Presenting a Vision for Flint Park Lake

March 18, 2014
SPECIAL THANKS TO:

• The New McCree Theatre
• Councilwoman Jacqueline Poplar, Ward 2
• Patrick Ryals, Planning Commission Ward 2
• Sally Kaegerer, Ace Hardware
• Judith Light, Northridge Academy
• Alonzo Price and Charles Tutt
• Flint River Watershed Coalition
THREE LAKES: FLINT PARK LAKE, THREAD LAKE AND KEARSLEY RESERVOIR

EFFORTS TO REDISCOVER THE LAKES AND 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!
TONIGHT we will present a vision for *Flint Park Lake*.

This vision was created after receiving feedback from the community-

**WHAT ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS . . .**

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

AN IMPROVED FLINT PARK LAKE COULD HELP RESTORE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS

It could lead to:
- Improved recreation opportunities
- Reduced crime
- Safer places for kids
- An asset any neighborhood would be proud of
PROJECT TIMELINE

• Interviewed local neighborhood leaders
• Researched past initiatives, such as the Citizens’ District Council Redevelopment Plan, 2002
• Hosted Flint Park Lake Visioning Session
  – New McCree Theatre, November 14, 2013
• Collaborated with other efforts
• Hosted Follow-Up Presentation for Flint Park Lake Vision Document (TODAY)
FLINT PARK LAKE Study Area

Fleming Park

Max Brandon Park
The Brent Run Sub-Watershed covers more than 38 sq. miles, starting near Flint Park Lake and stretching Northwest towards the City of Montrose.
Imagine Flint Master Plan
Pierson Road Corridor

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

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

- August 2013 – Genesee Count Land Bank received $20 million from the federal government for blight removal.

- Many of these planned demolitions are in the neighborhoods surrounding Flint Park Lake.
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

This vision builds on the positive momentum in your neighborhoods!
Vision Summary

• **Three Key Goals:**
  1) Recreation Improvements
  2) Neighborhood Stabilization and Targeted Redevelopment
  3) Improved Water Quality

• **31 Action Steps** prioritized chronologically
  – Short-Term: 1–2 years (12 action steps)
  – Short-Term: 3–5 years (9 action steps)
  – Long-Term: 6–10 years (7 actions steps)
  – Long-Term: 11–15 years (3 action steps)
A Vision for Flint Park Lake

Vision Goals and Objectives are centered around 3 principal concerns:

1) **Recreation Improvements**

2) **Neighborhood Stabilization and Targeted Redevelopment**

3) **Improved Water Quality**
A trail plan for Flint Park Lake could enhance connections to the surrounding neighborhoods and nearby parks.

Recreation and exercise stations along the path can encourage greater park usage and activity around the lake.
Possible trail plan for Flint Park Lake
Other Recreation Action Steps:

**Short-Term: 1–2 Years**
- Create Friends of Flint Park Lake organization to help guide implementation; work with FRWC on annual lake clean-up day.
- Improve existing amenities and restore recreational functions to Flint Park Lake (particularly the picnic shelter, boat launch and dock).

**Short-Term: 3–5 Years**
- Continue full restoration of recreational functions to Flint Park Lake focusing on upgrading sports facilities.
- The Genesee County Land Bank adds to their property in the Flint Park Lake Community by strategically acquiring and holding lots in heavily blighted areas around the lake.

**Long-Term: 6–15 Years**
- Make additional recreational improvements associated with expanding park boundaries of public land to incorporate Fleming Park; Enhance connectivity to Max Brandon Park and other key points in City.
Flint Park Lake can offer vast recreational opportunities year-round... whether in the summertime or winter!
A Vision for Flint Park Lake - Neighborhood Stabilization and Targeted Redevelopment

Enhance southern entrance off Stewart Ave. as the gateway to Flint Park Lake with improved signage and parking.

Lack of proper signage along Stewart Ave., the southern entrance of Flint Park Lake, does little to attract visitors to the lake or alert passers-by of the presence of this natural amenity.
Other Neighborhood Stabilization and Targeted Redevelopment Action Steps:

**Short-Term: 1–2 Years**

- Hold a major kickoff event to celebrate park improvements that enlists support and assistance for all the actions that follow.
- Demolish targeted abandoned buildings and reseed those lots.
- Establish mechanism to regularly mow vacant lots in the Flint Park Lake Community.
- Neighborhood safety improved by stakeholder design of new neighborhood watch system.
- Begin aggressive paint-it/fix-it program for targeted houses and businesses in the Flint Park Lake Community.
- Provide incentives to homeowners to invest more in exterior home improvements.
Other Neighborhood Stabilization and Targeted Redevelopment Action Steps:

**Short-Term: 3–5 Years**

- Install wayfinding to key assets along roads adjacent to Flint Park Lake and in the park itself. Use wayfinding to strengthen connections between Flint Park Lake, Fleming Park, and Max Brandon Park.

- City initiates neighborhood stabilization program with aggressive code enforcement.

- The Genesee County Land Bank and Flint Park Lake Community team in planning and development of more infill housing on vacant lots in neighborhoods around the lake.

- Implement road diet recommendations from the Master Plan to Dupont St., including shifting to a three-lane configuration.
Other Neighborhood Stabilization and Targeted Redevelopment Action Steps:

**Long Term: 6–10 Years**
- New mixed-use development along Pierson Rd. Corridor.
- Continue neighborhood stabilization and home improvements.
- Continue urban residential infill projects.
- Continue increasing density along Pierson Rd. and improving the quality of commercial establishments.
- Hold a giant 10-year celebration for the revitalized Flint Park Lake.

**Long Term: 11–15 Years**
- Continue urban infill and densification along Pierson Rd.
- Complete commercial redevelopment along Pierson Rd.
- Further enhance landscaping, lighting and aesthetic improvements along Pierson Rd.
A Vision for Flint Park Lake - Improving Water Quality

- Flint Park Lake is not isolated from the larger watershed

- Water quality is determined by run-off from nearby properties, along with inflow from four storm-water outfalls
Periphery Improvements of Water Quality

• Develop best management practices for stormwater runoff around Flint Park Lake to stabilize and maintain current water quality.
  – Gather further water quality data for Flint Park Lake and also north in Brent Run Creek

• 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.
  – Possible coordination with Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center’s YES Initiative, as well as with local schools.
Two Options for Improving Water Quality

1) Drain and Dredge Flint Park Lake

2) Determine annual schedule for aquatic weed harvesting or use of aquatic herbicides
Vision Goals and Action Steps
(Please give your feedback on the corresponding handout)

Short-Term: Years 1–2

1. Create a Friends of Flint Park Lake organization comprised of representatives of interested stakeholder groups to help guide implementation of the actions below. It would meet as needed and annually work with the Flint River Watershed Coalition to hold a lake clean-up day (REC).

2. Improve existing amenities and restore recreational functions to Flint Park Lake (particularly the picnic shelter, boat launch and dock); including continued maintenance of the grounds and facilities with assistance of state, county and private resources (REC).

3. Prepare detailed Flint Park Lake Trail Plan and the next step recreation improvement plans and financing (REC).

4. Hold a major kickoff event to celebrate park improvements to the restored park that rallies support and assistance for all the actions that follow (NSTR).

5. Demolish targeted abandoned buildings in the Flint Park Lake Community and reseed those lots (NSTR).

6. Establish a mechanism to regularly mow vacant lots in the Flint Park Lake Community (NSTR).

7. Improve neighborhood safety by stakeholder design of a new neighborhood watch system (NSTR).
Vision Goals and Action Steps

**Short-Term: Years 1–2 (Continued)**

8. Begin aggressive paint-it/fix-it program for targeted houses and businesses in the Flint Park Lake Community (NSTR).

9. Provide incentives to homeowners to invest more in exterior home improvements (NSTR).

10. Develop best management practices for stormwater run-off around Flint Park Lake to stabilize and maintain current water quality (WQ).

11. Gather water quality data in Flint Park Lake and further north in Brent Run Creek; conduct a thorough analysis of options for draining and dredging, as well as options for financing these improvements (WQ).

12. 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 based around Flint Park Lake (WQ).
Vision Goals and Action Steps

**Short-Term: Years 3–5**

13. Continue full restoration of recreational functions to Flint Park Lake focusing on upgrading sports facilities (REC).

14. The Genesee County Land Bank adds to their property in the Flint Park Lake Community by strategically acquiring and holding lots in heavily blighted areas surrounding the lake (REC).

15. Enhance southern entrance off Stewart Ave. as the gateway to Flint Park Lake with improved signage and parking (NSTR).

16. Install wayfinding to key assets along roads adjacent to Flint Park Lake, as well as within the park itself. Use wayfinding to strengthen connections between Flint Park Lake, Fleming Park, and Max Brandon Park (NSTR).

17. City initiates neighborhood stabilization program with aggressive code enforcement (NSTR).

18. The Genesee County Land Bank and Flint Park Lake neighborhoods team in planning and development of more infill housing on vacant lots in neighborhoods around Flint Park Lake (NSTR).

19. Implement road diet recommendations from the Master Plan to Dupont St., including shifting to a three-lane configuration (NSTR).

20. Secure funding for major water quality improvements to Flint Park Lake (WQ).

21. Schools begin implementation of water quality protection curriculum (WQ).
Vision Goals and Action Steps

**Long-Term: Years 6–10**

22. Make additional recreational improvements associated with expanding official boundaries of public park land around Flint Park Lake to incorporate Fleming Park; enhance park connectivity to Max Brandon Park and other key points in the city (REC).

23. New mixed-use development (2–3 stories of residences above commercial) is built on Pierson Rd. to align with its ‘city corridor’ classification in the new Master Plan (NSTR).

24. Continue neighborhood stabilization and home improvements (NSTR).

25. Continue urban residential infill projects (NSTR).

26. Continue increasing residential density along Pierson Rd. and improving the quality of commercial establishments (NSTR).

27. Hold a giant 10-year celebration (NSTR).

28. Implement the preferred plan for draining Flint Park Lake, dredging and properly disposing of the dredged material, re-contouring the lake bottom, refilling the lake and restocking fish in the lake. Or, in the event this is infeasible, begin annual aquatic weed harvesting or use of aquatic herbicides in targeted locations (WQ).
Vision Goals and Action Steps

**Long-Term: Years 11–15**

29. Continue urban infill and densification along Pierson Rd. (NSTR).
30. Complete commercial redevelopment along Pierson Rd. (NSTR).
31. Further enhance landscaping, lighting, and aesthetic improvements along Pierson Rd. (NSTR).
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

• Flint Park Lake Community begins strategic planning for possible implementation of short-term Vision action steps 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.