



PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Current Planning Efforts

This Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan was developed to coincide with current ongoing efforts related to multi-use pathway and river trail development in Genesee County and along the Shiawassee River, respectively. The following describes 3 groups that have been working towards these goals. Understanding these initiatives assures that this mater plan does not conflict with currently established goals and is complementary to other plans already set into motion.

2007 Regional Trail Plan

There are numerous pathway development projects on-going throughout Genesee County. This initiative was spearheaded by the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission (GCMPC) when they created the Genesee County Regional Trail Plan in 2007. This Document provides the framework for creating an interconnected system of paved trail ways throughout Genesee County. It identifies potential routes through each community based on public surveys, research, on site



evaluations, and connectivity to adjoining communities and counties. An extensive listing of possible trails were then rated and prioritized. The first 5 trails of the top 10 priorities have been in the planning and development stages since 2007. Soon, the next five trails will begin this process, two of which are located in Argentine Township. This is exciting news for the community as it will provide non-motorized connections to six surrounding communities which can create economic opportunities by supporting existing business as well as creating new businesses that cater to bicycle users. It will also provide safe recreation and transportation options as well as build social interaction amongst the communities residents. The township and schools strongly support the momentum of this pathway initiative.



Shiawassee River Water Trail

In the township this water trail is approximately 7 miles long, extending in an east west direction through the middle to southerly portion of the township were it continues to flow west and north to the Saginaw River. This water trail--sometimes referred to as a paddling trail or a canoeing/kayaking trail--would essentially identify part of the Shiawassee River as a navigable waterway that could accommodate

low-impact, human-powered watercraft such as canoes and kayaks. Such small watercraft typically creates "no wake" and embraces the "Leave No Trace" code of outdoor ethics, which would promote the responsible use and enjoyment of the ecologically-sensitive marsh areas along the River. The trail would provide educational and recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts and can also serve to create economic opportunities in supporting existing business as well as creating new businesses that cater to river paddlers.

In Argentine a grass roots effort has resulted in the formation of the "Shiawassee River Cleanup Committee". This committee organizes an annual event in which volunteers clean debris and remove obstacles in and along the river for safe enjoyable use by area paddlers and fishermen.

The Shiawassee River Trail group covers a large three county regional area that is made up of several smaller river trail groups all working toward the same goals - advocating safe canoe/kayak use while protecting the waters of the Shiawassee River. The geographic area of this group stretches from Holly in Oakland County through Fenton, City of Linden, Argentine Township and through Shiawassee County. Their most recent accomplishments include securing a grant in 2008 from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint - Fenton Community Fund for the design and placement of signage and mile markers along the river as well as improvements to the undeveloped McCaslin Lake Road launch site in Argentine. Although the remaining funds are not enough alone to fully implement improvements to the launch site, the Parks and Recreation Plan Committee are fully aware of the direct benefit this has to recreation in the community and is strongly in favor of pursuing supplemental funds to see that this project developed.



Southern Lakes Planning Initiative

The Southern Lakes Planning Initiative (SLPI) is a representative group of township trustees, city councils, planning commissions, school districts, drain commissioners, and lakes associations in southern Genesee and northern Livingston counties. This group serves as an umbrella to connect local activities across the region. They do not act as a separate organization but serve as a clearinghouse for local initiatives throughout the region. Their focus areas include the Shiawassee River Water Trail, non motorized transportation, and community beautification. Coincidentally, these are all areas of focus to the Parks and Recreation Plan Committee and overall community as well. SLPI's most recent project, in 2008 to 2009, involved prioritizing trails in the southern lakes region (including Argentine Township) that were identified in the County's Regional Trail Plan but not necessarily prioritized. The results of this program concluded which, out of four proposed trail projects, were of highest priority to the southern lakes region. The Silver Lake Road pathway received the highest priority. When built, this trail will run the entire east west direction of Argentine Township and connect all of Linden Community Schools located in Argentine Township with adjoining communities. Seymour Road received fourth priority and when built will connect Argentine Township to Gaines, Swartz Creek, and Flushing Communities.



Planning / Public Input Process

In an effort to establish this Parks and Recreation Plan in an expeditious and most efficient manner an ad hoc committee was formed. This committee was made up of a diverse group of township representatives as listed in the preface of this document. Several meetings were held with the committee throughout the plan development process. After the initial kick off meeting this committee assisted with the public input session and review of the public comment and survey results which provided them with supporting data to develop the goals and objectives list and action program. Once developed a draft copy was presented to the township, school board, adjoining communities, local MPO and the public for a thirty review period. After recommendation by the Planning Commission the Township Board and School Board approved the final plan and adopted it by resolution. See page 8.1 for resolutions.

Along with understanding current local planning efforts other planning tools used to assist the committee in developing the goals and objectives included public input such as: comments, surveys and workshop results, and a comparison of local facilities to national recreational standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association. The public input process is described below; Comparisons to the national standards are listed on pages 5.15 and 5.16.



Public Input Process

There were five opportunities for public participation prior to adoption of this plan. **First**, a public **survey** was developed that consisted of 14 questions related recreation and current facilities. **Second**, a **public workshop** was held to inform the public and gather their comments by way of planning activities. **Third**, a **planning presentation** was held at a regularly scheduled planning commission meeting to report the plans progress and gain additional public comment. **Fourth**, the draft plan was presented at a joint **public hearing** of the Planning Commission and Township Board. At this meeting the public was notified of the 30 day review period in which they could review the plan and comment prior to adoption. Lastly, the final plan was presented to the township board and school board for final adoption.



Survey Questionnaire

A survey questionnaire was developed to gain the public's thoughts related to current recreation facilities and improvements they would like to see. The survey also included questions related to the number of family members, their ages, and where they live in the township. The format of the questions was compiled using other surveys prepared for similar parks and recreation plans in the area and customizing them to fit the Argentine community. The committee reviewed and commented on the questionnaire before making it available to the public. The survey was created using the online services of surveymonkey.com. It was posted on both the township and school websites from November 5, 2009 to December 3, 2009. Paper copies of the survey were also available at the township and school administrative offices as well as local businesses and churches. Results of the survey are shown in the appendix.

An announcement of the survey opportunity and public workshop was printed two times in the local paper. In addition, an invitation/flyer notifying the community of the survey and public workshop was also posted on each website and at the township and school administrative offices as well as local businesses and churches. Please see pages 4.7 and 4.8 for copies of these notifications.

Public Workshop

On November 12, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm a public workshop took place at the Argentine Township Hall. This workshop was well attended. Informational displays were set up and a presentation was made to inform the attendees of the purpose for this project, the process involved, and of other planning efforts taking place in the area. The workshop consisted of four planning activities to engage public participation. Results of the workshop are shown in the appendix.



- Activity 1) Using the Township existing recreational facilities Map and corresponding chart, residents were asked to mark on the chart which facilities they have used and list any that are not shown. They were also asked to make comments and or suggestions about those facilities.



- Activity 2) Using the Township Natural Feature Inventory Map residents were asked to prioritize what natural features they would like preserved using red, green, yellow stickers. Red being priority one, green being priority two and yellow being priority three.



- Activity 3) Using the map from activity 1, residents were asked to identify new multi-use trail routes they feel would compliment the township's non-motorized trail system, considering the information they gave in activities 1 and 2 (identifying existing facilities and natural greenways). They were then asked to prioritize them by number. It's important

to note that Silver Lake Road and Seymour Road routes were already shown on this map as they have already been prioritized. Residents were asked to establish new routes that would ideally connect to these two prioritized routes and to other assets in the community.

- Activity 4) Residents were asked to complete paper copies of the survey and were also given the opportunity to comment publicly about parks and recreation in the community.

Some Public Comments made:

- 1) Promoting the use of the Shiawassee River Trail for recreation and the on going efforts by local groups to clean up the river and organize canoe and kayaking events. This will bring people to the community and promote economic growth.
- 2) The community should focus on beautification particularly at the schools and along Silver Lake Road.



2010 Argentine Township and Linden Community Schools Parks and Recreation Master Plan



We need your input!

Recreational funding is out there and we want to go after it! But, to be eligible we need an updated Parks and Rec Master Plan. One of the first steps in this process is to hear from you... What recreational and open space amenities do you want to see in the Argentine Community?

Please join us for a Public Workshop

Thursday, November 19th
from 6:00 to 8:00 pm
at the Township Hall
9048 Silver Lake Road
(next to the Fire Station)
light refreshments will be served



Can't make it? Take our online survey

Please visit www.argentinetownship.com
or www.lindenschools.org

You can also pickup a survey at the township office,
local schools, churches, or key Argentine businesses

Your comments are important to us!





Published Public Notices

NOTICE
ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Argentine Township Planning Commission is working with Linden Schools on a Parks and Recreation Plan. A workshop is scheduled for November 19, 2009 at 6:00 – 8:00 at the Argentine Township Hall, 9048 Silver Lake Road Linden MI 48451. Residents are encouraged to attend. Residents can take an on-line survey at www.lindenschools.org or www.argentinetownship.com or you can pick a paper copy of the survey at the township office, linden schools, or various churches and business throughout the township.

Denise Graves
Clerk Argentine Township

Tri County Times: Sunday, November 8, 2009

ARGENTINE TWP.
Public workshop
slated for Thursday

Argentine Township will hold a public workshop from 6-8 p.m. Thursday to update the township parks and recreation master plan. The meeting will take place at the township hall, 9048 Silver Lake Rd.

The township believes certain revisions will make it a better candidate for recreational funding opportunities.

The township invites residents to fill out a survey on the matter by visiting <http://argentinetownship.com>.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP BOARD

Argentine Township has been working cooperatively with Linden Community Schools to develop a new Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. A public hearing will be held on Thursday January 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Argentine Township Hall, 9048 Silver Lake Road, for presentation of the draft Parks and Recreation Plan. This plan reviews public comments related to parks and recreation, evaluation of existing facilities, describes goals and objectives, and a proposed five year plan for improvements. Residents are encouraged to attend. A copy of the Draft Plan is also available for review and comment at the Township Office or by visiting the township's website at www.argentinetownship.com. All comments must be received before February 11, 2010.

Denise Graves, Clerk
Argentine Township

Tri County Times: Sunday, January 3, 2010

Fenton Press (a community paper of the Flint Journal):
Sunday, November 15, 2009