present and the past—it can be as YOU envisioned it.